

Habitat III Open ended informal consultative meetings -
Monday 25 April (under the item "Regional Presentations") EU speaking
points

Dear Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the EU and its MS.

- We'd like to thank CZ for organizing the regional meeting for Europe in Prague which has been a highly successful meeting. The participants agreed on a good final declaration reflecting the position that we are finalizing within the EU together with our MS in terms of both structure and content.

- We recognizing in this document the four building blocks that we see for this agenda:

- The EU's vision of the future global "New Urban Agenda" is based on the understanding that an integrated and place-based approach to urban development, together with a long-term vision, is necessary in order to promote Inclusive and safe, Green and resilient, Prosperous and innovative cities and cities that are well governed.

- This approach needs to take into account the diversity of cities and their wider territorial context, and promote urban-rural linkages in partnership with rural development and agricultural policy in order to contribute to the Union's objective of territorial cohesion. . All efforts should be underpinned by a rights based approach, encompassing all human rights, gender equality, as well as the broad participation of marginalised and vulnerable groups, as a prerequisite for achieving inclusive sustainable development. Thereby, sustainable urban development provides a paramount contribution to poverty eradication worldwide, and to economically, environmentally and socially sustainable development. Furthermore, the recognition of the central role of culture, the preservation and promotion of cultural and natural heritage, alongside the availability of public space, which is a fundamental condition for participation, and ownership of all for the achievement of these objectives, are part of this approach.

- Ensuring access for all to affordable and adequate housing, shelter and basic services and upgrading slums by 2030 is one of the crucial SDGs targets. Also housing requires an integrated approach, namely addressing the strong links between education, employment, housing and health ensuring that the needs of the people concerned are addressed in the most effective and efficient way.

- Achieving all this will not be possible without a strong partnership and an enhanced role for the local authorities. We do believe the New Urban Agenda should confirm the key role of local authorities in identifying and implementing urban solutions. Local authorities are key to the enhancement of public sector accountability to citizens, as well as promoting justice and core principles of equality including the rights of women and girls, ensuring transparency, and broad-based participation in the public sphere, building resilience and reaching out to all citizens, including marginalized groups.

- Finally, the New Urban Agenda will need to include a coherent, efficient and inclusive follow up and review mechanism, contributing to the follow up and review system to be agreed for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda will be measured, monitored and reviewed based on the relevant set of indicators to measure SDG implementation. We acknowledge that this framework should be flexible and open to changes and modifications based on methodological improvements and data availability.

We are ready to engage in the upcoming process and thank you all for your contributions.

Thank you