

European Cyclists' Federation at the afternoon plenary of the prepcomm 2 on Wednesday, 15th of April 2015 in Nairobi.

Marcio Deslandes on behalf of the European Cyclists' Federation - partner of the World Urban Campaign.

Honourable Chair, Member States and Guests,

Thank you for giving the opportunity to the European Cyclists' Federation to speak in this prepcomm 2 for the Habitat 3 conference. I'm here today representing the European Cyclists' Federation and our new network World Cycling Alliance. We are a NGO based in Brussels representing cycling groups all over the world and we work already for a while to make more people cycling more often. Our main area of work is active mobility and specially on cycling as a sustainable mean of transportation. We work with different stakeholders for better policies and regulations for cyclists in cities.

Mobility plays a big role in urban development nowadays and therefore it is an important point in the new urban agenda. However, I think it's a common opinion that sustainable urban development cannot go without the topic 'active mobility'. For that I am here today to ask all the

authorities to take serious consideration on adding the importance of cycling as the cleanest and most sustainable mean of transportation to the new urban agenda.

When I look at the SDGs we are all talking about here today. It makes me realise how we can fit cycling in many of them. For example, if we talk about health, we should be aware of the benefits brought to people who exercise 20 minutes a day, so if you use your bicycle as your main mean of transport, you are likely to be healthier. A city can be more productive with the use of the bicycle and create more active jobs deliveries and other services made by bikes for example. Not mention the CO2 savings. Cycling and slow transport are also a key to a safer city. Accidents in traffic keep growing and it will only decrease if we work for more a slower and safer city where kids, elderly and all citizens can feel safe. These are only a few examples of the benefit of the bicycle as a mean of transportation.

Dear Mrs. Chair, Taking into consideration what I just said, I would like to ask the Habitat 3 secretariat to add the importance of active mobility, cycling and walking, into the new urban agenda for the Habitat 3 conference.

Thank you!