

Open-Ended Consultative Meetings on the New Urban Agenda

Statements submitted by the representative of the Government of Indonesia
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NOTES ON PU 1 THE RIGHT TO THE CITY and CITIES FOR ALL

Comments submitted on the URBAN DIALOGUE (www.habitat3.org)

This is not about "another right" issue. Rights are rights, non quantifiable, and not for sale (under "new right programs or projects"). Don't worry, it won't take more money from your wallet. It is much deeper than that. It is not just about "policies" or "programs" or "agenda." It's a basic rights, embedded (= not "another") in the existing universal human rights. This is not about an "individual" right but more about a collective, communal, societal rights to have a life, to determine the kind of urban life and the kind of city that society (collectively) would like to have.

There is no city without urban life, and there's no urban if it is only a collection or a sum up of sole individuals. Urban and City is about a collective, shared life of social groups (i.e., families, clans, ethnicities, professions, artisans, and so forth - you name it). The Right to the City is about providing socio-cultural and political space for those groups to exercise, organize, conduct, sustain their lives in the assembles of urban setting named as a City. Securing the Right to the City as an agreed upon "right" and a fundamental part of the universal human rights would provide a common principle on how cities should or would be built and how urban life should be aimed to sustain a humane living environment, namely, of a City.

The discussion on rights to the city should also include the responsibilities of its inhabitants. Rapid urbanization requires a paradigm shift not only for governments and authorities in providing access to basic services such as housing, public space, education, health etc. to support the well-being of its inhabitants, but also requires a paradigm shift for its inhabitants to adjust their lifestyle to be more urban, and follow the rules of conduct of living in a city.