

Comments by Iran-20 May 20, 2016

Thank you Madam co-chair for giving me the floor.

- I would like to commend the Bureau of the preparatory committee of the Habitat 3 for preparing the comprehensive zero draft of the New Urban Agenda.
- Iran aligns itself to the statements made by Thailand, Jamaica, Kenya on behalf of the G77 and China.

I would like to highlight the following points in my national capacity:

- First of all, we share the view that the zero draft has numerous positive elements, concerning the Human settlement and Urban agenda. However, as some other colleagues mentioned the text should be more concise; And duplication, overlapping or multi-reference to the issues should be avoided.
- We believe that the Habitat is not appropriate place for opening discussion on Human Rights issues. However, in giving reference to Human Rights, we recognize *the Right to Development* as an inalienable and fundamental human right which places the individual at the centre and as a beneficiary of development.
- we reiterate the leading role of national government on policy making for urban issues at national level. Furthermore, the legal and political system of each country set the rules for the relations between national/ central government and sub national entities.
- My delegation would welcome the effort to strike balance among three dimensions of sustainable development on the draft. On environmental aspect and in section of “Resilient cities and Human settlements” my delegation would like to see an inclusion of a language *on the issue of dust and sand storm*. The UN member

states, through a resolution (70/195) adopted by consensus last year, indeed *recognized* that dust and sandstorms, and the unsustainable land-management practices, among other factors, that can cause or exacerbate these phenomena, pose a great challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries and regions. The Document also recognizes that dust and sandstorms have inflicted substantial socioeconomic damage on the inhabitants of the world's arid, semi-arid and dry sub humid areas, especially in Africa and Asia.

- The term, “***commitment to access to natural resources***”, in para 57, is a broad definition and the mentioned term goes beyond the mandate of Habitat 3. We look forward to seeing a precise language in that issue. We also have the same view on the term “***management of natural resources, in paragraph 103.***”
- And finally,, we would like to request to add the word “relevant” before the stakeholders or all stakeholders through the text.

Thank you madam co-chair