

PREPCOM1 STATEMENTS

FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

NEW YORK, 17-18 SEPTEMBER 2014



STATEMENTS

New York, 17-18 September 2014

DURING PREPCOM 1 FOR HABITAT III

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10:54 AM - 11:23 AM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY THE **SECRETARY-GENERAL**OF THE CONFERENCE

OPENING STATEMENT

Opening Statement of the Secretary-General of the Conference

Excellences,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to open the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

Allow me to start by congratulating the **Co-Chairs** of the Preparatory Committee on their election. We have an exciting two year period of preparations in front of us, and your leadership will be crucial in the debate on sustainable urban development.

You will elect next the **remaining members of the Bureau**, so let me also extend my warm congratulations to them

On behalf of the Secretariat, I look forward to our collaboration in making this session and our work a success.

I would like to warmly welcome all the **Honourable Ministers**, **Heads of Delegations** and all the participants who have come from different parts of the world to attend this first session of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee.

I would also like to welcome the representatives of, non-governmental organizations, civil society, including grassroots organizations, women groups, youth groups, professionals and academia, foundations and private sector. I welcome you all and thank you for your continuous engagement. There are twelve side events already running, and several parallel events.

Last week I was able to meet some of you in the **Open Consultations** prior to this session. I value the views and opinions you shared with me during these meetings.

As Habitat II was recognized as a milestone in the **partners' engagement** and as we move to Habitat III, we should keep the spirit of the preamble of the Habitat Agenda, which stressed the importance of international cooperation and solidarity for improving the life of the peoples around the world.

Let me also welcome the Mayors and representatives of Local Authorities. Nearly twenty years ago, some of you participated in Habitat II. At that time I was deputy Mayor of Barcelona, and I was tasked by my then Mayor Pasqual Maragall to implement the Habitat Agenda in that **local context.** Mayor Maragall represented Eurocities, Mayor Sampaio represented IULA and Mayor Pierre Moroy represented FMDV at the Mayor's Assembly in Istanbul.

Dear Mayors,

It has been a pleasure to work with the mayors around the world to unite the voices of local authorities.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world is fast becoming **predominantly urban**, and relentlessly so. At the beginning of the 19th century, only 2 per cent of the world's population was urban. By the beginning of the 20th century, that percentage had increased to 10. At the beginning of our decade, the world's population living in urban areas had reached 50 per cent.

This rapid urbanization of the planet Earth is an **unprecedented challenge** in the history of humanity. In forty years, four of every five people will live in towns and cities, and ours will be an urban planet.

In comparison, it was not until 1960 that the first 1 billion people had urbanized. We have since then seen a runaway urban growth. In the 15 years between 2003 and 2018, 1 billion people will be added to our cities. Most of this growth will occur in **developing regions**. In fact, seven out of ten urban dwellers would be African or Asian in 2030.

Beyond being a demographic phenomenon, urbanization is, in fact, a **transformative force** that is continually shaping societies, their economies, political systems and environments.

In paragraph 134 of the Rio+20 outcome document "The Future We Want", Governments recognized that, and I quote: "... if they are well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies."

An overview of urbanization from Habitat I in Vancouver 79, Istanbul 96 until now shows how every 20 years, more than 1 billion people has been added to the figure of urban dwellers, now reaching nearly 4 billion.

Looking at that **massive urban development**, we can already extract some provisional conclusions.

Urbanization has gone in parallel, altogether with economic growth. With the increased international trade, and with massive industrialization, mainly in Asia, we have seen, once again, how **urbanization and development go hand in hand.**

The important transformation of the world economy and society is presenting **new global challenges**. We can ascertain that urbanization has served well the purposes of growth, but the question is if it has served the purposes of "sustainable development".

In the last 15 years, the UN family has engaged in the Millennium Development Goals, and now we altogether are reviewing their accomplishments on the way to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The good news are in the reduction of **absolute poverty** and in some other indicators, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

Specifically in our urban approach we have seen how the total number of **slum dwellers** has increased instead of decreased and how urban access to water and sanitation is the MDG goal lagging most behind.

Since Habitat II, a new global awareness has emerged around Climate Change, and its effects on the sustainability of the Plant and its ecosystems.

Here we are cognizant of the urbanization and the global emissions of Green House Gasses. 70% of the emissions are attributable to urbanization, 40% direct and 30 % indirect.

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As we proceed with the consultations on the **Post-2015 Development Agenda**, and we start the preparations for Habitat III, we should move away from fragmented views of sustainable urbanization. Rather, we should focus on creating a coherent view of this important phenomenon and its role in sustainable development. **We need cities and human settlements that are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.**

Our future will be decided in cities. We are failing on how **we plan, build and manage** our cities. Subsequently, we are failing in creating a sustainable future for us and our next generations.

Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,

If current projections are confirmed, more than half the world's urban population will live in **sub-human conditions**. Already today, almost 60% of the urban population in sub-Saharan Africa resides in slums without running water, minimum conditions of hygiene and without access to essential services.

The proliferation of slums and informal economy are not the only obstacle in the urbanization of developing countries.

Other factors also threaten the future of cities, such as **vulnerability to natural disasters**, socio-political conflicts over land and resources. Many cities also fail to provide **basic services** to their citizens and lack functioning public transportation systems. In many countries in the global South, the current development dynamics increases **social inequalities**.

In developed countries, where the urbanization process is consolidated, the city also has **a set of challenges**. Social segregation and loss of quality of public space is threatening peaceful coexistence. Increasing mobility demand in an era of cheap energy compromises the viability of many urban areas.

Excellences, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The urgency of the accelerated growth experienced by cities around the world should not be an excuse to perpetuate the dominant development model of the last seventy years. Cities must grow rapidly to provide housing for over 70% of the world's population in 2050. This is a fact. But there is no justification for urban expansion that lead us to live in more segregated, more unequal, more unfair and intolerant cities.

Because, despite the prevailing impression, **cities are not the cause of poverty.** They accommodate poor people because they attract poor residents in search of economic opportunities, not because they impoverish the citizens.

We should leverage our extensive experience in urban development to recover those elements that have created urban environments of equity and coexistence. Let's get away from dynamics and models that prioritize buildings before **urban matrix**, and models that leave the common area at the discretion of commercial and real estate uses.

The backbone of the city is **good public space** where citizens interact and economic activities are mixed and multiply. This public space needs to be legally protected to remain intact over generations.

From successful experiences, we have learned at least four important lessons. First, **planning is essential** if we are to avoid social segregation. Second, between 45% and 50% of land in urban areas must be allocated to **public space**. Third, public spaces should be **designed** properly to ensure that communities operate efficiently. Finally, the city should guarantee adequate **population density and mixed use**, with the aim of ensuring the necessary proximity of the factors of production.

The urbanization process should be planned for the long term, should provide an essential structure, the spine, the matrix, **the pattern** of what would later become the city. Nothing more, nothing less. Over time, economic activities and the various social needs will change the shape and urban land uses. But it will not change the pattern. This essential element must be defended and protected by the **local authority**, the repository of political legitimacy, and the rule of law. Without social and political understanding of the use and productivity of the common good, there is no capacity for planned urbanization.

This new paradigm is of vital importance in **developing countries**, where most of the rapid growth of urban populations will take place. It is both rational and inexpensive. As urbanization is a source of development and not its consequence, proper planning of new towns and urban expansions is a necessary foundation for better living and greater equality and welfare in urban areas.

Although the creation, protection and preservation of the common good is always an effort of the whole community. It is above all the primary responsibility of the government.

Excellences,

Governments, local authorities and international institutions should place the urban challenges of the twenty-first century at the top of its priorities.

The year 2016 should represent a turning point. Habitat III is a unique opportunity for governments and institutions around the world to engage in a **New Urban Agenda** that addresses the challenges of rapid urban growth and offer a new model of urbanization.

The public opinion should be sensitized about both the problems of the cities and the potential that these same cities have in generating livability, welfare and equity. **The urban problem concerns each inhabitant of the earth.** Citizens, as a political community, should claim loudly their right to the city.

It is in the city where housing rights, life, health, equality, water, freedom of conscience or education, like many others are exercised. The right to the city is not like any other right. It is a right based on which all other human rights are developed, and will become more so in a future urban planet.

Allow me to conclude by assuring you of my personal support and that of the United Nations as a whole for a successful outcome in Habitat III.

11:40 AM - 11:57 AM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Statement by the Secretary-General on the Preparations for the Conference and Progress to date in the implementation of the outcomes of Habitat II and identification of new and emerging challenges on sustainable urban development

Excellences, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to present you with a progress report, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 66/207, 67/216 and 68/239, on the activities carried out by the secretariat in preparation for the Habitat III Conference. My report also presents proposals for activities to be carried out during the preparatory process from 2014 to 2016 in four areas: knowledge, engagement, policy and operations. Pursuant to resolution 67/216, I will also present to you a review of the implementation of the outcomes of Habitat II and identification of new and emerging challenges on sustainable urban development.

In providing you with an update on preparations for the Conference, I would like to begin with the area of **knowledge**. In its resolution 24/14, the Governing Council of UN-Habitat invited member States to prepare, before the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, **national reports**. These reports should consider the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. They should also describe new challenges, emerging trends and a prospective vision for sustainable human settlements and urban development, as a basis for the formulation of a "New Urban Agenda".

Suggested **guidelines and a format** for the preparation of national reports were shared with member States in February 2013, and the deadline for delivering the national report was set at 30 June 2014.

In order to ensure the full participation of all relevant national stakeholders, I have recommended that member States use their National Habitat Committees to prepare their national reports. The Governing Council called upon member States to form **National Habitat Committees** where they did not exist and to strengthen existing Committees to ensure their effective and efficient participation in the Habitat III preparatory process, including in the preparation of national reports.

A few countries have submitted their national reports in advance of the first session of the Preparatory Committee. Member States are urgently encouraged to **finalize their national reports** before the end of 2014 in order to allow the Secretariat, in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions, and other relevant organizations, to prepare regional reports. The regional reports will draw on the national reports, as well as on available knowledge, resources and data, as input for the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III.

Moreover, the Habitat III preparatory process is a unique opportunity to improve the worldwide base of **urban knowledge**. This would be addressed by helping Governments, local authorities and civil society organizations to develop and apply policy-oriented urban indicators, statistics and other urban information. A working group on urban data will be proposed to strengthen current mechanisms assessing global progress in implementing the Habitat Agenda and to monitor and evaluate global urban conditions and trends.

In the area of **engagement**, I have paid particular attention to the important requests from the General Assembly. I intend to build on one of the main legacies of Habitat II — the need for **participation and partnership of local authorities**, civil society and grass-roots communities, the private sector, academia and researchers, parliamentarians, professional organizations, and children's, youth and women's groups, with a view to provide the basis for a comprehensive approach to achieving sustainable urban development.

New mechanisms for the promotion of transparency and the effective engagement of civil society should be explored. These will be aimed at enhancing the **working methods and processes** in the preparatory process and the Conference itself. The main objective will be to ensure informed discussions and contributions by all relevant stakeholders to the intergovernmental decision-making process.

The World Urban Campaign represents a key platform for public, private and civil society actors to share urban solutions and provide inputs to the process leading to the Conference. In the Medellin Declaration, adopted at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, the participants paid particular recognition to the World Urban Campaign. The Campaign was acknowledged as a participatory process and partnership platform among actors of change working to ensure an inclusive and encompassing process towards Habitat III.

The World Urban Campaign will continue to engage all Habitat Agenda partners and new partners in order to debate urban challenges and policies, as well as identify good practices that could contribute to the New Urban Agenda. It will also actively engage in national urban campaigns and support communication and outreach activities to promote the participation of all stakeholders in national preparations for Habitat III.

The promotion of **national urban forums** at the national level would also contribute to enabling the effective participation and contribution of all Habitat Agenda partners at all stages of the preparatory process and at the Conference itself.

In the area of Policy, I have particularly noted the decision of General Assembly that the Conference should result in a **concise**, **focused**, **forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document**. The document would reinvigorate the global commitment to and support for housing and sustainable urban development and the implementation of a "New Urban Agenda".

Moving forward, I intend to establish the work of several policy units on thematic areas that can facilitate the collection of inputs to the Habitat III preparatory process in an innovative and inclusive way. Particular attention will be paid to the link between the **Post-2015 Development Agenda** and its implementation in the New Urban Agenda to ensure proper coordination and substantive alignment between both processes.

An effective **United Nations system-wide coordination** mechanism will be established for the preparatory process after consultations with all agencies, building on the experience of the inter-agency committee created in 2013. It would work on progress made by the United Nations system in the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and other relevant goals and targets.

In the area of **operations**, I would like to highlight that the General Assembly decided to establish a **trust fund for Habitat III**. It urged international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors, to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to and to support the participation of developing countries in meetings of the Preparatory Committee and at the Conference itself. The Habitat III secretariat will ensure transparency and accountability in the management of this trust fund.

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to you to **contribute to the Habitat III** trust fund. Generous contributions will be important for a broad, inclusive and comprehensive preparatory process and successful conference. Contributions can be provided to support the planning and strategic work of the Habitat III secretariat or any of the four areas of work of the Habitat III preparatory process.

Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Some 18 years after the adoption of the Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda, the international community is still grappling with urban challenges. Significant progress has been made towards attaining the goals agreed in Habitat II. However, there have also been setbacks and problems. As we have presented in the report you have before you on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, **new challenges have emerged** and the relationship between key sectors of society has evolved.

These new challenges and emerging issues will help inform our preparations of a New Urban Agenda for Habitat III.

1. Cities now represent more than half of the world's population. This **demographic shift** that took place in 2008, after the Habitat II Conference, has a profound impact on how our societies will be shaped in the future.

- 2. Secondly, urban expansion in many developing countries has often been characterized by informality, illegality and unplanned settlements. In many cases, urban growth has been strongly associated with congestion and loss of urban character. With continuing population growth, including migration and without appropriate responses this process is likely to continue. At the core of this problem is lack of protection of the public space, and availability of accessible buildable plots. The lack of availability of well-designed and accessible buildable plots means that suitable land is not affordable to most of the urban population. In addition, there is a lack of the proper **urban planning and design** needed for balanced public spaces with buildable plots that can accommodate compact mixed use.
- 3. Thirdly, while high population growth remains a concern in the least developed countries, countries in many other parts of the world are grappling with slower population growth or even population decline. Globally, the number of elderly people, aged 60 and above, has more than doubled over the last three decades. In developing regions, many countries are experiencing a significant increase in the proportion in young people. This "youth bulge" could represent a potential opportunity to spur social and economic development if countries harness the potential of age-structure transformation. However, a youth bulge could also increase the risk of domestic conflict in a context of poor governance, poor economic performance and greater inequalities.
- 4. **Inequality** has become a universal concern. Differences in access to opportunity, income, consumption, location, information and technology are now the norm, not the exception. Gender inequalities persist in many countries and contexts. Slums the most visible manifestation of urban poverty and inequality continue to grow in most developing countries, reinforcing other forms of inequality.
- 5. An increasing number of urban residents in developed countries experience **poverty or social exclusion.** Even in the European Union, a quarter of the population falls in this category. In many cities, the persistence of intergenerational poverty and economic disadvantage is inextricably linked to location. It is also linked to ethnic or racial inequality and the historic marginalization of indigenous populations. In addition to these more conventional forms of poverty, however, new forms of social exclusion and marginalization are emerging: people who are infrastructure-poor, immigrant poverty, young people at risk, and vulnerable elderly, among others.
- 6. Finally, as the world becomes predominantly urban, the international debate on **climate change** becomes ever more urgent. There will be no solution to climate change without cities. Cities are responsible for as much as 70 % of the world's carbon emissions. A well planned and managed urbanization is a prerequisite for reduction in carbon emissions and for increased resilience to climate related disasters.

Habitat III is the ideal occasion for the international community to confront these challenges and seize the opportunities. The Conference will be one of the **first major global conferences** to be held after the adoption of the **Post-2015 Development Agenda.** It will offer an opportunity to develop a shared perspective on human settlements and sustainable urban development. Not least, it will give us a chance to discuss the challenges and opportunities that urbanization offers for the implementation of the sustainable development goals. Habitat III will also be closely linked to the climate change process in the United Nations.

There is a need to reinvigorate the **global partnership** and to strengthen different forms of regional and national cooperation for sustainable development, including by mobilizing the necessary resources for implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The implementation of this agenda will require the active engagement of national Governments and local authorities, civil society, the private sector and the United Nations system.

We started out on an ambitious journey almost 40 years ago, at the first Habitat conference, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976. We have learned a great deal since then, about what works and what does not. We have understood the costs of unplanned urbanization and the missed opportunities. Habitat III will give us an opportunity to work together to harness the powerful and under-used dynamic of sustainable urbanization to drive the development of our cultures, our societies and our economies for the next 20 years.

In closing, I wish the Preparatory Committee fruitful deliberations on the implementation of the outcomes of Habitat II and in the identification of new and emerging challenges on sustainable urban development.

12:46 PM - 12:50 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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REMARKS TO PREPATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UN CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HABITAT III) New York, 17 September 2014

Your Excellency Mr. Diego Aulestia Valencia, Minister of Urban Development and Housing of Ecuador, and Co-Chair of the PrepCom Bureau,

Ms. Maryse Gautier, Ministry of Sustainable Development of France and Co-Chair of the PrepCom Bureau,

Mr. Mamadou Mbodj, Permanent Mission of Senegal and Rapporteur of the PrepCom Bureau, Dr. Joan Clos, Secretary-General of Habitat III Conference and Executive Director of UN-Habitat,

Yesterday, we officially opened the 69th Session of the General Assembly. I am pleased today to address this first session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development -- Habitat III.

We have with us many representatives of member states, organizations and major groups -- including local authorities -- civil society actors and other important leaders.

Welcome to New York and the United Nations Headquarters.

Almost two decades ago, at Habitat II in Istanbul, the international community resolved to make the most of the opportunities presented by human settlements and preserve their diversity to promote solidarity.

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, we committed ourselves to implement the Habitat Agenda, considering that human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development, including adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development.

The world has changed dramatically since the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.

More than ever before, we understand the power of well-planned urbanization for development.

But that is the key: planning – good, strong planning.

Half of the world lives in urban centers. By the middle of this century, more than twothirds of humanity will be in cities and almost all growth will be in developing countries. Urbanization affects us all. Urbanization is a driving force as well as a source of development. It has the power to change and improve the lives. Urban areas are at the heart of many great challenges, opportunities and promise.

As we work to formulate the post-2015 development agenda, the role of urbanization in supporting sustainable development is becoming increasingly important.

The United Nations should continue to promote equitable urban development in our human settlements, villages, towns, cities and countries.

This preparatory process towards Habitat III provides an excellent forum to unite the global community, through an exchange of dialogues about the progress made since Habitat II in 1996 and Istanbul +5 in 2001 – and the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Let us learn from each other so we can replicate and scale up what works.

Habitat III will have an important role to play to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

I count on your strong engagement to pave the way towards Habitat III, sustainable urban development and a new urban agenda.

Thank you.

END

12:06 PM - 12:11 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY SENEGAL



Allocution de Monsieur Diène Farba SARR, Ministre du Renouveau Urbain, de l'Habitat et du Cadre de Vie

A l'occasion de la 1^{ère} session du Comité préparatoire à la 3^{ème} Conférence internationale des Nations Unies sur "le logement et le développement urbain durable"

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New York, le 17 septembre 2014

Vérifier au prononcé

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MISSION PERMANENTE DU SENEGAL AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES 747 THIRD AVENUE • 21ST FLOOR • NEW YORK, NY 10017 • TEL: (212) 517-9030 • FAX: (212) 517-3032

Messieurs les Co-présidents, Monsieur le Directeur Exécutif d'ONU-Habitat, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je voudrais, au nom de la délégation sénégalaise, me réjouir de l'opportunité qui nous est offerte de prendre part à cette lère session du Comité préparatoire à la 3ème Conférence internationale sur le logement et le développement urbain durable (Habitat III) et me féliciter de la décision de l'Equateur d'accueillir cette rencontre en 2016.

Il me plaît également d'exprimer les chaleureuses félicitations de ma délégation au Bureau, nouvellement élu, et saisir cette occasion pour lui témoigner de tout le soutien de mon pays dans l'accomplissement de cette mission.

Messieurs les Co-présidents,

Dans le contexte actuel d'accélération de la croissance urbaine, où plus de 52% de la population mondiale vivent dans les villes, selon les projections des Nations Unies publiées en 2011, la question du développement urbain durable n'a jamais été posée avec autant d'acuité.

Même s'il est indéniable que cette urbanisation accélérée favorise des opportunités certaines en matière de développement économique et social, il n'en demeure pas moins qu'elle engendre aujourd'hui de sérieux défis dans la plupart des pays en développement, particulièrement d'Afrique subsaharienne.

Les défis susmentionnés sont liés aux problèmes indicibles en matière de logement, de santé, de transport, d'éducation, d'assainissement et d'infrastructures, accentués par la dégradation continue du cadre de vie urbain et occasionnés généralement par les fortes concentrations démographiques.

Ce phénomène s'explique par l'existence d'une armature urbaine hétérogène dans nos pays qui traduit un grand déséquilibre dans la répartition spatiale des populations et des établissements humains, du fait principalement de la pression démographique, la persistance de la pauvreté et l'accentuation des disparités sociales.

Cette situation illustre l'importance que nous devons accorder à l'urbanisation qui représente, au regard de son caractère transversal et de ses interrelations avec les autres secteurs, un élément fondamental dans le processus de réalisation du développement durable.

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Eu égard aux raisons qui précèdent, ma délégation se félicite de la prise en compte des questions d'urbanisation dans les objectifs de développement durable (ODD), car il demeure établi que seule l'élaboration de stratégies et de partenariats viables pourrait aider à atteindre les cibles proposées et apporter une réponse collective aux défis actuels.

Messieurs les Co-présidents,

Les présentes assises constituent, dès lors, pour nous, un moment privilégié, pour engager une réflexion objective et approfondie sur les actions à entreprendre pour pallier le phénomène de l'extension urbaine anarchique et instaurer un cadre urbain global plus approprié, intégrant des infrastructures qualitatives qui contribuent à la consolidation du tissu économique dans nos pays.

L'occasion est également propice pour procéder à l'évaluation, de manière tangible, des progrès accomplis dans l'application des décisions issues d'Habitat II et de tirer les enseignements des difficultés rencontrées.

Dans cette perspective, le Gouvernement sénégalais, sous l'impulsion de Son Excellence Monsieur Macky SALL, Président de la République, a procédé à une réorientation

globale de sa politique nationale, avec un nouveau cadre de référence dénommé "**Plan Sénégal Emergent** (**PSE**)" dont la finalité est l'instauration d'une dynamique positive en vue d'assurer les bases d'une émergence économique durable.

Sous ce rapport, une politique de territorialisation des politiques publiques, avec la consécration du principe de la communalisation intégrale, a été opérée afin d'adapter les orientations nationales et sectorielles aux spécificités ainsi qu'aux priorités des terroirs.

Cette approche représente un moyen de réduire les inégalités socio-économiques entre les localités, à travers la promotion du développement agricole, de la production alimentaire, la restructuration des centres urbains et la modernisation de l'habitat rural, mais aussi de maîtriser les flux massifs liés à l'exode rural.

Cette démarche s'inscrit dans le cadre de la mise en pratique des recommandations de la Conférence de Rio+20, de la Déclaration de N'Djamena, ainsi que des dispositions de la Lettre de politique sectorielle 2011-2021 du Sénégal, qui vise l'émergence d'une architecture urbaine plus équilibrée.

Messieurs les Co-présidents,

Le Gouvernement sénégalais, depuis des décennies, s'est toujours évertué à mettre en œuvre des politiques publiques efficientes relatives à l'habitat et à l'urbanisation.

En effet, celles-ci ont été traduites par l'installation de différentes institutions nationales de promotion de l'habitat et de financement du logement, l'adoption du Code de l'urbanisme et d'autres instruments de planification urbaine, mais également la mise en œuvre de divers programmes d'aménagement de parcelles.

Bien évidemment, en dépit de ces résultats encourageants, il faut bien admettre que des contraintes réelles continuent de peser sur ce secteur, dont la résolution nécessite un recadrage des actions y liées autour de quelques questions prioritaires.

Dans cette dynamique, le Sénégal, résolument engagé dans la voie du renouveau urbain, estime impératif l'élaboration d'instruments de Planification urbaine plus adaptés, en intégrant la prévention des risques de catastrophe et l'adaptation au changement climatique.

Le succès attendu de notre ambitieux projet développement urbain durable nécessite la promotion de villes résilientes, prenant en compte les impératifs liés à l'efficacité énergétique, ainsi que de pôles urbains articulés autour des territoires porteurs de potentialités développement économique et social.

Par ailleurs, Il nous faudra tenir compte de l'impératif d'accroitre l'allocation des ressources financières pour faciliter l'acquisition d'infrastructures et d'équipements publics, et l'application de la politique de l'habitat social.

Messieurs les Co-présidents,

En conclusion, ma délégation recommande l'intégration des questions d'urbanisation durable dans le programme de développement post-2015, exprimant le souhait ardent que nos travaux puissent aboutir à la mise en place d'un partenariat solide orienté vers l'amélioration du cadre de vie et accompagné d'un dispositif opérationnel de suivi et d'évaluation périodique efficace.

Je vous remercie.

12:12 PM – 12:17 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY NIGERIA



NIGERIA'S STATEMENT AT THE FIRST PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HABITAT III) HELD AT THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, ON 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2014

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I bring you warm greetings from the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and best wishes for a successful First session of the Preparatory Committee for the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

Nigeria aligns itself with the Statement presented by Bolivia on behalf of the G-77 and China. We also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you Mr. Chair, and the cochairs and members of your Bureau on your election to guide us in the preparations for this very important process.

Mr. Chairman,

Almost two decades ago, the Nations of the world converged in Istanbul, Turkey at the Habitat II Conference to review the challenges of urbanization and adopted the Habitat Agenda. The Conference in 1996 created awareness on the emerging urbanization challenges of the time, and articulated the core principles of the sustainable housing and urban development agenda, which have remained our guiding principle in the last 18 years. Since then, there has been no doubt, some progress and better understanding of the urbanization process, and realization of sustainable human settlements development globally have been made. However, with the rapid rate of urbanization and its varied impact

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on people, policies and economies, the time has come to undertake another review to assess what outcomes have been achieved based on our common vision in 1996. with a view to consolidate them and ensure they promote the integrated development that we all desire.

In relation to that objective, we must all therefore, ensure that in 2016, we put in place a pragmatic and action-oriented New Urban Agenda that transcends the Habitat Agenda. It must be jointly elaborated, encompassing relevant sustainable development goals that addresses not only the issues of urbanization but also the concerns of human settlement in general; if it is to exert a lasting influence and assure affordable shelter for all. The New Urban Agenda must be an economic catalyst; a development enhancer; a social integrator; an equity binder; a safety promoter but above all a community builder. These are sound principles that will guarantee safe and sustainable urbanization that would secure a prosperous future for the next generation. We owe them no less duty.

It is noteworthy that considerable effort is being put into the preparations for Habitat III, as attested to, by the inputs at this First Preparatory Session. We certainly look forward to more being done both in scope and depth at the next sessions to ensure that we have a meaningful and fruitful Conference in 2016. It is equally pleasing to note that urbanization is one of the key goals of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. It is hoped that Habitat III would come out with outcomes that would delineate and elaborate this clearly to assist member states achieve this objective in a comprehensive manner.

Accordingly, as we proceed with the preparatory process it is hoped that a holistic review of the Habitat II Agenda would be undertaken and proper assessment made to identify successes and challenges. It is equally expected that the process would in a meaningful manner address emerging urban challenges including growing levels of poverty, escalating safety and security concerns, rising inequity, increasing pollution and its adverse effects on Climate change. The preparatory process must also be inclusive and involve participation and wide ranging consultation with all Habitat Agenda partners (policy makers, development partners, Civil society, the Academia,



Parliamentarians, private sector, and other stakeholders). It is important that we build and strengthen them, and accentuate their positives to evolve an outcome document that is all embracing and reflective of the aspirations of all.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Nigeria, on its part, is making earnest strides towards the road to Habitat III. We have in place a multi-sectoral National Habitat Committee; we are forging closer ties with National Habitat Agenda Partners; and have extended financial support of US\$3.0 million for Habitat III preparatory activities in Africa. We stand ready to join others in participating actively in this preparatory process to ensure the outcomes for Habitat III are actually those of the future we want for urbanization and human settlements in the next two decades.

I thank you.

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12:17 PM - 12:25 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY KENYA

STATEMENT BY: HON. CHARITY K. NGILU, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

DURING THE FIRST PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF HABITAT III CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 17-18, NEW YORK.

Mr. Ban Ki moon, Secretary General of the United Nations Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN Habitat Excellencies Distinguished delegates Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the Kenya delegation. I congratulate the Excecutive Director for his reappointment, and on his appointment as the Secretary General of the Habitat III conference.

I also wish to congratulate the newly elected Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, and to wish them well in the new assignment.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is nearly 40 years since we collectively committed to address the global challenges of urbanization and human settlements. Nearly every government represented in this room signed up to these challenges. Some countries have made enormous, even I might say historic strides over those four decades. But many others, particularly in Africa and the Least Developed Countries, have been left behind.

Today, as we prepare for Habitat III conference, it is evidently clear that the challenges we set out to address 40 years ago still exist. Moreover, pressing new and emerging challenges have also come to the fore and continue to threaten the viability of our urban habitats and rural settlements.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

We have just completed 18 months of work developing the sustainable development goals (SDGs). For the first time in history, we have an integrated goal set that has cities and human settlements at its core. This is a remarkable achievement. But it also poses a new, enormous and historic challenge to all of us.

The scale of the 21st century challenges we face in urbanization and human settlements, including building safe, resilient and sustainable cities, demands that

we develop a new strategy and a new way of doing business in the international community in order to responds to cities and human settlements. As the adage goes, we cannot solve new problems with old thinking.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

The post 2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals present us an important opportunity to transform the global agenda for human habitat and with it to transform the UN-Habitat Programme to enable it to effectively respond to the current and emerging challenges that lie ahead.

It is estimated that by 2050, 70 percent of the world population will live in urban areas leaving 30 percent in other human settlements. In crafting our new human settlement strategy, we must adopt a comprehensive and holistic approach that not only envisions a different and better future for all, leaving no one behind, but that also ensures that we have the leadership, the institution and the resources, both private and public to attain our aspirations.

In a majority of developing countries, the challenge remains how to ensure proper planning, provide decent housing and access to basic services to the population. Therefore, the Habitat III process is an opportunity to craft a new inclusive, safe, resilient and secure transformative urban and human settlements agenda that builds on the lessons learned from the implementation of the Vancouver and Istanbul outcomes and, beyond that, to lay out the institutions and governance structures to achieve the new agenda.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

For us in Kenya, we believe that it will be beneficial for all humanity that Habitat III and the product of its new agenda address three fundamental issues:

First, **Vision**. A new vision should be crafted and embraced that is clear and responsive to the aspirations and interests of all member States. This vision should provide for decent housing and basic services for all in sustainable human settlements. The vision should be propelled by strong political goodwill and commitment facilitating the achievement of measurable and time bound results.

Second, **institutional capabilities**. We need a UN Habitat that has the requisite leadership and technical capacity to support member states in realizing the new vision and a governance structure to enable a revitalized UN Habitat to help countries achieve the SDGs.

Third, **resources.** The goal and targets that we have set to attain by 2030, for cities and human settlements have significant resource implications in the developing and developed world. Commensurate resources must therefore be found to help revitalize the mandate of UN-Habitat.

In conclusion, in the context of the post 2015 development agenda, cities and other human settlements must be places of inclusion and that protect the human rights of all equitably. What this means, Ladies and Gentlemen, is that in our vision, there can be no place for slums and marginalized communities in the future want. Finally, I wish to reiterate Kenya's commitment and readiness to work with other delegations in the Habitat III process to ensure the realization of a transformed and revitalized UN-Habitat with a new global vision and wherewithal to achieve it.

I thank you for your kind attention

12:39 PM - 12:44 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY ETHIOPIA

Statement By H.E. Ato Hailemeskel Tefera, State Minister for Urban Development, Housing and Construction of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia at the Preparatory Committee for the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). September 17, 2014. New York.

Co-Chairs , Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director UN HABITATE, Ministers, Ambassadors, Representatives of International organizations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, my deligation would like to congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your election to preside over this meeting of the Preparatory Committee.

My delegation also expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the Conference and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT for the outstanding leadership of the organization and for his tireless efforts to keep Habitat high in the global development agenda.

Co-Chairs,

We are having this meeting at a propitious time. This year marks the final strech to accelerate the implementation of the MDGs and the final preparation towards the formulation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In all this co-chairs, our deliberation could not have been more timely in reflecting upon the implementation of urban development goals of the MDGs and the issues that we need to carry on board in the new global development goals and in that of Habitat III.

The Government of Ethiopia believes sustainable urban development can achieved across the nation by provision of Housing through combined government intervention, private sector efforts and peoples participation. In this process, the demand and supply gap is getting minimum from time to time. Upon the implementation of Integrated Housing Program more than 310,000 housing units have been constructed of which 200,000 transferred to the target groups. The program is successful in slum upgrading, creation of jobs, income distribution, decent housing ownership, capacitating domestic construction industry as expected during formulation. Currently, we are closely working on a new comprehensive Urban Housing by which all income groups within the urban system are targeted. It is also understood Housing identified as one issues that emerged due to the rapid and continuous economic development registered for the last 10 years.

Ethiopia is in the process of preparing the cities prosperity index and national report on Habitat by setting up a national committee. The continual and substantial movement of people from rural villages and homesteads to urban villages, small, medium, and large towns, and to the capital city, and the resulting rapid urbanization are all necessary to support the development of industrial manufacturing and service sectors. In this context, my Ministry is working hard to exploit the opportunities while tackling the urban challenges throughout the urban development process.

It goes with out saying that one of the challenges surrounding housing is shortage of financial resources. In order to provide afordable and ensure demand-driven housing, we have established a housing saving scheme that targeted different income groups. Accordingly, from 10-40% saving scheme has been designed with close to 1 million urban dwellers in Addis Ababa become benefeciaries of the programe. A proportional amount of loan therefore has been allocated by domestic financial instituions for 15-20 Years with minimum interest rates.

Ethiopia also believes that the societal change that accompanies the agricultural to industrial transformation can only be accomplished successfully with careful and meticulous advance planning that adresses all aspects of the transformation simultaneously. It is for this reason that the Ministry has developed the Ethiopian Cities Prosperity Index - ECPI with the aim of building the framework and lay foundations in our towns and cities and the construction industry to achive the country's vision and for the its countineous advancement. As a result, the Ethiopian Cities prosperity intiative building green growth, resilient and well governed cities 2013/14 -2025 report hasm identified the following nine pillars.

- 1) Policy ,research and leadership development
- 2) MSE development and urban productivity
- 3) Urban good governance
- 4) Infrastructure and services
- 5) Housing development and management
- 6) Construction industry development and management
- 7) Urban planning and land management
- 8) Environment and sustainability
- 9) Inclusive and safer cities developement

The report will be endorsed soon by the Government and used as a road map to govern our future cities.

Co-Chairs

We all agree that we have made progress to adress the challenges surrounding urbanization over the last decades, but we also agree that much still remains to be done if we are to ensure sustanable urban development and affordable housing.

As the Secretary-General of the Conference rightly pointed out in his opening remarks, the progress of MDGs has rather been mixed; there has been a decline in poverty but also there has been a rise in the number of urban dwellers. We need to exert more efforts to tackle these and other challenges such us climate change to ensure sustainable future for the generations to come. The support and cooperation of the international community in this regard is extremely critical.

I thank You.

03:11 PM - 05:15 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY ANGOLA

STATEMENT GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA

Dear Dr. Clos, Secretary-General of Habitat III

Honorable representatives of the Bureau for this First Preparatory Committee

Honorable Ministers, Heads of Delegations and representatives from different organizations and institutions

The Government of Angola is very pleased to be here in this First
Preparatory Committee of this historic Third Conference of the United
Nations System known as Habitat III

Let me please convey the warm regards from his Excellency the President of the Republic of Angola José Eduardo dos Santos.

After the end of the long-lasting armed conflict in Angola that persisted for more than 30 years, bringing with him widespread destruction of the country's infrastructure, housing, urban premises and the urban fabric, my Government has embarked in a path of sustainable urban development.

For those that were in my country during the conflict and have the opportunity to come now will find a complete different place. Cities are developing the needed roads, bridges, houses and basic services to bring quality of life to the Angolan citizens. My Government is also developing a very aggressive Programme to upgrade the living conditions of the most deprived inhabitants, living in slums, called in our country as *Museques*.

Habitat III Conference is coming in a very timely historic moment when the world is preparing to adopt a new international development agenda for the next 20 years.

The final preparations of the Post 2015 Development Agenda are clearly considering cities and urbanization as an important goal to be included in this strategic policy documents for the 21st Century.

The Government Angola is completely committed to sustainable urban development. We know that there are a lot of challenges that our cities are facing, but we also know that well-planned urbanization brings a great opportunity to achieve sustainable urban development that is a fundamental precondition for realizing sustainable development at large.

This first Preparatory Committee is the beginning of a process leading towards the great global summit to be held in 2016. I want to express the full support of my Government for this Preparatory Conference, but also to Habitat III.

We are convinced that Habitat III will be a great opportunity to adopt a New Urban Agenda; my government is ready to support this journey that will conclude with a positive outcome for the world's humanity.

I thank all of you for your attention

03:16 PM - 03:21 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY BOLIVIA

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY OF THE MISSION OF BOLIVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON PREPCOM OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT III) (New York, September 17 2014)

- 1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
- 2. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank the Secretary-General for all the reports under this agenda item focusing on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and also to encourage the strengthening of the UN-Habitat.

Mr Chair,

- 3. The Group would like to express its position once again and insist that sustainable cities and human settlement will be a major development challenge over the next several decades.
- 4. We recall that an important demographic revolution is moving hunger and poverty problems in developing countries from rural to urban areas. The process of urbanization remains rapid especially in Africa, Asia, as well as in Latin America and the Caribbean in which more than four fifths of the population is currently living in cities. Humanity is now half urban, with projections that some 70 per cent of the world's population will live in cities by 2050, with rural-urban drift occurring largely in developing countries, in that road its important promote the resilience of the cities aginst the effects of the climate change.

Mr. Chair,

5. We recall the Rio+20 Conference, in which our world leaders recognized the importance of sustainable cities and sustainable urbanization. They reaffirmed that cities, if well planned and developed, can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies.

Mr. Chair,

6. The grim reality of approximately one billion people living in urban slums highlights the gravity of the challenges. Poor people living in slum houses in unhealthy environments, which co-exist with modern high-rise buildings in many developing countries, is a stark contrast that depicts poverty and inequality, these two important issues reflected under the proposed Sustainable Development Goal 11 and its 7 targets, are part of the OWG on SDGs outcome and need to be the main basis of the negotiations for the post-2015 development agenda as the Resolution A/RES/68/309 mandates.

Mr Chair,

- 7. We would like to recall that Sustainable urban development and human settlement require transformative policies at multiple levels of governance. It requires a multi-sectorial, multi-stakeholder approach that engages all relevant stakeholders in a transparent and inclusive manner. In this regard, we call for new modalities of interaction between nations at the international level, as well as between central and local governments at the national level, in order to fulfill their respective roles as governmental stakeholders in global efforts on sustainability.
- 8. Other non-state actors also play important complementary roles. At the local level, city planners should tackle urban development challenges through inclusive policies that favour people-centred objectives and participatory decision-making that include the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of society
- 9. The most critical constraint, therefore, is the persistent issue of financing. In many developing countries the capacity of the Government is constrained by the low level of revenues. In this regard, we stress one more time the need for the developed countries to fulfill their commitments to support developing countries efforts through the provision of resources, capacity-building, technology transfer and to carry on with the means of implementation and go further those proposed under Sustainable Development Goal 11, with the objective to create an international enabling environment.
- 10. The group believes appropriate to reiterate its commitment to the efforts of individual countries and the management of UN-Habitat that are working hard to accomplish the agreements and challenges established at Habitat II,

Mr. chair.

- 11. We are in a very important phase heading to the road to Habitat III, so our efforts need to be enhanced; it is imperative that we can progressively realize that the challenge of making our cities safer, innovative, friendly, sustainable and productive is becoming real. In this context, we believe that the right track is the that international community works together, producing coordinated learning opportunities and fuelling the possibility of generating more democratic, equitable, inclusive processes with cities and socially integrated.
- 12. Lastly, we would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the support of the Group of 77 and China to Ecuador's offer to host the Habitat III Conference. Ecuador is one of our Member States and we are sure that this brother country goes beyond the required conditions for organizing this important event.
- 13. The Group hopes that this conference will be more effective than the previous ones, in that sense you can rest with our constructively engagement.

I Thank you.

03:21 PM - 03:27 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



Statement of the European Union and its Member States

1st Preparatory Committee for the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) - 17-18 September 2014

Agenda item 6: implementation of the outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and identification of new and emerging challenges on sustainable urban development,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Co-Chairs, Under Secretary General, Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies,

Allow us to start by congratulating the members of the newly elected bureau and in particular the two co-chairs, as well as the Secretary General of the Conference. Under your leadership, Under Secretary General, and that of the bureau, we are looking forward to fruitful discussions in the lead up to the Habitat III conference.

Before getting in the substance of this agenda item, let us say a few words on <u>our expectations</u> from this preparatory process towards the Habitat III conference.

The 3rd United Nations Conference on Sustainable Urban Development offers a unique opportunity to develop an universal perspective on human settlements and sustainable urban development. It should result in renewed political commitment and shared vision on sustainable urban development. It should anchor the issues of human settlement and urbanisation within the sustainable development agenda and increase even more global awareness of the extent and the seriousness of the challenges facing our urban environment.

As the first UN conference organized after the post 2015 development agenda is determined in September 2015, Habitat III should build on the framework and content provided by the Post-2015 process, and at the same time, sustainable urban development should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post 2015 development agenda.

Also, while elaborating the new urban agenda through this process, we should make sure that the action oriented policies discussed are realistic and implementable, by governments and by all the Habitat agenda partners, first of all local authorities.

Let me ensure that in spite of the challenging scheduling chosen for this prepcom and some procedural concerns about it, and even if the Secretariat is not fully formed, you can count on the

EU and its MS to support you in this challenging task and make the most of those 2 days, while reiterating that we are looking forward to a preparatory process organized in the most inclusive effective efficient and improved manner.

Co-chairs,

18 years after the adoption of the Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda, the EU and its MS welcome this opportunity to <u>discuss the progress of the implementation of Habitat II as well as the new challenges</u>, and we thank the Secretary Seneral for its report in this regard.

We believe that the Habitat Agenda remains a solid political document to build on as we acknowledge that the concerns and the recommendations carried by the Istanbul Declaration are ever realities and this document should remain a basis for our reflections on cities, urbanisation and habitat. Now, it is our common responsibility, together with the Habitat agenda partners, to ensure that the lessons learned from implantation of Habitat II and the new emerging challenges will be reflected in the New Urban Agenda.

We see significant progress which has been made towards attaining the goals of the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration on Cities and other Settlements. However, the EU MS are deeply concerned that all the progress made so far has not been enough to prevent the incremental increase of slums and to ensure the sustainable development of urban areas globally:

- Rapid urbanization, especially in emerging economies and developing countries calls for
 major changes in the way in which urban development is designed and managed, as well as
 substantial increases of public and private investments in urban infrastructure and basic
 services. Rapid urbanisation also has the potential to bring wealth and welfare to large
 populations but also risks to increase inequalities and use resources unsustainably.
- We also need to increase urban resilience to disasters and climate change, as well as to tackle better the challenges of air pollution in urban centers.
- Population dynamics, and their different trends in developing and developed countries, as well as the interconnections between urban and rural areas have also a critical influence on urban development and should be taken into account appropriately.
- Actions are needed to improve service delivery to the increasing number of slum dwellers living in deprived housing conditions with lack of access to basic services like water, sanitation, waste management, durable housing and sufficient living area.
- We also need to pay increased attention to the interrelationship between migration and development since migration and mobility pose both challenges and opportunities for cities as centres of growth

- To ensure sustainable, inclusive and green growth, action is also needed in cities to create
 jobs, in particular green jobs, with sectors such as recycling of waste providing promising
 opportunities,
- We also need to collectively better manage and improve personal security and safety in cities, in particular for women and girls, and the most vulnerable.

In order to address these challenges, we have to encompass a more comprehensive approach towards sustainable urbanization and the development of cities. As an underlying principle the EU and its MS support a holistic and integrated approach to urbanisation in order to achieve an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable society.

Co-chairs,

The commitment of the EU and its Member States towards the implementation of the Habitat II outcomes cannot be fully and comprehensively described in this statement. As a major donor worldwide, we have, together, largely contributed to support developing countries' efforts to implement Habitat II, from huge investments in water and sanitation to the provision of basic urban services. Internally, we have adopted a number of legislative instruments at all levels, and we are currently undertaking work to further develop our policies in the field of urban sustainable development.

Co-chairs,

Implementing Habitat II and working towards the elaboration of Habitat III cannot be done by national governments alone. We need to underline the importance of the responsibilities incumbent on all Habitat agenda partners, in particular local authorities and civil society organizations.

The European Union and its Member States have high expectations of the role to be played by the Local authorities. They are the closest partners to citizens, historically linked with the fulfilment of their basic needs. An increasing co-operation, based on agreed principles, between all levels of government, is therefore required to work effectively on urban development. We are eagerly looking forward to the Secretariat's proposal as regards their involvement in the preparatory process for Habitat III that has already started, as mandated by the General Assembly in the fall of 2012.

More generally, the Habitat Agenda cannot be fully implemented without an inclusive cooperation with Civil Society Organisations, including the vibrant network of NGOs involved in many aspects of urban development at all levels, as well as with the private sector. Together, we should form a global partnership for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The relevant Civil Society organizations should be fully involved in this preparatory process and in the Conference, as well as for the implementation of the new urban agenda.

I thank you

03:34 PM - 03:41 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY LESOTHO



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS 815 Second Avenue 8th Floor New York, NY 10017

STATEMENT

BY

THE HONOURABLE MR. APESI RATS'ELE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

AT THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HABITAT III)

17 SEPTEMBER 2014 NEW YORK

Please check against delivery

Chairperson,

It is an honour for me to address the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). At the outset allow me to congratulate you and the other Members of the Bureau on your well-deserved election. I assure you of my delegation's full support.

We welcome the Report of the Secretary General of the Conference (A/CONF.226/PC.1/5) which clearly summarizes key developments since Habitat II, major existing and emerging urban challenges, while focusing on the major role that urbanization can play in their alleviation or resolution. Habitat III will be an ideal occasion for the international community to confront these challenges.

Chairperson,

In recent years the United Nations has worked tirelessly to strengthen the global commitment to sustainable urbanization with a special focus on the implementation of a "New Urban Agenda" that will build on the already existing Habitat Agenda. While significant progress has been made in this regard, Governments still face urban challenges greater than ever before. Amongst others, these challenges are due to failure to implement previous polices, shortcomings in existing policies and the growth of rapid urbanization.

Chairperson,

Lesotho believes that the future is urban. Cities and human settlements serve as engines of economic development and are central to the process of production and consumption. While there is a strong positive connection between economic growth and urbanization, this potential relationship is in itself not spontaneous or self – generating. There is a need to focus on policies and strategies that foster sustainable and equitable use of urban spaces.

Chairperson,

Allow me to share with you certain strides that my country has made towards implementation of the Habitat Agenda and other relevant internationally agreed goals and targets. In partnership with Development Partners, the Government of Lesotho has introduced land reforms that facilitate security of

tenure and improve investments in land. Moreover, a series of prepared spatial plans are being implemented, ranging from the National Settlement Policy, District Physical plans, Town Structure plans and various local and subject area plans. The aim of these plans is to guide physical development and investment across the national space.

Furthermore, we are currently completing a housing profile study as a first step towards compiling a National Housing Policy. The Policy will guide the implementation of housing, not only as social and economic good, but as a way of creating employment for the youth. Both the profile study and the Policy are being compiled with assistance from UN-Habitat and UNDP. We believe that the Policy will establish a connection between the dynamics of urbanization and the overall process of national development.

Chairperson,

Despite our efforts, a number of challenges still beset us as we engage in exploring ways on how urbanization can be an effective tool for the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Lesotho has a rugged terrain that covers 90% of the land area. This poses a challenge to our developmental efforts as providing services to the remote areas requires huge capital outlay.

The main driver of urbanization in Lesotho is rural-urban migration caused by rural poverty and a decline in agricultural production. The effects of climate change have also negatively affected agricultural production. Because of the increasing precariousness of agriculture and weakened mechanisms for land management, there is unprecedented pressure for conversion of agricultural land to other uses, mainly residential uses.

Chairperson,

Only a UN conference has the convening power to bring together all actors needed to achieve solutions for the complex challenge of urbanization. The preparatory process for Habitat III should allow and ensure that the 2016 Conference will result in an innovative, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document.

Chairperson,

In conclusion, allow me to reaffirm my Country's commitment to the Habitat Agenda and the goals and objectives of Habitat III which seeks to define new global urban priorities for the coming twenty years.

I thank you.

03:46 PM - 03:50 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY **GERMANY**

Habitat III, PrepCom 1, NY, 17.-18.09.2014

Opening Session

German Statement

- Honorable Co-chairs, Under Secretary General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen
- Germany fully adheres to the statement presented by the European Union. Allow me to add some considerations on behalf of the German Government:
- Urbanization and the achievement of sustainable urban development pose challenges and
 opportunities to all countries in the world. Therefore, the development of strategies and
 instruments to address the challenges and opportunities of urbanization need to be
 discussed and developed at the global level together with all relevant stakeholders to
 ensure outcomes that mobilize national governments, local governments and other relevant
 stakeholders alike. We need a global partnership
- Lessons from Habitat II need to be drawn and act upon:
 - The outcome of the Conference should be a concise, concrete and focused political document, universal in nature. The formulation of clear goals, targets and indicators will help to trigger the mobilization and commitment of all relevant actors and will facilitate monitoring exercises of impacts and needed follow-up processes.
 - 2. **Implementation** must be fully integrated into the conceptional approach and thus be an integral part of the preparatory process in dedicated work streams. This includes mechanisms for cross sectoral, capacity development and nexus thinking.
 - 3. For the implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda an enabling and effective **institutional set-up** at the global and international level is of special importance. For the establishment of such an institutional framework a dedicated work stream needs to be part of the preparatory process.
- Being the first UN conference following the adoption of the Post-2015 Agenda, Habitat III needs to build on the vision, the narrative, framework and content provided by this process.
- Local authorities need to be able to participate actively and meaningfully in the process.
 They will be the main knowledge broker and the main implementers of the Habitat Agenda.
 It is the local level where improved action for sustainable development is best put into practice.
- Thus, a true global partnership has to be fostered: Multistakeholder platforms which provide high level of exchange and collaboration among governments, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, academia and civil society will lead to more innovation and ambition and will impulse the transformative process we need.
- In finalizing, I'd like to underline the importance the German Government attributes to the
 process of defining and implementing the New Urban Agenda. We are prepared to fully
 support it and to assume responsibility in the process.
- Thank you

03:51 PM - 03:56 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Постоянное представительство Российской Федерации при Организации Объединенных Наций

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ВЫСТУПЛЕНИЕ

Заместителя Постоянного представителя Российской Федерации при международных организациях в Найроби В.Н.Ленева

в ходе первой сессии Подготовительного комитета к Конференции ООН по жилью и устойчивому городскому развитию ХАБИТАТ III

17 сентября 2014 года

Уважаемый господин председатель!

Российская Федерация рассматривает решение о проведении в 2016 году Конференции ХАБИТАТ III как чрезвычайно актуальное, что обусловлено глобальным ростом темпов урбанизации.

Процессы урбанизации в России имеют такую же динамику и масштабы как и в большинстве стран мира. Мы сталкиваемся с такими проблемами городского развития, как увеличивающаяся концентрация населения и различных производств на ограниченных территориях, доступ к безопасному водоснабжению и санитарии, вывоз и переработка отходов, уплотнение транспортных систем, загрязнение окружающей среды, а также безопасность и социальная устойчивость в городах. Уровень урбанизации в Российской Федерации в настоящее время составляет порядка 74%.

Российская Федерация ведет последовательную линию на удовлетворение жилищных и инфраструктурных потребностей населения. В нашей стране успешно реализуется государственная политика, направленная на устойчивую урбанизацию и создание комфортных условий проживания в

городах, реформируется правовое поле в целях достижения устойчивого развития городов.

Среди наших приоритетов — развитие ипотечного кредитования, снижение стоимости квадратного метра жилья путем увеличения объема ввода в эксплуатацию жилья экономического класса, формирование рынка арендного жилья, создание для граждан Российской Федерации возможности улучшения жилищных условий не реже одного раза в 15 лет.

Российская стратегия в области городского развития полностью согласуется с утвержденными на международном уровне целями в области развития, сформулированными в Декларации тысячелетия, и решениями Всемирного саммита по устойчивому развитию.

Российская Федерация вплотную приступила к подготовке своего участия в работе ХАБИТАТ-III. Назначен национальный координатор, в декабре текущего года будет подготовлен проект Национального доклада.

По инициативе российской стороны 2-3 июня с.г. в Ханты-Мансийске была проведена информационная встреча для представителей местных органов власти государств-участников СНГ, посвященная подготовке к «ХАБИТАТ III». Рассматриваем организацию этой встречи в качестве нашего вклада в реализацию целей устойчивого городского развития в региональном масштабе.

На базе Московского офиса ООН-ХАБИТАТ была развернута работа по подготовке к ХАБИТАТ Ш стран региона СНГ. Эта тематика обсуждалась на заседании Межправительственного совета по сотрудничеству в строительной деятельности государств-участников СНГ, состоявшегося в мае этого года в Астане.

На основе договоренности Московского офиса ООН-Хабитат с Министерством архитектуры и строительства Республики Беларусь в Минске был создан и приступил к работе Методический центр по подготовке национальных докладов к Хабитат III. Сотрудники Методического центра

разработали детальные рекомендации по подготовке национальных докладов к Хабитат III.

23-24 июня с.г. на базе Методического центра было проведено Региональное совещание национальных координаторов по подготовке докладов к ХАБИТАТ III, в котором приняли участие представители Таджикистана, Киргизстана, Молдавии, Украины, Беларуси и Армении. На втором Региональном совещании национальных координаторов, запланированном на середину декабря, будут представлены и обсуждены первые проекты национальных докладов к ХАБИТАТ III.

В заключении хотел бы выразить уверенность, что Конференция ООН по жилью и устойчивому городскому развитию ХАБИТАТ Ш станет важной вехой на пути достижения целей устойчивого развития и на долгие годы вперед определит приоритеты глобальной повестки дня городского развития.

Спасибо за внимание!

03:56 PM - 04:01 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY JAPAN

Lepen

Mr. Co-chairs,

Let me first start by congratulating and thanking the Co-chairs on assuming their important positions at this Preparatory Committee for Habitat III. I would also like to congratulate Mr. Joan Clos on his re-election as Director General of LIN-Habitat

a most country to the regional office in the city of runtuoka. Furthermore, as Habitat III will be the first UN conference after the adoption of both the Post-2015 Development Agenda and an important agreement under UNFCCC in 2015, we are committed to engaging constructively in the preparatory process toward Habitat III in 2016.

A report of the SDGs OWG was just adopted last week by the GA, who decided that the proposals therein should serve as the main basis for intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The issue of human settlement is described in a very prominent manner in the report as goal 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable." As stated in the Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference, Habitat III will be a key vehicle for operationalizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Let me touch upon Japan's efforts in regard to Habitat III. The government of Japan has established a National Committee for Habitat III in order to draft our National Report. The committee's interim report was just submitted to the Secretariat. In the report, two main problems are emphasized as new challenges facing Japan in a time of rapid change:

The first challenge is the problem of population. The population of Japan, having peaked in 2008 at 128 million, is projected to decrease to 97 million by 2050, with the share of elderly people reaching 40 percent, to form a super-aged society such as no other country has yet experienced.

The second challenge is how to make cities and local communities more resilient to natural disasters. The Japanese people once again affirmed the dire importance of disaster resilience and disaster risk reduction in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011. In this connection, in March 2015, Japan will host the Third

community.

In order to address these new challenges, Japan has published our grand design, which outlines our principles and describes what local communities and cities in Japan should look like by 2050. We are aiming to build a society that will be able to produce greater added value through networking various and diversified local communities, while securing a certain population level in those communities in a time of declining population. We plan to tackle these challenges through close cooperation between national and local governments, businesses and the private sector, and numerous other stakeholders.

In the process leading up to Habitat III, we will be pleased to share with the international community not only our past experiences of rapid economic growth in the 60's and 70's, but also our current aforementioned efforts and experiences in addressing modern challenges in order to contribute to other countries, in particular in Asia-Pacific region, where urbanization has been taking place on a wide scale.

I thank you.

04:05 PM - 04:13 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA



PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS 333 EAST 38TH STREET 9TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10016 Tel: (212) 213-5583 Fax: (212) 692-2498 E-mail: pmun@southafrica-newyork.net

STATEMENT BY

AMBASSADOR KINGSLEY MAMABOLO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

FIRST MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HABITAT III)

UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK
17 SEPTEMBER 2014

Please check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to extend, on behalf of the South African delegation, our congratulations to the Chair on your election and the Bureau. My delegation would like to assure you of our support for a successful preparatory process towards the holding of the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development in 2016.

South Africa has formally submitted its National Report in Nairobi and we have completed all domestic processes in this regard. The South African National Report for Habitat III has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders, which included National Government, Local Authorities and institutions under the Department of Human Settlements. Civil Society and Private Sector Organisations, academic institutions and think-tanks, also contributed. The report indicates how we have fared in implementing the Habitat Agenda, as well as what the priorities for a new global urban agenda could be. It is indeed a very opportune moment to take stock, as 2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the attainment of our freedom and democracy.

Section 26 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa enshrines the inalienable right to housing. It is therefore Government's responsibility to work progressively towards ensuring that all South Africans have access to secure tenure, housing, basic services, facilities and infrastructure wherever they are located.

We found that indeed there is a lot to celebrate. Over the past 20 years of government's housing programme, over 2.8 million completed houses and units, and just over 876 000 serviced sites, were delivered, allowing approximately 12.5 million people access to accommodation and a fixed asset. About 56 percent of all subsidies were allocated to woman headed households. We have also made significant progress with regard to ensuring access to basic services, with the latest census results of 2011 showing that over 90% of the population was using an improved drinking water source and over 90% of the population were using flush or chemical toilets. 82% of the population is connected to the main electricity supply.

South Africa has been an active proponent of the Habitat Agenda. We have adopted a Comprehensive Plan for the Development of Sustainable Human

Settlements in 2004, which "promotes the achievement of a non-racial, integrated society through the development of sustainable human settlements and quality housing". In 2009, President Zuma announced that the Department of Housing would be re-named the Department of Human Settlements and declared "We will proceed from the understanding that human settlement is not just about building houses. It is about transforming our cities and towns and building cohesive, sustainable and caring communities with closer access to work and social amenities, including sports and recreation facilities."

The National Development Plan for the attainment of South Africa's Vision 2030 includes a strategy for addressing the persisting human settlements challenges and addressing rapid urbanisation. Preparations for HABITAT III come at the time when we are developing our Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF). The latest census results undeniably show that South Africa is urbanising — with 63% of the population living in urban areas. However, the urban areas still remain highly segregated, with huge concentrations of poverty.

Our municipalities are facing enormous challenges. They struggle to keep pace with the increasing demand for housing provision and basic services of their growing populations.

Insufficient access to well-located land has resulted in people living in situations of informality and resorting to land invasion in search of services and socio-economic opportunities. This has material consequences in terms of health and safety as well as political and legal consequences, including insecure tenure, vulnerability to evictions and the inability to claim rights to full citizenship.

The South African Government has therefore embarked on a strategy for spatial targeting through a Spatial Master Plan, to enable more efficient economic and social investment targeting, resulting in more efficient viable and sustainable urban centres.

Growing infrastructure backlogs and limited resources place huge pressures on sustainable settlement finance.

Urbanisation and the growing informality of urban settlements also put pressures on the natural environment, resulting in disaster risks and environmental challenges.

The intimate linkages between rural and urban areas are very important. While cities are vital to the over-all economic development and growth of the country, they remain largely interdependent and interlinked to rural areas. While rural areas are home to just under a quarter of the population, they remain responsible for food production, essential natural resources like water, and for migrant labour.

South Africa is therefore of the view that the Habitat Agenda of 1996 still remains as valid today as it was then. But we also acknowledge that there needs to be a concrete agenda that speaks to the urban challenges. There are shortcomings that need to be addressed in terms of urban planning, urban governance and urban finance.

In addition, we further believe that access to public transport could be a key driver for the achievement of inclusion, social cohesion and improved access to economic, social, cultural and recreational amenities. Thus public transport and urban mobility should form an anchor point for the New Agenda.

In building on the Habitat Agenda, South Africa wishes to urge a continued focus on addressing the needs of women, youth and vulnerable groups. In this regard we feel the needs of people with disabilities deserve a stronger focus in our New Agenda.

As we approach Habitat III, we look forward to the substantive discussions reflecting on ways to improve the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, as well as a renewed global commitment for addressing sustainable human settlements and urban development.

04:45 PM - 04:50 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY GRENADA

Statement by H.E. Denis Antoine, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable urban development (Habitat III) United Nations, New York, September 17, 2014

Salutations

Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development planned to take place in 2016 will be one of the first global conferences after the Post 2015 Development Agenda is set. Grenada welcomes the opportunity to emphasize that housing and sustainable urban development is among its highest national priorities.

One un-deniable reality of Small Island Developing States, like Grenada is destruction brought about by the negative impacts climate change. Our urban centers which form part of our colonial heritage, now an important part of our tourism attractions and a key component of our national history; However, many of the physical structures that we inherited in our urban centers, present serious constraints to sustainable city planning.

In recent times, the Government of Grenada has developed sustainable heritage management and preservation program. Today we are reaching out to friendly governments including our colonial relatives, and organizations for assistance. We look forward to the continued and heightened support in vital areas to our overall urban development plan. Our challenges are shared by many other Small Island Developing States, most of which are former colonies. The

Government of Grenada therefore welcomes the creation of "a new urban agenda for the 21st Century" and encourages SIDS to be actively involved to ensure that our own unique urban development and housing challenges are fashioned into model resilient cities. The need for potable water remains an issue for many developing states, compounding the challenges in our urban centers and in rural communities. The state of Grenada a tri state - Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, the latter two have historically suffered periods of drought. This issue is currently being addressed through the construction of two desalination plants on the islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. These plants will be powered by solar energy generated by two separate solar fields constructed specifically for that purpose.

The Government of Grenada also recognizes the importance of proper sanitation to human development and commends the efforts made by the international community to raise awareness through initiatives like the "World Toilet Day" observed by the UN November 19 each year. As we move towards a comprehensive Sustainable Development Agenda, our societies are plagued by communicable and non-communicable diseases. We simply cannot accept that 2.5 billion people do not have access to clean and safe toilets; Grenada calls for sanitation to be made a global development priority.

Thank you!

04:54 PM - 04:58 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY **SINGAPORE**



PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

318 EAST 48[™] STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10017 TEL: (212) 826 0840 FAX: (212) 826 2964

STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY KAREN TAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE FIRST PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HABITAT III), 17 SEPTEMBER 2014

Mr Chairman,

- 1 At the outset, my delegation wishes to align itself with the statement made by Bolivia on behalf of the G77 and China.
- It is indeed timely that we gather here in the United Nations over the next two days to initiate the preparations for HABITAT III. Given the political, economic, social and environmental developments over the past eighteen years, there is an urgency to define the new urban agenda. In Singapore's view, the new urban agenda should be based on three goals a high quality of life; a competitive economy; and a sustainable environment.
- This vision is shaped by our urban experience. When Singapore became independent in 1965, we experienced similar challenges to what other cities face today. At that time, Singapore was a city with poor infrastructure, poor sanitation, and traffic congestion. Nearly three quarters of our population lived in housing akin to squatter settlements.
- 4 Yet 50 years later, Singapore is one of the most liveable cities in the world. We have resolved our informal settlements through public housing. We have also completed three integrated plans since Habitat II in 1996, as well as developed the Singapore Sustainability Blueprint in 2009. In addition, we have

completed a comprehensive transport plan which focused on public transit.

- Building a highly liveable city in Singapore has been possible because of a combination of careful governance over the last 50 years, as well as learning from the best practices of other cities. Our experience in this area has been distilled and compiled into a Liveability Framework. As many cities in Asia, Latin America and Africa today face exponential population growth, land scarcity, overburdened infrastructure and social challenges, Singapore's high density- high liveability framework is of relevance. That is why I invite you to consider Singapore's growth framework as a basis for the new urban agenda.
- This framework is achieved through two systems: integrated master planning and dynamic urban governance. First, we plan our cities for 15-50 year time frames, while building-in flexibility to adjust to changing conditions. In addition, we ensure all agencies are integrated productively, and implementing all plans with sufficient capability and resources, as well as systematically evaluate to incorporate innovation in policy and technology. Second, urban governance systems are based on integrity, led by leaders who are both visionary and pragmatic. These leaders need sound institutions to carry out the plans. In addition, participatory planning is vital to promote equity and an engaged citizenry. Finally, city governments need to have the capacity to negotiate well-designed contracts and guidelines for the city's long term benefit.

Mr Chairman,

- Sustainable development goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable crafted by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) underscores the key role which urbanisation plays in the world today. Singapore believes that we can contribute to the elaboration of urbanisation in the context of the post-2015 development agenda as well as the new urban agenda through this Liveability Framework. Singapore hopes that the elements of the Liveability Framework will be considered by the Preparatory Committee as Singapore's input to the zero draft of the outcome document for the HABITAT III Conference.
- 8 I thank you for your attention.

04:59 PM - 05:07 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY ECUADOR



ECUADOR

Intervención Embajador Xavier Lasso Mendoza Representante Permanente del Ecuador ante Naciones Unidas

I Sesión del Comité Preparatorio de la Conferencia sobre la vivienda y el desarrollo urbano sostenible (Hábitat III).

Nueva York, 17-18 de Septiembre de 2014

(Verificar contra lectura)

Señor Presidente,

Mi delegación se asocia el discurso pronunciado por Bolivia, a nombre del Grupo de los 77 más China.

Quiero agradecer a la Secretaría de Hábitat III por la coordinación y preparación de esta primera de tres reuniones que buscan el éxito de la Conferencia sobre la vivienda y el desarrollo urbano sostenible que está ya en el horizonte del 2016. Destacamos asimismo los informes presentados por el Secretario General para la puesta en marcha de los resultados de la Conferencia y el fortalecimiento de ONU-Hábitat.

Mi país, Ecuador, entiende que el ordenamiento del territorio constituye esencialmente un ejercicio de función pública. Las políticas de hábitat y asentamientos humanos y vivienda expresan la aspiración del Estado de construir la sociedad del buen vivir a través de la regulación pública de la dimensión espacial, tomando en consideración las connotaciones políticas, jurídicas, sociales, económicas, geográficas, medioambientales y culturales en la ciudad.

El Ecuador cree que el ser humano socialmente reconocido está en el centro de toda planificación, la urbana también, por eso pensamos que debemos evitar que solo las lógicas de las desigualdades del mercado, que provoca el uso irracional del suelo, la fragmentación social de los territorios, dispersión, exclusión, segregación, procesos informales e insostenibilidad ambiental, nos determinen.

Por eso nos hemos propuesto ser la sede de Hábitat III, lo que nos llena de orgullo y responsabilidad. Tan importante Cumbre pretenderá definir un nuevo rumbo para el futuro de la urbanización sostenible, que tenga en cuenta las voces desde las diferentes realidades locales, nacionales, regionales, globales, a fin de apoyar conjuntamente nuevos retos que vienen siendo discutidos también en el marco de la Agenda Post-2015, en la que este tema deberá ocupar un espacio prioritario.

Hábitat III será una de las primeras conferencias mundiales después de la adopción de la agenda de desarrollo sostenible Post-2015 y también esperamos un nuevos compromisos en el tema de cambio climático. Se trata de una oportunidad única para debatir el reto de cómo las ciudades y pueblos deben ser orientados, para cumplir un liderazgo en el desarrollo sostenible y dar forma a la puesta en marcha de los nuevos objetivos de desarrollo global y los temas del cambio climático.

El fenómeno de urbanización acelerada de los grandes centros poblacionales, ha marcado el desarrollo, de los últimos años, en casi todas las ciudades de la región latinoamericana y de mi país, Ecuador, también, con resultados penosos: trastornos socio espaciales, en tanto la expansión urbana afecta a los cinturones de reserva ecológica, a los suelos de vocación agrícola, provoca inequidades y genera exclusión para los nuevos habitantes que llegan a la ciudad. Estamos ahora también atentando contra la sostenibilidad de las ciudades.

La tendencia de decrecimiento de la tasa anual demográfico en el área rural, es menor al decrecimiento demográfico en el área urbana durante el último periodo intercensal, en ese

marco, es pertinente la hipótesis, según la cual, si en épocas anteriores las migraciones provenían mayoritariamente del sector rural, ahora se producen transmigraciones de poblaciones que salen de ciudades intermedias a ciudades grandes, y grupos que salen de ciudades menores para ir a ciudades intermedias, se trata de una migración ciudad-ciudad. Lo que nos hace pensar que algunas ciudades donde se origina la migración estarían decreciendo.

Entonces es importante analizar la dinámica pendular en la cual la cobertura de servicios, equipamientos e infraestructura en las ciudades que decrecen, superaría las necesidades, por lo tanto se subutilizan, mientras en otras localidades los servicios no cubren las necesidades de la población por los vertiginosos crecimientos urbanos, lo cual provoca sobre ocupación o déficit de dichos servicios, equipamiento e infraestructura.

El Gobierno del Ecuador, en sus esfuerzos por construir una sociedad más justa y equitativa, ha procurado durante los últimos años poner en marcha un sistema de derechos, en materia de hábitat y desarrollo urbano. El principio que guía su actuación es el de "el derecho a la ciudad", entendido como un conjunto de derechos interrelacionados y vinculados al territorio.

Asimismo mi país tiene una institucionalidad bien estructurada, que opera con un sistema de gestión de riesgos en los diferentes niveles territoriales de gobierno. Se trabaja en planificación, prevención y mitigación, para la reducción de riesgos de desastres con modelos de gestión que movilizan a la institucionalidad procurando una respuesta inmediata ante la amenaza o el desastre.

El Gobierno del Ecuador ha liderado, a lo largo de los tres últimos años, un proceso interdisciplinario, interinstitucional y participativo de desarrollo de un nuevo marco legal que contribuye a establecer principios y herramientas específicas, que guíen el planeamiento urbanístico y la gestión del suelo de las ciudades, y que cree un nuevo marco institucional que permita regular y controlar estas funciones de forma efectiva.

Para finalizar, deseo destacar que las acciones hacia una agenda urbana sostenible que esperamos alcanzar en Hábitat III, deben ser asumidas de manera conjunta entre todos los actores, requiriéndose de mayores esfuerzos en los diferentes ámbitos, acciones consensuadas, iniciativas colectivas, que agreguen sinergias positivas. Lo requieren imperativamente nuestras ciudades, en especial la gente más vulnerable que habita en ellas: personas con discapacidad; adultos mayores, hombres y mujeres; nuestros niños; nuestras niñas.

Muchas gracias.

05:41 PM - 05:50 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY BENIN

SSION PERMANENTE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU BÉNIN AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

SIXTY NINETH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY *******

FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HABITAT III)

STATEMENT BY

H.E.MR. JEAN -FRANCIS R. ZINSOU AMBASSADOR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BENIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS, CHAIR OF THE GLOBAL COORDINATION BUREAU OF LDCs

17 September 2014

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of LDCs.

At the outset, the Group likes to commend the Chair and other members of the bureau of the PrpCom for their well-deserved elections. We are confident that under the able leadership of this bureau, the current session of the PrepCom will reach to a successful conclusion.

The Group attaches great importance to the third UN Conference on housing and sustainable urban development, as it relates to some of the key challenges that LDCs are facing. We want substantial preparations in a bottom up approach, that brings to the fore the challenges that the cities are facing in terms health and sanitation; access to food, energy, education and training; and communications and transportation. We want an ambitious, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome that reinvigorates the global commitment to and support for housing and sustainable urban development.

It is remarkable that, only one century ago, a mere 5 per cent of the population of LDCs resided in urban areas, which, according to the World Development Indicators, has reached to nearly 30 per cent. In LDCs, the urban population is growing at an unprecedented rate of 4.7 per cent per year. This implies that the urban population in LDCs will double in less than 15 years.

Rapid urbanization in LDCs has been accompanied by a growing demand for affordable urban land, housing, water and sanitation, health care facilities and addressing a wide range of other vulnerabilities and shocks. However, the demand far outpaces supply of the available facilities. Due to the lack of adequate urban planning and management capacities as well as resource constraints at national and local levels, the rapid pace of urbanization is resulting in the expansion of slums and informal settlements and income inequalities rather than contributing to increasing the wealth of cities.

Besides a number of challenges, urbanization has huge potentials. We must tap this great potential with a view to ensuring greater equitability, economic growth, strengthened social cohesion, improved environmental outcomes and sustainable development. The HABITAT III should aim at streamlining the process of urbanization to promote sustainable urbanization in the LDCs in order to promote socio-economic development of urban dwellers. Well-planned and intelligently designed cities have the potential to improve the lives of half the planet's people today, and 80% by 2030 at a relatively lower rate of resources use. We have taken the dual approach encompassing both urban and rural settlement in the SDGs adopted by the General Assembly.

We would like to suggest the following key priority areas of LDCs in the areas of housing and sustainable cities:

First: We want to make the slum a history. We need to anticipate and plan in advance to prevent further slum-forming urban growth with the aim to develop viable and productive cities and neighborhoods through better urban planning in order to improve living condition and prevent slum development. We need to increase access to affordable housing, land and housing-related infrastructure and basic services while achieving a significant improvement in the lives of millions of slum dwellers.

Second: Appropriate mechanisms should be made available at all levels for capacity building and to ensure direct access and scaled-up financial support for the implementation of urban adaptation, including the development of resilient food safety nets and other social services.

Third: We need to improve the physical infrastructure and to maximize the benefits of economies of scale through better planning, developing a supportive regulatory framework to support individual and private stakeholders' initiatives and ensure equitable development. This can foster public-private partnerships, which are vitally important for LDCs.

Forth: We need to address the mitigation of natural hazards at the city level, many of which are being exacerbated by climate change. The impacts of disasters are far greater in poorly planned and inequitable cities. Urban areas in LDCs, with their high concentration of population, economic activity and poor infrastructure, are likely to face the most severe impacts of climate change.

Fifth: We need to put in place a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder partnership approach that engages Governments, the private sector, civil society, foundations, local authorities as well as regional and global networks of cities. LDCs need significant amount of financial and technical support and technology transfer from the development partners to improve access to land, housing and basic services and capacities of national and local governments and institutions for low-cost building and other utility services.

Finally: I would underscore the need for active participation of LDCs in the Habitat Conference and all its preparatory processes. We need an assurance of financial support from the trust fund of Habitat III for participation of at least two representatives from each LDCs in all future meetings related to Habitat-III.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY FINLAND

YM/17.9.2014

The Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

PrepCom 1, New York 17-18 September 2014

Agenda Item 6.

Progress to date in the implementation of the outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and identification of new and emerging challenges on sustainable urban development.

Statement by Finland

Thank you,

Let me start by extending our congratulations to the co-chairs and the newly elected bureau. I would also like to state Finland's full alignment with the statement of the EU and its Member States.

Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development is to address one of the crucial questions of our time. How to make our cities liveable for all? As cities grow at an increasingly rapid pace, we cannot afford to continue business as usual. How can we develop a city where people want to live, instead of a city where people have to live? A city in which every segment of society can flourish - a place where all citizens can afford to, and want to, spend their time for both work and leisure.

The future of world's cities is fundamentally intertwined with the challenges of sustainable development at large. Therefore it is crucial to make sure that Sustainable cities and human settlements are given due consideration in the preparation of the Sustainable Development Goals for the Post-2015 era. In the Habitat III Conference we will be committing ourselves to a new urban agenda. This agenda should play an important role in contributing to the implementation of the SDGs.

With regard to the challenges we are facing, Finland would like to highlight some key ingredients for contributing to sustainable urban development. In our view, urgent action is

needed in particular in promoting integrated planning, improving sustainable mobility, increasing resource efficiency and balancing the rural-urban nexus.

Integrated planning is a useful tool in decreasing the ecological footprint in urban development. It draws together plans from key sectors at regional and national levels. It can decrease urban sprawl and increase resource and energy efficiency in housing, land use planning and transport.

In Finland we have taken promising steps in integrated planning. A few weeks ago, fourteen municipalities around The Helsinki Metropolitan Area agreed on setting up a <u>metropolitan</u> governance system to solve problems related to land use, housing and transportation. We have also formulated Agreements of Intent between the government and other major cities, in which city regions promise to increase the density of the city structure and construct more public housing in cooperation with neighboring municipalities. It is important to develop both rural and urban areas, and ensure that people living outside densely built areas can participate in the development of a municipality.

<u>Mobility for all</u> is a central feature of an inclusive and sustainable city. This has been a key area in our country when drawing up the integrated plans. We need to increase sustainability in transport, which means freeing ourselves from the dominance of the private car and shifting into a transportation system which is based on public and non-motorised transport. Special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations is a key component in this regard.

Mr Chairman, due to the rapid urbanization of our time, it is not surprising that we are facing numerous and complex challenges in urban development. In addressing these challenges, we have to join our efforts and to engage all decision making levels as well as actors from the wide spectrum of the civil society.

The Habitat III Conference should become a milestone in the history of sustainable urban development and provide a global vision and concrete steps in making the cities more liveable for all.

Thank you

10:17 AM - 10:24 AM Thursday, 18 September 2014

STATEMENT BY CHINA

鲁梅参赞在"人居三"筹备委员会第一届会议 上的发言

(2014年9月17日上午10:00, 第二会议室)

主席先生,

可持续城市发展是当前国际发展合作的重要内容和优先议程之一。"人居三"会议主题"可持续城市发展:城镇化的未来"对于国际社会共同应对城镇化挑战,实现可持续城市发展,加强人居领域国际合作具有重要意义。中国政府支持 2016 年举行联合国住房和可持续城市发展会议,愿意为会议的成功举办做出积极贡献。

为全面落实《人居议程》,做好"人居三"大会筹备工作,促进全球人居问题得到根本、全面解决,中方愿提出以下建议:

一、走可持续发展道路是解决人居问题的必由之路。 发展经济、消除贫困是从根本上解决人居问题的基本条件。国际社会应共同致力于推动经济增长,消除贫困和缩小贫富差距,从根本上解决人居问题。可持续城市发展要统筹协调经济、社会和环境三大领域,在与经济发展相适应的同时,要与人口增长和生产力发展相协调,与资源开发利用和保护环境相协调。

- 二、解决人居问题要推动城乡发展一体化。城市与农村人类住区的发展相互关联,相辅相成。农村问题依然是解决全球人居问题的薄弱环节和突出问题,要统筹城乡发展,缩小城乡差距,促进城乡共同繁荣,要重点解决好农村人口向城市转移,加快完善城乡发展一体化体制机制,推进城乡规划、基础设施、公共服务等方面一体化,实现可持续、包容的城镇化发展。
- 三、加强国际合作是解决人居问题的重要途径。国际社会,特别是发达国家,应从人类的共同利益出发,拿出政治决心和诚意,为发展中国家的经济和社会发展创造有利的外部条件,特别要在资金、技术、人才、开放市场、减免债务等问题上履行承诺,以增强发展中国家解决人居问题的能力,与此同时要尊重各国根据本国国情,能力和条件所确定的解决人居发展战略及优先发展领域。

主席先生,

中国高度重视可持续城市发展问题。当前,中国正处于城镇化进程的重要发展时期,中国政府已将走中国特色新型城镇化道路作为国家发展战略的优先领域,颁布实施了《国家新型城镇化规划(2014-2020)》对中国新型城镇化发展作出了具体规划。中国将继续走优化布局、生态文明、传承文化的新型城镇化道路。

中国积极参与和推进城镇化国际合作,同各方开展 多、双边合作。去年在中国提议下联大通过了设立"世界 城市日"决议,大大提升了国际社会对全球城镇化进程的 关注,推动了全球可持续城市发展。中国支持将可持续 城市发展列入可持续发展目标和 2015 后发展议程的优先领域。中国愿同各方一道共同努力,积极参与"人居三" 大会筹备进程,推动会议成功举行,促进全球可持续发展。

STATEMENT BY BRAZIL

1st meeting of the Preparatory Committee - UN Habitat III Statement by Brazil

On behalf of the Brazilian Government, I would like to express our gratitude to the Secretary General of the Conference for organizing this first meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - Habitat III. We thank you for your report on the preparations for the Conference and on the progress in the implementation of Habitat II and new challenges.

The holding of the conference in 2016 could not be more opportune. For the first time in history, more than half of the global population lives in cities, and this number will keep increasing in the foreseeable future.

Also for the first time, the phenomenon of urban expansion has become much more relevant to developing countries. In fact, 95 per cent of urban expansion in the next decades will take place in the developing world. This is particularly the case in our region, where it is estimated that by 2050, 91,4% of South America's population will be residing in cities.

Urbanization has a major transformative impact on economic growth, poverty reduction and the empowerment of citizens. It also embodies the main problems that can only be overcome by sustainable development. The world's cities occupy just 2 per cent of the Earth's land, but account for between 60-80 per cent of energy consumption, and 75 per cent of carbon emissions. It is also in cities that social and economic inequalities reach their highest levels.

We believe adequate urban planning is an essential requirement for enabling cities to fully play their role as drivers of sustainable development in all its dimensions. This is reflected in Brazilian urban development policies adopted at all levels, which are today strongly focused on inclusion. We hope such a perspective can be thoroughly discussed in the preparatory process for the Conference, and, of course, reflected in its outcome.

Fully exploiting the dividends of a plural democracy, the Brazilian government has tapped into participatory policy formulation and implementation, while investing meaningful resources in public policies for the less empowered, the needy and the poor, to the benefit of all.

The national social housing program "My House My Life" is currently undergoing its third expansion. In the first two phases, implemented during the last five years, we set the goal of building 3.7 million houses nationwide,

of which 1.6 million have already been delivered and another 2 million are currently in advanced stages of production. Discussions are ongoing in respect of extending the program up to 3 million more houses for the next years. The special Brazilian approach to the program can be noticed in the way organized social movements not only provide policy inputs during the formulation phases, but also actually participate, hands-on, in the construction of houses.

This emphasis in participatory engagement of a diversity of actors at the federal, state and local levels has proved effective and permeates even the institutional set up of official bodies involved, as can be perceived through the following recent measures:

- a) policy proposals finalized in July by the Technical Committee on Traffic, Transportation and Urban Mobility, within the scope of the Council of Cities, for the implementation of the National Pact on Urban Mobility;
- b) the establishment last June of a Commission for the Mediation of Urban Land Tenure Conflicts;
- c) the creation in July of a Working Group to prepare a preliminary report on sustainable urban development and formulate proposals for a new global urban agenda as part of preparations for Habitat III.

At the Rio+20 Conference, Governments acknowledged the need for a holistic approach to urban development and human settlements and adopted several commitments at the city level in the areas of housing, transportation, energy, multi- stakeholder participation and partnerships.

Brazil was glad that the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals adopted a stand-alone goal on "inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities". Many of the solutions we seek to the challenges of sustainability, inclusion and sustainable growth will find and adequate and effective response only at the city level, with the engagement and participation of local authorities, civil society and other stakeholders. Brazil understands that we have to be as open and flexible as we can in this respect. The very composition of our delegation is an example, integrating a high representative from the Ministry for Cities, at the federal level, as well as local government representatives.

The Post-2015 Agenda, to be agreed upon in less than one year from now, should fully respect and build upon the decisions from Rio+20, contained in the outcome document "The Future We Want". We have made good progress since Rio with the 13 sessions of the Open Working Group and its groundbreaking outcome document containing 17 sustainable

development goals, agreed to by acclamation and adopted by the 68th GA as the main basis for the 2015 Summit. We can also draw from the report of the Committee of Experts on Financing for Sustainable Development and the Report of the Structured Dialogues on a Technology Facilitation Mechanism. Soon, the Secretary-General's Synthesis Report will be made available as an additional supporting element. Next July, in Addis Ababa, we will hold the third Conference on FFD as a follow-up to Monterey and Doha. It should provide critical additional elements for expanding and improving on the Means of Implementation for the Post-2015 development agenda. In all these agreements and processes the dimension of sustainable cities and human settlements will be present. Within this broader context, the subsequent holding of Habitat-III in 2016 will be a most welcome and timely occasion to put cities at the center of our collective efforts to build a new development paradigm.

The importance of the upcoming Conference, therefore, cannot not be overstated, Mr. Secretary-General. During preparations, we need to establish a mutually supportive nexus between work in Nairobi and developments in New York on the SDGs and the Post-2015 development agenda. We should aim for coherent, inclusive and transparent discussions.

I would also like to state Brazil's full support of Ecuador and Chile as GRULAC designated members of the bureau. We also fully support the offer of Ecuador to host the Conference in Quito. Ideally, at least one country from each region should be represented by a resident mission both in New York and in Nairobi. Effective participation of local and regional governments as well as civil society must also be ensured. Based on this understanding, we believe that the deadline for registration of stakeholderrepresentatives in the Conference has to be significantly extended. In concluding, cities and local authorities cannot be treated as mere implementing agents of decisions taken by central governments. They have a crucial role in the policymaking process and represent a fast growing segment of national populations. They need to be heard every step of the way under effective arrangements provided for in the modalities of the Conference, including through PGA sponsored debates and panels and UN multistakeholder exchanges. We need to be aware of their best achievements and most pressing challenges so that we are better equipped to meet the universal, ambitious and transformational sustainable development agenda set out in Rio for the future we want.

Thank you.

05:18 PM - 05:20 PM Wednesday, 17 September 2014

STATEMENT BY THE —————

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION OFFICE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS (ILO)

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION OFFICE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS 220E 42nd street, New York, NY, 10017 Phone +1/212/6970150

Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III); First session

Statement by: Ms. Jane Stewart, Special Representative and Director, ILO Office to the United Nations

Mr. / Madam Chair, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates.

It is a great pleasure to contribute to the Habitat III process. Labour is a fundamental part of the Summit. The ILO has a track-record of urban initiatives, such as, the production and promotion of conventions, recommendations and other instruments pertinent to housing and sustainable urban development; policy advice to local governments; and activities with local enterprises, workers and communities.

Habitat III emphasizes the need for sustainability. Labour cuts across its three pillars: social, economic and environmental. Cities and towns will not be sustainable if the livelihoods of their residents are not properly addressed.

Urban poverty is extensive throughout the world. In addition to its direct consequences on livelihoods, poverty also limits the ability of urban workers to fully contribute to the economy and to the greening of cities and towns. Conversely, well-trained workers and entrepreneurs, working in adequate conditions, constitute a crucial asset for promoting housing and urban development.

Due to decentralization, local governments and other local actors are more and more directly involved in labour issues. Local governments have increasingly faced with the challenge of improving livelihoods in their also feel the impact of unemployment and underemployment through revenues, increased welfare expenditures, and the escalation of crime and While many actions to support livelihoods have been accomplished, much be done, given the decent work challenges in urban areas.

The Decent Work Agenda of the ILO has four pillars: employment creation, workers' rights, social protection and social dialogue. In 1996, Habitat II highlighted the need to generate employment. While this remains important, the other pillars are also crucial for housing and sustainable urban development. In this account, it is proposed that Habitat III takes a step beyond Habitat II, by encompassing and integrating all the elements of the Decent Work Agenda.

ILO's work in urban areas has ample room for contributing to Habitat III and, in the process, building synergy with many actors, given the fact that urban sustainability requires efforts from different perspectives, and at the same time is intrinsically linked to decent work.

The development of a Municipal Decent Work Programme is a practical way to go ahead in a given city or town. It can be a conduit for localizing the Decent Work Agenda. This builds upon the Habitat II process, and at the same time represents a leap forward.

The ILO looks forward to working together with you in this process.

Thank you for your attention.

10:40 AM - 10:42 AM Thursday, 18 September 2014

STATEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)



IOM International Organization for Migration OIM Organization Internationale pour les Migrations OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

Check against delivery

STATEMENT

MS MICHELE KLEIN SOLOMON PERMANENT OBSERVER

AT THE FIRST PREPARATORY COMMITTEE TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HABITAT III) New York • 17-18 SEPTEMBER 2014

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

With over 50% of the global population now residing in cities, urbanization is without doubt one of the most significant issues currently on the international agenda.

It is of particular interest to IOM because of its close, and in many ways inseparable relationship with migration.

In the context of cities, we most commonly discuss migration in terms of rural to urban migration being a key driver of the urbanization process. However, there are many other links that we should consider.

First, migrants from overseas typically also settle in urban centers. This raises questions about how to deliver essential services to increasingly diverse societies, and how to maintain social cohesion and stability in cities while protecting the rights of minorities, including migrants.

Second, newcomers to fast growing cities – whether they are from overseas or otherwise – often have to settle in hazard-prone, poorly planned areas where they have limited access to basic services. When disasters strike, they are among the worst affected.

Third, when included in urban development policies and disaster risk reduction strategies, migration can be both an important preventative and a response measure to disaster situations.

It can make communities more prepared, expedite recovery after disasters, reduce the human and economic costs of displacement and make populations at risk safer.

Migration and urbanization are therefore linked in a multitude of ways: migration is a driver of urbanization; there are important interplays between the development outcomes of migrants in cities, and to the maintenance of social cohesion; and migration can be an important means to save lives, enhance resilience and reduce disaster risk.

I raise these issues now to create a place marker in our discussions moving forward. Integrating these issues in the urbanization discourse is a priority for IOM, and it will be important to also consider how these issues might be reflected in the ongoing post-2015 discussions on urbanization, a link which so far has been lacking.

IOM looks forward to continuing this dialogue in the context of the post-2015 agenda, and beyond that to Habitat III.

Thank you.

Permanent Observer to the United Nations
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STATEMENT BY THE ————

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III)

Statement by IFAD: Mr. Karim Hussein, Strategic Planning Division, International Fund for Agricultural Development¹

Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Fund for Agricultural Development is very pleased to be part of the preparations for Habitat III: it will be a key event in the international development calendar.

IFAD has a strong interest in fostering a sustainable urbanisation that recognizes the critical interdependence and nexus between urban and rural development, and the need to leverage urban-rural linkages for wider development. We note here that rural development and agriculture contribute in a major way to food security, poverty reduction and wider development.

It is very important to address these aspects in Habitat III to foster sustainable urbanisation processes – to incorporate the rural dimensions of urbanisation fully into the reflection, and into programming and policy choices.

Rural areas, including those closer to and in the hinterland of small, medium and large urban centres, are critically important for urbanisation: they are linked by agricultural value chains, ecosystem services, urban consumption that shapes demand for food and agricultural products, labour, services, natural resources, infrastructure, energy and transport. Urbanisation is transforming agriculture and rural opportunities and challenges; this transformation can be done well (be inclusive, foster synergies etc.) or badly (with consequences for the economy, society and equality).

Growing urban centres need rural areas to ensure sustainable urbanisation. There is a need for a new and balanced approach to urban and rural development, smallholder agriculture and food security to ensure urbanisation is socially, politically and economically sustainable.

To help integrate these elements and take advantage of opportunities in the Post-2015 agenda and Habitat III, which will be a very important event, IFAD is engaging at several levels; we hope these will contribute to a successful and groundbreaking Habitat III. For example:

- IFAD is involved in the inter-agency HLCP Working Group preparing a paper on the New UN Urban Agenda;
- IFAD has published a Post-2015 Policy Brief on "Leveraging the rural-urban nexus for development"²;
- it is engaging with FAO, research and civil society organisations to advance work and knolwedge on City-Region Food Systems, notably through the creation of a knowledge platform; and
- it is seeking to understand further the nature of rural-urban transformations and food systems in different contexts, to inform food security narratives and identify policy options that foster sustainable transitions.

Let me close by emphasizing our view that Habitat III should take account of two key realities:

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¹ Contact: k.hussein@ifad.org

² Available at: http://www.ifad.org/pub/post2015/english/1.pdf

- (i) First, the potentials in the agriculture and food systems that link urban and rural areas need to be maximized as a normal part of a balanced development process; and
- (ii) Second, development policies need to take into account urban-rural interdependencies: cities and other urban centres have key roles in stimulating rural development but the connectivity of these cities and towns to their rural hinterlands and surrounding areas is often weak. Given urban dependence on rural areas and the roles of rural development in broader economic transformation, development policies need to integrate the rural dimensions of urbanisation.

The rural and urban are mutually dependent and their development can and should be mutually reinforcing.

We look forward to continuing to work together on this agenda.

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STATEMENT OF —

HABITAT INTERNATIONAL COALITION

Statement of Habitat International Coalition Before the Second Session of the First Meeting of the Prepatory Committee for Habitat III September 17, 2014

Advancing Humanity's Long March toward the Right to Housing, Land and the City

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Michael Kane. The Habitat International Coalition (HIC) is the leading global network for housing and land rights, formed by civil society at Habitat I in Vancouver in 1976. Today, HIC represents more than 300 social movements, non-governmental and academic organizations on every continent, with offices in Cairo, Mexico City and Delhi. For the past few years I have represented my US based organization, the National Alliance of HUD Tenants, on the HIC Board, representing social movements, and most recently serving as HIC Vice President.

Since Habitat II, our members have witnessed an acceleration of gross violations of housing and land rights and mass forced evictions across the globe. These have been made worse by the global financial crisis, with large banks and equity investors reshaping the cities in an image different from the housing rights vision advanced at Habitat II. As a result, we see mass displacement and growing inequality in cities across the planet, from New York to Abuja, from Barcelona to Mumbai, driving people from their homes.

These urban phenomena are related to mass displacement from rural areas in countries like Colombia, where large corporations and investors are buying up or leasing land and forcing people from their homes and sources of livelihood. These trends are causing a growing global divide that the UN's Preparatory Committee for Habitat III and the Commission on Sustainable Development cannot ignore.

For Habitat III, we need to build beyond the Habitat II agenda and declarations of housing rights, to correct the retrenchment that took place at Istanbul + 5, and to embrace the Right to the City framework, in order to move humanity forward in response to these crises. In particular, Habitat III should address the urgent need for enforcement and accountability by global institutions and state actors for gross violations of the Rights to Housing, Land and the City.

HIC believes that we need a New Habitat Agenda, not merely a New "Urban" Agenda, one that recognizes that urbanization is not inevitable, in the form it has taken in the past 20 to 30 years. We need a New Habitat Agenda that respects the metabolism of the physical environment and rural and urban areas, and recognizes the continuum of human habitat experience in a way that manages it for people's benefit. This New Habitat Agenda must be forged in accordance with basic principles: Development that is sustainable, inclusive, people-centered, and rights-based, and that involves democratic values of justice, equality and gender equity.

In particular, Habitat III should consider and embrace strategies to regulate global financial transactions and movements; to enhance the social ownership, production and financing of housing and habitat; and to protect the commons which is under attack by the neoliberal development model.

And finally, we have a concern about the location of Habitat III. It is particularly important to select a country and a city that will be a "shining city on a hill," one that will be a model for humanity to learn from and celebrate, that illuminates the values that we have proposed here to advance at Habitat III.

That means not picking a country where there are plans to displace 250 million people from the countryside into new urban high rise housing in the next 12 years—the largest displacement in human history—and where it would not be possible to have an open public dialogue, allowing social movements and civil society to express their views both inside and outside the formal conference site.

At Habitat II in Istanbul, an historic, appropriate dialogue was advanced, both outside and inside the formal conference. It resulted in major improvements to the international instruments defining the right to adequate housing.

HIC urges the Preparatory Committee to look at Habitat III from the same perspective and select a location that exemplifies the values of sustainable development; allows a free, open and participatory dialogue with civil society; and advances humanity's Long March toward the Right to Housing, Land and the City.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing HIC to present these views.

Wednesday, 17 September 2014

Habitat for Humanity

Statement delivered by Jane Katz, HFHI Director of International Affairs and Programs at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

17 September 2014

(Video available online; remarks begin at 2:40:58)

Dr. Clos, Co-Chairs, Distinguished Delegates, Fellow Partners, I'm Jane Katz from Habitat for Humanity and we appreciate the opportunity to address this Preparatory Committee.

Habitat for Humanity's vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat for Humanity is an NGO [non-governmental organization] working in over 70 countries through our national organizations, affiliates and local community partners, and we've helped over 4.5 million people in the last year improve their housing conditions by leveraging shelter as a catalyst for community transformation. In addition to our work on the ground, Habitat for Humanity supports market approaches that increase products, services and financing for affordable housing, and advocates for smart systems and policies that improve access to shelter.

Habitat for Humanity is also a proud member of the World Urban Campaign, where we represent civil society organizations and support the World Urban Campaign as a platform for consensus building and partnerships. Habitat for Humanity was privileged to help lead the Civil Society Roundtable at the World Urban Forum in Medellín and hope to continue our engagement in the future.

Cities, which are the future of humanity, face a multitude of challenges. From the persistence and prevalence of slums in the developing world to the lack of transportation and basic services, the world needs to build sustainable and prosperous cities and human settlements to be priorities on the global agenda. Recognizing this need, the World Urban Forum Declaration from Medellín calls for "the upgrading and prevention of slums, and provision of housing, basic services and land tenure security" to be included in a new urban agenda. These themes were reaffirmed by the Open Working Group for the Sustainable Development Goals which urged by 2030 to "ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums."

Habitat III offers a unique opportunity to discuss these important challenges of how cities, towns and villages are planned and managed, in order to fulfill their role as drivers of sustainable development and hence shape the implementation of new global development and climate change goals.

Habitat for Humanity makes the following recommendations for the United Nations Preparatory Meetings for Habitat III:

Habitat III must continue to prioritize housing and basic services: Habitat for Humanity supports the United Nations' efforts to broaden the focus of Habitat III to include sustainable cities. However, given the integral role that housing plays in sustainable cities and human settlements and the commitment during Habitat II to provide adequate shelter for all, housing must continue to be prominently featured throughout Habitat III.

- Habitat III must prioritize security of tenure: The MDGs created momentum on the core issue
 of secure land tenure and the post-2015 agenda continues that drive. Habitat III should build on
 that and establish secure rights to land and property as a keystone of the new urban agenda.
- Habitat III must be informed by local communities: What emerged from the Civil Society
 Roundtable was that we must incorporate the priorities, needs and experiences of citizens and
 communities, especially for the poor, women and other vulnerable groups. The conference
 provides a unique opportunity to include a variety of partners and should prioritize stakeholder
 engagement in the UN process.

We look forward to contributing with other stakeholders and partners in this process. Thank you.

Thursday, 18 September 2014

STATEMENT BY —

HABITAT PROFESSIONALS FORUM



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Habitat III

Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

First Session

New York, 17-18, Sept, 2014

Statement prepared by **Ismael Fernandez y Mejia** as Past President of **ISOCARP** in his capacity of Chairman of the **Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF)**

This statement does not necessarily represent the official position of ISOCARP

"...we shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if humanity is to survive..."

(Albert Einstein, 1954)

1



September 18, 2014



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Thanks Ms. Chair for giving me the floor.

I am speaking in the name of the professionals around the world working in matters related to cities.

My name is Ismael Fernández y Mejia, past president of ISOCARP, a Professional Society with members, experts in planning, in more than 90 countries.

I am also, as its Chairman, speaking on behalf of the Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF), an umbrella organization that encompass more than six million experts in cities around the globe, with the inclusion of most of the multinational and regional organizations of professionals related to urban matters

I want to specially thank Dr. Joan Clos for his direct support to the professionals as lead members of the World Urban Campaign.

Cities are in transition.

It is clear that humanity is moving fast towards a future that is urban.

The urbanization phenomenon is Economic, Social and Physical, in that order of importance.

The Economy of the city is the key attraction component and the main urbanization driver.

The Social and governing networks generate its soul and flavor, and are the makers of the city personality.

The Physical and environmental urban fabric is the space, the field to the other two pillars.

As the process of urbanization unfolds, with variable intensity in different parts of the world, the phenomenon of the city reveals its primary essence

It is the center point of future civilization.

Data shows that today the expansion and growth in cities located in rising economies in comparison with the cities in developed economies is around six to one.

In 2050 will be nine to one

Such facts show that the foreseeable urban future is twofold.

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September 18, 2014



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Stable growth cities in developed economies will remain stable,

Accelerated growth cities in developing economies will remain growing.

Facts show that the present urban design paradigm, in fashion for eight decades is not the answer to such growth.

Wouldn't be better to consider the urbanite as the center of the design instead of the car as it has been for the last several decades?

This sole proposal would change the whole basic philosophy of the present model

In searching for a new paradigm, we are facing the option to either, follow the present tendencies and envision The Future of Cities,

Or change the paradigm to create The Cities of the Future.

It is The Future of Cities versus The Cities of the Future.

It is to modify the present patterns with a revolution

The Sustainable Development Goals, now been discussed ought to be the basis of that revolution. The SDG's should be the basis of the New Paradigm.

A new urban paradigm must be a philosophy, must be a set of principles that address all three pillars, and that are applicable to both urbanization processes.

A new urban paradigm must avoid fixed rules or measures that constrain the process, as it happens in the present one.

It should have an open architecture that can be molded according to the needs of a defined social and economic, environment,

But should be closed in relation to the application of the general philosophy and the adopted principles, and objectives to be pursued.

Following the concepts presently in the discussion arena, the idea to return to the human scale, and to the structure of mixed uses, are the most recurrent ones, together with other notions more in the field of perception, such as, friendly, equalitarian, affordable, resilient, efficient, beautiful and so on.

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In conclusion, the City of the Future could be a planned polycentric and integrated network, a set of city spaces, which can be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

A new paradigm must have the human scale and its vital space as departure point.

A new paradigm must only be a philosophy, a set of principles, a framework allowing constant innovation.

A new paradigm must encourage social interaction and allow social inclusion and tolerance,

A new paradigm must move a step forward of the rapid urbanization process, previewing the future, and guide the urbanization process within the new framework.

A new paradigm must fulfil both, Economic, Social and Physical Environmental agendas

In order to achieve these goals, we the professionals, are the ones that are trying to interpret the aims and needs of the society and translate them into plans, which in turn become public policies and legislation, therefore become the city.

The professionals are the ones that assign the space dimension to the SDG's, in order to have these goals converted into a city which comprises all the Sustainable Development principles.

Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF) and the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) as Lead Members of the World Urban Campaign will support, in their capacity the efforts made by this group in order to search and implement a New Paradigm. The City We Need.

Thanks for your attention.

Ismael Fernandez y Mejia New York, September 18, 2014





September 18, 2014

Thursday, 1 September 2014

STATEMENT BY THE —

INSTITUTE FOR TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND THE PARTNERSHIP ON SUSTAINABLE LOW CARBON TRANSPORT

Michael Replogle Comments Regarding Habitat III On Behalf of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy and the Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT)

September 18, 2014

I congradulate the co-chairs and bureau members on their appointment. I would join the comments of United Cities and Local Governments in commending Dr. Joan Clos and various states that have called for local authorities to be engaged as full partners with national governments in constructing a global partnership for development and implementation of the New Urban Agenda, along with effective engagement of civil society. I would refer in this context to SLoCaT partnership, which has proven that different groups including MDBs, UN and NGOs can work effectively together in promoting global agendas like sustainable transport.

Habitat III will be a key vehicle to promote timely progress to implement the post-2015 development agenda and progress in reducing global warming through sustainable urban development. Of particular interest in that context is the urban SDG as well as the inclusion of sectoral targets like transport.

Outputs of Habitat III should be a broadly supported political document and an institutional process that strengthens capacity for implementation of the New Urban Agenda within UN member countries as well as in UN bodies. This should advance systems for

sustainable development indicators and monitoring of progress, and for integration of more effective regional planning of transport, land use, housing, and natural resource protection. It should include steps that enable new financial intermediaries at a regional, national, and subnational level to build a pipeline of investable projects. These intermediaries should be used to scale-up investment flows for timely planned sustainable urban development and things that support it, such as improved public transport, walking, cycling, and traffic management, supported by expanded public-private partnerships.

Yesterday, at a side event of this PrepCom meeting, my organization, the Institute for Transportation and Development Poiicy joined with the University of California Davis to release a study that built on recent relevant work by the International Energy Agency. Using IEA's mobility model, we found that higher investment in urban public transport, walking, and cycling could cut car traffic by half from what is forecast for 2050, saving over \$100 trillion cumulatively by 2050 in public and private infrastructure, vehicle, operating, and fuel costs. This high shift to public transport, walking, and cycling would also cut urban passenger transport CO2 emissions by 40% annually by 2050 and would triple public transport mobility by the poorest 20% of the world's population, creating more inclusive cities.

Access for all supported by sustainable transport should be a key theme of the New Urban Agenda and Habitat III. We look forward to supporting this work in the months and years to come. STATEMENT BY

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Statement of Local and Regional Governments Delivered by Cllr. Richard Kemp, Liverpool On behalf of the Global Taskforce www.GTF2016.org

Excellencies, Co-Presidents

Allow us to start by thanking the Secretary General of the Conference for his kind words about the representation of local governments in the Habitat II conference and for recalling the long road we have made until today. Our most sincere thanks.

Local and Regional Government organizations, in their capacity as governmental stakeholders and gathered as part of the **Global Taskforce for Post-2015 and towards Habitat III**, are committed to undertaking their full responsibility and assuming their role as key partners in the definition and implementation of the Habitat Agenda, ensuring its linkages to the Post-2015 Development Agenda and its localization;

We hope in this way to contribute to managing urbanization so it is accompanied by better living conditions and sustainable development.

During the preparation and outcomes of the Habitat II Conference, local governments were recognized as a key partner of UN-Habitat in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

Habitat II was also an important step forward in recognizing the **relevance of the networks** of local authorities and contributing towards greater collaboration among them as the Secretary General of the Conference ha recalled in his opening remarks.

Presently, the members of the Global Taskforce confirm their belief that a new, broad partnership must be erected, based on a common understanding of our shared humanity, mutual respect and mutual benefit. We would like to call for far-reaching agreements based on universal commitments.

The Habitat III outcomes need to be closely intertwined with the Post-2015 Agenda, as they will generate the basis for its localization and implementation on the ground. We will therefore need to pay special attention to the means of implementation of specific targets and indicators for cities and human settlements.

We emphasize the need to revise the implementation of decentralization processes around the world which have great impact in the state of access to basic services, the financing of sub-national authorities and infrastructures, and the development of territorial cohesion.

Furthermore Local and Regional Governments and their associations would like to emphasize the need for a **territorial approach** as being crucial to the New Urban Agenda. The **territorial focus should take into account the rural-urban continuum** as well as the important role of Metropolises, peripheral areas, intermediary cities and intermediary levels of governments.

Increased accountability and innovative formats of governance will be a fundamental change that should be factored into the outcome of Habitat III. The members of the Global Taskforce call for a Habitat III Agenda that is based on equality and accountability from the bottom up.

Acknowledging that Local and Regional Governments are not the only actors, it will be vital to ensure the full involvement of our constituency to foster the political will and innovation necessary to face common challenges and achieve the type of progress that leaves no one behind. We would like however to ensure that we are committed to working with all the Habitat partners and call upon you to ensure that all of them taken into account in the deliberations.

We would like to end by confirming our commitment to organize the II Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities as a contribution of our constituency to the process.

03:40 PM - 03:44 PM Thursday, 18 September 2014

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Check against delivery

FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN
DEVELOPMENT (Habitat III)

18 September 2014
Thursday, 3 p.m.
UN Secretariat, CR.2

Oral Statement by the Chair of the
WORKING GROUP On Operational and Administrative
Mr. Majid Hasan Al-Suwadi

Co-Chairs,

Dear Colleagues,

At its first plenary meeting of the First Session the Preparatory Committee established a Working Group on Operational and Administrative Matters. The Preparatory Committee mandated the Working Group to take up agenda item 7 (Financing of the preparatory process and the Conference) as contained A/CONF.226/PC.1/INF/3, agenda item 8 - Arrangements for future sessions of the Preparatory Committee as contained in document A/CONF.226/PC.1/CRP.2, agenda item 5(a) the draft provisional rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) as contained in document A/CONF.226/PC.1/ 2/Rev.1, agenda item 5(b) Arrangements for accreditation and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as contained in document A/CONF.226/PC.1/3; and Consolidated list of non-governmental organizations and major groups recommended for special accreditation, as contained in document

A/CONF.226/PC.1/INF/4.

The Preparatory Committee also decided that the Working Group would report back to the Committee at its closing plenary session.

The Working Group held two meetings on 17 and 18 September. As an outcome of the Working Group's considerations I would like to report to the Preparatory Committee the following:

- The working group took note of the Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference on Financing of the preparatory process and the Conference as contained in document A/CONF.226/PC.1/INF/3 - agenda item 7;
- 2. The working group agreed with the proposed dates for the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee 14, 15 and 16 of April 2015 as contained in document A/CONF.226/PC.1/CRP.2, which it considered, and therefore it is recommended that the Preparatory Committee takes a relevant decision.
- 3. The working group recommended to defer consideration of the following documents for the second session of the Preparatory Committee:
 - Draft provisional rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) as contained in document A/CONF.226/PC.1/2/Rev.1. - agenda item 5 (a);
 - Arrangements for accreditation and participation of major groups and other
 relevant stakeholders, as contained in document A/CONF.226/PC.1/3; and
 Consolidated list of non-governmental organizations and major groups
 recommended for special accreditation, as contained in document
 A/CONF.226/PC.1/INF.4 agenda item 5 (b).

Thank you Chairs

