

## Habitat III Informal Hearings with Stakeholder Groups • 6 – 7 June 2016 Conference Room 2, United Nations Headquarters, New York

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The draft of the New Urban Agenda contains a rich set of ideas covering very diverse themes. However, it lacks a conceptual framework that coherently organizes these ideas into a **holistic urban development aspiration**. A holistic urban development aspiration would **inextricably link to the SDGs** and express the paradigm that **urbanization is the phenomenon through which the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement can be implemented**.

A city or human settlement is a system of systems: human and natural, bio-complex and adaptive. Therefore, good urban planning, design and governance will need to be informed by **systems thinking or a systems approach** and by a new paradigm of **urban design that applies systems thinking and geospatial information and analysis**, to design built environments that are **place-based** and in **harmony with Nature**. We call for highlighting this point in the Quito Declaration and the Quito Implementation Plan.

Geographic information systems (**GIS**) and geospatial information technologies can give people the power to participate and collaborate in co-designing their environments. The principle of subsidiarity in the zero draft is limited to the narrow concept of “vertical” subsidiarity and overlooks the concept of **“horizontal” subsidiarity**. Horizontal subsidiarity empowers people at the local level to co-create and co-deliver solutions to urban challenges in collaborative governance. The phrasing **“principles of subsidiarity, both vertical and horizontal,”** could be used in the New Urban Agenda.

We also call for strengthening the language on **science, technology and innovation** (STI). In particular, we ask for language to encourage the development of robust **science-policy interfaces** at the national and subnational levels, to translate research into good urban policy. We also ask for language to ensure that STI policies support the achievement of the agenda, including **scientific and technological roadmaps** to confront our great urban challenges. Certainly, international cooperation in capacity development in this area will be necessary.