2st. PrepCom of Habitat III

Statement by the ILO

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this meeting.

During the 1st Preparatory Committee, the ILO made a statement highlighting the interfaces between the themes of the Habitat III Summit and the Decent Work agenda.

Initiatives such as infrastructure provision, slum upgrading and inner-city regeneration will be viable and will lead to growth when employment-generation and working conditions are properly addressed.

We are now at the 2nd Preparatory Committee and gearing up to the drafting of the Habitat III agenda. At this moment, it is opportune to discuss ways through which the agenda can promote policies which combine housing, human settlements and decent work.

An integrated approach to Sustainable Development will be essential to a successful post 2015 development agenda. Connecting the goals of decent work for all to the building of sustainable urban areas will be a key part of such integration.

The ILO can provide knowledge on decent work applicable to the context of Habitat III, through for example conventions, recommendations, training tools and policy guidelines.

As the ILO noted during the 1st Preparatory Committee, Habitat III is an opportunity to encompass and integrate the elements of the Decent Work agenda at the local level.

Job creation policies must be carried out through a process of social dialogue, with respect for workers' rights, and by providing them with social protection.

The ILO is already working in municipalities, with a number of local governments, employers, workers and communities. This is being carried out, inter alia, through a joint initiative with United Cities and Local Governments. Habitat III provides an opportunity to further explore synergies between such activities and those of many other actors engaged in the Summit. The sustainability of human settlements requires different types of inputs.

Let us continue to work together.

Thank you for your attention.