

Statement on the Third Preparatory Meeting of the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development
by Vice Minister Ms. HUANG Yan of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, P. R. China
(July 25, 2016)

Dear ():

Chinese government delegation is very glad to come to the beautiful city of Surabaya to participate in the 3rd Preparatory Meeting of the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III). We'd like to discuss the topics on the sustainable urban development with the representatives from all over the world and promote to finalize the *New Urban Agenda*, so as to make good preparations for the HABITAT III conference to be held in Ecuador in October.

Since the United Nations “Habitat II” Conference in 1996, the world jointly promoted the human settlements and sustainable urban development and achieved positive effect. With more and more population issues, social interaction, economic activity and environmental impact concentrating upon the urban district, the housing and sustainable urban development become more and more important. Focusing on the governance problems of urban and human settlements, the *New Urban Agenda* proposes the political commitments on sustainable development and dedicates to integrate all stakeholders under the innovative and targeted cooperation framework into eliminating poverty on a global scale, facilitating inclusive growth and realizing sustainable development. The Agenda will play an active and significant role in further understanding and confronting the challenges of urban development, promoting a more balanced territorial development and the international cooperation to accomplish the *2030 Sustainable Development Agenda*, which will produce wide and profound influences.

China has been the active participant, facilitator and contributor for global sustainable urban and human settlements development. Over the past 20 years, China has scored world-famous achievement on the human settlements and urban development, with the urbanization speed up and

habitat environment continuously improved. Furthermore, China has made great progress on eliminating poverty, developing educational undertakings, promoting gender equality and women empowerment, improving medical and health level and guaranteeing the environmental sustainability.

From 1996 to 2015, the urbanization rate of China was improved to 56.10% from 30.48%; the urban built-up area was increased to 52000 km² from 20000 km², with increasing of 1.6 times. At present, there are approximately 770 million persons living in the urban in total.

Over the past 20 years, the housing conditions of Chinese residents has scored substantial improvement, in cities, the per capita housing area was increased to 33 m² in 2015 from 16.4 m² in 1996; while the one in rural area reached 33.4 m². The overall level of resident's housing was significantly improved, the interior and exterior supporting facilities were gradually completed, and the living environment was significantly improved. China largely promoted the construction of subsidized housing, which has significantly improved the living conditions of disadvantaged groups, and the Chinese Government attached great importance to the housing protection. Since 2008, the problems of housing difficulty for mass people have been quickly solved through largely promoting the urban government-subsidized housing projects. From 2008 to the end of 2015, the problems of housing difficulty of urban households for more than 40 million have been accumulatively solved all over the world to make the housing conditions of hundreds of millions of mass people has been improved.

China is the first developing country which has recognized poverty reduction objective in advance, and has made great contributions to global poverty reduction. Between 2010 and 2015, the rural poor population decreased approximately 110 million, and the average annual number of people lifted out of poverty was 21.98 million persons, the poverty incidence decreased 11.5 percentage points, and the poverty-stricken population decreased 19.6% in average. For the next 5 years, China will make the poverty-stricken population for more than 50 million fully be lifted out of poverty under the current standards. All regions in china have completely made nine-year compulsory education, with stably increasing of employment, and have basically recognized the gender equality in education and employment. The medical and health services in China was steadily perfected, and the child and maternal mortality was sharp

decreased, and the China has got positively progress on limiting the spreading of the AIDS, phthisis and other communicable diseases.

The Chinese Government has completely integrated the climate change into national economic and general social development strategy based on the responsible attitude to actively respond to climate change. In 2015, the carbon emission for per unit of GDP reduced 33.8% from the 2005 level. China has provided support and assistance for more than 120 developing countries in implementing the millennium development goals, which has played an important role for promoting the global development.

China has made remarkable achievements in human settlement environment. The cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Guangzhou deeply integrated into the worldwide city system; a large quantity of central cities powerfully impelled the development of regional economy, these all benefits from high attention to the urban planning by all levels of government; from cooperation of providing public goods by government and market; from continuous improvement for rule by law and participation system of urban planning and management construction; and also from opening up policy and international experience sharing.

Today, we are standing on the important time node. Globalization and trade protectionism coexist, China's economy how to better explain the theme of development with facing global economic downturn; the level of urbanization of china is similar with that of world, also is facing the urban-rural disparity; the restrictions of global warming and resource environment make us to understand the conception of common earth. The Chinese Government is keenly aware of these global challenges and willing to carry out communication and cooperation and reach a consensus with governments all over the world and international organization within the framework of the United Nations.

In 2015, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council held the national urban work conference, promoted the route map for improving the quality of urban human settlement environment: transforming the urban development mode, emphasizing the development concept of human-centered and innovation, coordination, greenness, opening and sharing, laying stress on the basic principles of acting by law, social governance and public engagement, insisting on construction according to planning, enhancing urban management, focusing on the cultural diversity and heritage of cultural heritage, building the modernized city with harmonious livable residence,

vigorousness and individual advantages to make the people live more enjoyable.

We will positively participate in and promote the international cooperation of sustainable urban development at the same time of promoting China's own development. We are willing to strengthen the experience sharing together with the countries of the world, jointly face urbanization opportunity and challenge, insist on peaceful coexistence, build a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation; foster a sense of destiny of shared interests, establish comprehensive partnership, promote jointly the countries to participate in global development; insist on development for the people and people oriented, attach a high priority to eliminating poverty and guaranteeing the people's livelihood, safeguard social fairness and justice; devote to recognize inclusive economy growth, build inclusive society; where development gains are shared by all and no one is left behind; based on the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities”, support the countries to formulate development strategy in accordance with their national conditions and respective characteristics, respect every country’s choice for development path and draw on experience of each other.

In this process, we think the developed countries should lead to undertake the international responsibilities of global emission reduction and poverty reduction, fulfill commitments, strength to support the technical and capacity building for the developing countries. The developing countries shall further strengthen the cooperation, extend the cooperation field, improve the cooperation quality, and recognize the combination together for self improvement. The international community shall enhance to develop the policy coordination, create the favorable international cooperation environment, and help the developing countries get benefits from the global value chains.

Ladies and gentlemen:

The housing and sustainable urban development related to the well-being of mankind is the eternal theme of human development. We note with pleasure that the United Nations and its institutions, the Group of 77 and other international organizations have played great roles in recognizing the international cooperation for sustainable urban development. We hope the “Habitat III” will provide a better opportunity for cooperation for the countries of the world. Upon the great background of globalization, only the global people make concerted efforts, it can

really recognize the sustainable urban development and well build our common homeland, and jointly improve the well-being of mankind.

I wish this preparatory conference a great success, and the Chinese government would like to provide necessary support.

Thank you very much!