

**Statement by the Deputy Executive Director of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) at the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference Housing Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)**  
**Surabaya, 25 July 2016**

Mr. Chair, Secretary General of the United Nations Conference Housing Sustainable Urban Development and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat Distinguished Heads of Delegates,

Good Morning. I would like to thank the Government of Indonesia and the Lady Mayor and City of Surabaya for their hospitality in hosting this 3<sup>rd</sup> preparatory committee meeting for the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) would like to commend the co-facilitators and the Habitat III Bureau and all the Member States for the current version of the New Urban Agenda. The document is rich in content, concise, well structured, and highlights the key priorities for urban transformation. The structure allows to integrate several thematic and sectorial issues under broad strategic priorities.

The substantive part of the document is strong, with language on issues and principles such as national urban policies, urban and territorial planning and design, governance, legislation and finance, public space, housing (informal settlements, slums and lack of affordable housing), mobility and other basic services as well as climate change in both development and humanitarian situations, just to name a few. The draft also highlights the role of local and sub-national authorities and related resource requirements as well as engagement of multiple stakeholders. Some further strengthening may be required in some areas -- we have proposed a list of suggestions to this effect through the Habitat 3 UN Task Team.

I also wish to commend the close collaboration we have had with our sister UN Agencies in agreeing on UN System commitments to the New Urban Agenda,

endorsed by the CEB, as well as UN contributions to the substance of the New Urban Agenda.

UN-Habitat stands ready to play a lead role in the coordination, within the UN system, and with other relevant stakeholders, in supporting Member states in the implementation, monitoring and review of the New Urban Agenda. We stand ready, with in the UN system, to facilitate and mobilize all relevant actors towards coherent implementation. We are keen to work with partners to enhance the capacity of member states towards achieving the commitments of the Quito implementation plan. Some of our new approaches are being showcased here in Surabaya. On the monitoring side, UN-Habitat has already well developed and tested tools that could support Member States' efforts in the monitoring follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda at the global, national and local level, and to ensure a smooth linkage with the ongoing indicator work for SDG-11 and beyond.

To conclude, we see very good prospects on the horizon for a New Urban Agenda that will ensure inclusive, safe, sustainable and resilient cities and human settlements. We wish you all the best in your deliberations at this preparatory committee meeting.