



Habitat III - Zero draft outcome document - NL comments on the transformative commitments

Mr. Chairman/ Madam Chair, Distinguished delegates,

We are glad to be able to share some comments on the transformative commitments.

On Tuesday May 10, 2016 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, Ministers and high representatives with responsibilities for water affairs, environment and the sustainable development of deltas from 10 countries throughout the world assembled on the occasion of the Delta Coalition Conference in Rotterdam to officially launch the Delta coalition.

The Delta Coalition is the worlds first international coalition of governments that have formed a partnership to deal with inclusive and sustainable development in deltas by combining economic development with adaptation and preventive measures reducing climate change risks and strengthening resilience. Most importantly, it will allow deltas countries to join forces to stimulate sharing best practices and innovation, and to increase opportunities for financing in order to facilitate the implementation of projects that will reduce vulnerability to climate change. Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Mozambique, Myanmar, the Philippines, Vietnam just as the Netherlands have already joined.

We confirm that deltas are the most challenging regions in the world, considering their large concentrations of population, their role in the world's ecosystems, in contributing to food security and their significance to the world's economy. Delta cities are drivers for economic development and historically ideal places for urban settlements, because of their positions on the crossroads of land, rivers, seas and international trade and because of the fertility of alluvial plains and coastal waters.

We would like to express our appreciation and strongly support for the commitment mentioned in the zero draft to ensure the effective planning, management and conservation of urban deltas.

Additionally we call for the following action points to be taken in consideration:

- a. Include **preventive** risk reduction strategies on water-related disasters in all urban planning
- b. work on **restoring the resiliency** of natural areas and adding the catchment areas to the scale of the future cities strengthening urban - rural linkages.
- c. Implement a preventive, inclusive, integrated and gender responsive approach, combining interventions concerning prevention, spatial adaptation and disaster management taking into account nature - based solutions, water and climate resilient infrastructure.
- d. Promote efforts towards a **circular economy** achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication in deltas, to enable cities to make the best use of natural resources, focussing on

resource efficiency and promoting effective land management and “**multiple use of space principles**” in order to prevent urban sprawl.

- e. Promote multi-stakeholder and **multilevel governance** arrangements with smart financial mechanisms and arrangements, knowledge exchange and capacity building for delta cities and the promotion of innovative ways to increase civic participation in particularly the most vulnerable groups in decision making processes.

We are ready to share with you more concrete drafting proposals.

Thank you very much for your attention.