

STATEMENT BY

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**Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Distinguished Co-Chairs,
Secretary-General of Habitat III,
Distinguished Members of the Habitat III Bureau,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I thank you for the honour and privilege to address this United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III. On behalf of UN-Habitat and in my capacity as Head of the UN-Habitat Delegation, I would like to start by thanking our hosts, the President of the Republic of Ecuador, His Excellency Rafael Correa, the Government and the people of Ecuador, as well as Honourable Mayor Mauricio Rhodas and the people of this beautiful city of Quito, for their warm reception and kind hospitality. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General of Habitat III, Dr. Joan Clos, and the Habitat III Bureau for their wise leadership of the preparatory process of this Conference. In addition, I would like to express UN-Habitat's gratitude to all Member States, the entire United Nations system, the Habitat III Secretariat and all of our partners for their valuable work and contribution to the Habitat III preparatory process. I also wish to most sincerely thank the UN-Habitat team for their contribution to the Habitat III process and for their invaluable work in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. It is your collective hard work that has brought us here.

Co-Chairs, Distinguished Delegates

I wish to commend the Member States for the bold aspirations they are poised to enshrine in the New Urban Agenda. What remains to be worked out over the next 20 years is how it will be implemented, and how the UN can best support Member States and subnational and local governments as they implement it. For our part, UN-Habitat has enlisted the efforts of more than 30 experts from around the world in the drafting of an **Action Framework** through which we believe UN-Habitat and the United Nations system could more effectively assist Member States in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. In the lead-up to Quito over the past months, we have progressively refined this Action Framework. Broadly speaking, the Framework outlines five key themes:

- First, national urban policies;
- Second, urban legal frameworks;
- Third, integrated urban and territorial planning and design;
- Fourth, financing urbanization; and
- Fifth, local implementation.

These themes are already well reflected in the New Urban Agenda. But the Action Framework goes further in elaborating on the themes by proposing 30 critical elements that we believe cities need in order to succeed. We believe that these elements provide the next steps in our efforts to begin assisting Member States after Quito. UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the experts and partners that we have been working with, is prepared to further refine and roll out the Framework in the next few months following the adoption of the New Urban Agenda.

Co-Chairs, Distinguished Delegates

Alongside the Action Framework that I have just described, UN-Habitat and a number of partners, including the World Bank, are working on the idea of establishing a **Multi-Partner Implementation Mechanism for Sustainable Urban Development**. The objective of the mechanism is to catalyse effective, coordinated and results-based implementation of sustainable urban development through the New Urban Agenda and Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda. This will be a funding mechanism that scales up and catalyses finance for transformative, inclusive development across multiple thematic areas. In this way, many of the fund's investments will also meet the objectives of other post-2015 international agreements where there is a clear urban dimension, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development, and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Exciting discussions on this initiative started here in Quito last Monday and are expected to continue in the near future.

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The New Urban Agenda is principally a **guiding framework for Member States** for the development of their cities and human settlements over the next twenty years. As expressed by many Member States during this general debate, we believe the New Urban Agenda amplifies and goes beyond Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, at the same time, provides a valuable mechanism for the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals as well as of the other recent international agreements that I mentioned earlier.

For UN-Habitat, the New Urban Agenda brings new areas of responsibility, one of which is **coordination of follow-up and review** of the Agenda. Paragraph 166 of the New Urban Agenda requests the Secretary-General, with voluntary inputs from countries and relevant regional and international organizations, to report on progress in the implementation of the Agenda every four years. That report is expected to be evidence-based, providing a qualitative and quantitative analysis of progress made in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, Sustainable Development Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda and other internationally agreed goals and targets relevant to sustainable urbanization and human settlements. Its preparation will be coordinated by UN-Habitat, in close collaboration with other entities of the United Nations system. In the following months, UN-Habitat commits to look at how best to support Member States, local and other sub-national governments, as well as partners in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Co-Chairs, Distinguished Delegates

UN Habitat is committed to strengthening and establishing mechanisms that will promote **UN system coherence, coordination and joint action** in support of the implementation, follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda. This will build on the leadership role that UN-Habitat has taken in recent years in developing the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) paper on "Urbanization and Sustainable Development" as an input to the New Urban Agenda; the Joint Statement to Habitat III adopted by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) at its session last April; its lead role of 19 out of 22 Issue Papers and 1 policy paper as inputs to the formulation of the New Urban Agenda; and mobilization of multi-stakeholder partners for engagement through the World Urban Forum and the World Urban Campaign. UN-Habitat will draw on existing UN System coordination

mechanisms, such as the UN Development Group (UNDG), the HLCP, the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM), Regional Coordination Mechanisms, the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and other mechanisms.

On Sunday 16 October, just before the beginning of this Conference, UN-Habitat organized a UN inter-agency meeting to commence discussions on a proposed UN inter-agency coordination framework for supporting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The meeting considered what needs to be done at the global, regional, national and local levels, including expected normative and operational results, as well as the proposed mechanisms for achieving those results. This was the beginning of a process that is expected to result in improved coherence of both policy issues and action on the ground.

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In carrying out the activities that I have just mentioned, UN-Habitat will rely on its **40 years of experience** in implementing housing and sustainable urban development activities. Its work is a hybrid of normative and technical cooperation activities, which allows best practices to be applied to concrete projects and activities in the field. This, in turn, contributes to further refinement of best practices as part of our normative work. Over the last six years or so, UN-Habitat has concentrated on seven areas that are well-aligned with the New Urban Agenda. These are: Urban legislation, land and governance; Urban planning and design; Urban economy; Urban basic services; Housing and slum upgrading; Risk reduction and rehabilitation; as well as Research and capacity development. UN-Habitat currently has programmes and projects in about 80 countries, which are implemented through four regional offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Arab States, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The goal of UN-Habitat's work is "well-planned, well-governed and efficient cities and other human settlements with adequate infrastructure and universal access to employment, land and basic services".

With this track record, UN-Habitat is well equipped and ready to assist Member States in implementing the New Urban Agenda as well as to coordinate that Agenda within the UN System.

Thank you for your attention.