

Habitat III open-ended informal consultative meetings

Statement by UN-Habitat

Thursday 28 April, pm

Metropolitan development and intermediate cities

As metropolitan areas will continue to emerge and grow in the next 20 years, there is an urgent need for the New Urban Agenda to pay attention to the nexus between metropolitan planning, governance and finance. Greater attention to metropolitan areas and intermediate cities is key to achieving harmonious urban development. No space should be left behind.

National Urban Policy provides an excellent opportunity to address the challenge of overlapping jurisdictions. Making metropolitan, city-region and intermediate cities functional and productive for all can be achieved in the following ways:

In the short term, metropolitan regions need some form of institutional arrangements (formal or informal) to coordinate their development and undertake joint functions for more efficient and equitable service provision and cost sharing.

In the long term, National Governments can establish specialized metropolitan agencies focusing on issues such as strategic planning, economic development and land management. Managing urban affairs in this manner will clarify roles and responsibilities to address urban issues beyond restrictive administrative jurisdictions and foster more integrated development.

