

## **Habitat III open-ended informal consultative meetings**

### **Statement by UN-Habitat**

**Tuesday 26 April, pm**

#### **HOUSING AT THE CENTRE**

When listening to the panel, and based on UN-Habitat's own experience, clearly, a lot of what has gone wrong with cities is related in one way or another to housing. The way housing is being produced and consumed has shaped urban growth, regrettably, in many cases, by producing cities that are fragmented, unequal and dysfunctional. The sustainable future of cities will therefore strongly depend on tackling housing problems.

With that aim, UN-Habitat is proposing the 'Housing at the Centre' approach, which means to position housing at the centre of national and local urban agendas. 'Housing at the Centre' aims to shift the focus from simply building houses and mass housing estates, to a holistic framework for housing development, orchestrated with urban planning, transport and employment policies, placing people at the forefront of sustainable urban development.

At the national level, this means to integrate housing into National Urban Policies and into strategic thinking on planned urbanization. At the local level, the approach is to reinforce the linkage between housing and urban planning. This also means connecting the recommendations of several policy units which we are discussing this week. This will be essential to bring back 'Housing at the Centre' of the New Urban Agenda. Thank you.