

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

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

**Thursday 28 April, am**

#### **National Urban Policies**

A fundamental aspect of evidence based decision making in national urban policies is that they must promote systems that can be effective in the light of available capacity and resources: setting realistic targets and closely matching resources and responsibilities. Without such an approach, they will fail to contribute to target 6 of Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Agenda: to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. As such, national urban policies must be built on the three foundations of i) promoting good urban design at the national, regional and local level that can respond to human needs; ii) requiring functionally effective legislative and regulatory tools (that is law that works) that create increasing equality of outcome for all; and iii) financial tools and strategies that promote inclusion and sustainable urban development over the long term. Within this scope, member states must ensure that they provide for transformational legal mechanisms, particularly those that provide for: adequate access to, and maintenance of, land for public space; the provision of plots in sufficient quantity and diversity to encourage livable and accessible cities; modern mechanisms for allocating the burdens and benefits of urbanization, particularly through the assigning of development rights; and, building codes that are locally relevant and do not stand in the way of good spatial planning and design.