

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

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

**Wednesday 27 April, pm**

#### **Sustainable Energy Transition for addressing Climate Change**

With the adoption of the Paris Agreement, now is the time for climate action. Together with partners, UN-Habitat has been working with cities on climate change mitigation (public transport, energy efficiency, buildings, waste) and adaptation (green space, urban agriculture, flood management).

However, to achieve a truly transformative impact, cities could also play an active role in decarbonizing energy production. With the cost of sustainable energy investment lower than ever, it is important to allow local governments to regain the role they traditionally had in energy provision. Examples include Medellin, Colombia, and the movement in Germany of 're-municipalization' of previously privatized municipal utilities. Cities and Local Governments are coming back into the energy markets and play a key role in challenging the utility companies. They can help speed up the move from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

As national governments are guiding the legislation on the energy market, they can incentivize involvement of local governments in renewable energy provision through municipal utilities. These utilities can be structured both to accelerate the use of renewable energy and also to obtain savings in energy bills. This provides an opportunity to demonstrate the role of the New Urban Agenda in implementing the Paris Agreement. Thank you.