



UN Major Group for Children and Youth
Intervention at the Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meeting for Habitat III
Introduction and Regional Perspective
Regional Presentations

25th April 2016

Thank you once again for giving us the floor.

On behalf of the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth, co-chair of the Children and Youth Partner Constituent Group of the General Assembly of Partners, we would like to build upon the statements delivered by our stakeholder colleagues.

When we talk about the regional dimension of the Habitat III process and the New Urban Agenda, it is essential to also discuss specific follow-up and review processes at the regional level.

Therefore, we want to highlight good practices from the High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development.

The follow-up and review of Habitat III should not only include a global Habitat III Follow-Up Forum, but also Regional follow-up meetings, as these will more appropriately tackle the implementation and review unique to each region's struggle to achieve sustainable urban development, while developing a context-specific evidence base.

In order to enhance the regional perspective, these regional forums must have intergovernmentally negotiated outcomes that are linked to the Regional High Level Political Forum meetings, and in turn, with the global Habitat III Follow-Up Forum and the Global High Level Political Forum.

In addition, such regional forums can seek further synergy by collaborating with the regional Follow-Up Mechanisms of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Recent events prove to us that the resilience of cities and human settlements has never been more important.

The preparations for these Regional and Global Habitat III Follow-Up Forums should be coordinated through an Inter-Agency Task Force comprising of all UN agencies and follows a multi-stakeholder approach.

Of course, the modalities of these Regional and Global meetings must follow that of the already agreed language of General Assembly Resolution 67/290 on the *Format and organizational aspects of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*. The language of this extremely important resolution empowers major groups and other stakeholders to be central players in the High Level Political Forum, and the reason why our seats as rights holders and stakeholders is organized in this way is because of those inclusive modalities for engagement.

Finally, we would like to thank Colombia and the European Union for specifically mentioning the importance of integrated territorial development and urban-rural synergies as essential to a successful and transformative New Urban Agenda.

Thank you.