



UN Major Group for Children and Youth

the space for children and youth in the United Nations

UN Major Group for Children and Youth
Intervention at the Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meeting for Habitat III
Enhancing Financing and Other Means of Implementation
Financing Urban Development

29th April 2016

Thank you for giving us the Floor

The UN Major Group for Children and Youth would like to share some views and concerns about the discourse and deliverables in regard to these thematic areas.

1. Regarding the phrase "saying private sector is not enough".

Before complicating the discussion by getting into a discourse about special purpose vehicles, blended finance, discount rates, and time bound variable yields, which we have no problem in doing, we would like to point to some simple solutions

Illicit financial flows. This is money stolen from the public by collusion between the private and public sector. This is the worst form of a PPP.

We do not need to specify the grave magnitude of this issue. The recent news of the Panama papers is only one among many and just the tip of the iceberg.

The failure of the FfD process and its first follow up forum last week to adequately tackle the issue of illicit flows at a universal membership body like the UN, where all countries have an equal say, unlike financial clubs like the OECD, is a sad reminder of our collective unwillingness to resolve this issue.

Any conversation on the role of the private sector and finance that does not address this is not a serious exercise, and is designed only to sway us away from the real matter at hand.

No commitment on planetary boundaries and sexual and reproductive health and rights in return, for no action on tackling tax havens is a very sad reflection of our divides.

This process has given us another chance to adequately address this issue, and make resources available for the insurmountable needs that lie before us in order to deliver a people centered and planet sensitive new urban agenda

In addition, a reduction in military expenditure to enhance domestic resources is also a simple step.

2. On the politics and economics of urban areas and financing?

Participatory budgeting in the new urban agenda should include ex and post ante financial flow monitoring and accountability mechanisms that would engage all the stakeholders.

The politics and economics of urban areas becomes even more complex when we discuss the intersection between health and the environment.

Price and tax measures on tobacco, sugar sweetened beverages and other unhealthy products has the dual benefit of reducing consumption and providing governments with sustainable revenue sources to reinvest in public health and health promoting infrastructures, such as local parks and cycle paths.

Thank you.