



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
Follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda
Open Dialogue

29th April 2016

Thank you 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. Sound and Strong Follow up and Review Architecture

We want to highlight good practices from the High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development.

The follow-up and review of Habitat III should include annual Global and Regional Habitat III Follow-Up Forums.

While ensuring the global commitment and best practice sharing among members States, regional forums will more appropriately tackle the implementation and review unique to each region's struggle to achieve sustainable urban development.

In order to enhance the importance of the respective forums, both Global and Regional forums must have intergovernmentally negotiated outcomes. These in turn should be linked to the Regional and Global HLPF meetings.

The modalities for this architecture should be drawn from the already inter-governmentally agreed language from GA Res 67/290.

Specifically in paragraph- (*paragraphs 8c, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22, 24*) and allocate all the agreed rights to the Major Group and other Stakeholders, specially in relation to

paragraph 14- which “Encourages MGoS to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms for participation in the HLPF”

This already agreed language will operationalise the multi-stakeholder platform and its respective elements that has been called for and ensure that the approach is rights based, by guaranteeing designated spots to populations like women, older people, children and youth, farmers and grassroots groups. Such a modality will also allocate a spots to critical groups like local authorities, the private sector, academia, and labor and trade unions.

2. Role of UN Agencies and System

It is critical that the UN system provides appropriate assistance to all levels of governments to effectively deliver to Sustainable Urban Development.

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

Such a Task Force could be co-facilitated by both UN Habitat and the UN DESA (Department of Economic and Social Affairs). The taskforce should also develop a Annual Report on the progress of the implementation of the NUA in its relation to and in coherence with the SDGs.

We would like to reiterate that the Sustainable urban Development is a massive cross-cutting issue, and calls upon the coordinated effort of the entire UN system, and not become a battleground for overlapping mandates or be the exclusive playground of a few entities.

3. Coherence between other processes.

In addition to the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda must clearly align with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, The Samoa Pathway, the HLPF, and other processes which are fed into the HLPF.

Sendai Framework and the HLPF have the regional follow up mechanism. The Habitat III Follow-up Forum at regional level should seek the maximisation of synergy between them.

4. Means of Implementation

The New Urban Agenda and its implementation will remain talk if not accompanied by robust, and action oriented financial and non financial Means of Implementation. As referenced in the FfD process these should include, but not be limited to-

Domestic public resources
Domestic and international private business and finance
International development cooperation
International trade as an engine for development
Debt and debt sustainability
Addressing systemic issues
Science, technology, innovation and capacity-building
Data monitoring and follow-up

The paradigm changing element here is that, all these MOIs need to stem from the view that the economy is a subset of the society and the environment.

We have already specified a few examples in the previous sessions earlier today. Such as *Ecological Tax Reform for Fiscal Policy*, and the *Adoption of UNEP's ERISC- Ecological Risk Integration to Sovereign Credit for Monetary Policy* for example.

Thank you,