

**Excellencies, Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good afternoon

At the outset, on behalf of UNIDO, please allow me to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the organization of historic event - Habitat III. A special thanks goes to the host country and City of Quito for their leadership and warm hospitality, and to the UN task team and all partners who have worked tirelessly in making this event a grand success.

When seen in the context of 2030 Development Agenda adopted on SDGs and Climate Agreement reached in Paris in 2015, Habitat III gives global community a new hope as well as a unique window of opportunity not only to adopt New Urban Agenda but also agree on implementation modalities for ensuring concrete action on the ground.

UNIDO, as a specialized UN Agency promotes Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) for urban sustainability. Hence UNIDO feels privileged to be a part of a comprehensive and inclusive consultative process that has culminated into new urban agenda. Since industry is a key engine of economic growth, it is heartening to see close link highlighted between sustainability of cities with innovation, jobs and climate action under the New Urban Agenda.

UNIDO believes that a sustainable city serves the best interest of industry as it benefits from the efficient and peaceful functioning of its host city. At the same time, low-carbon industrialization can empower city economy, and provide solutions for decoupling economic growth from

carbon emissions, while at the same time creating employment and fostering clean energy innovation.

UNIDO's work on sustainable cities to design cities as hubs of clean energy innovation, low-carbon industrialization and climate action links the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda: SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 13 on climate action.

Together with its partners, UNIDO stands ready to harness its expertise, resources and network to proliferate sustainable cities strategies and low carbon technologies in cities across the globe. However, it is also clear that no agency or country can be successful in acting alone. The scale of the challenge confronting us is daunting. Hence it is imperative that all partners work together to promote effective urban planning and institutional structures, targeted policy and legal frameworks, sustainable economic growth, appropriate funding streams, robust collaboration mechanisms and cutting-edge knowledge and data.

We thus look forward to engaging with the many representatives of governments and municipal authorities, the private sector, academia and civil society present here to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and deliver concrete action on ground.

To conclude, UNIDO would continue in its efforts to making existing as well as new cities as hubs of innovation, low carbon industrialization and climate action that would bring

jobs, security and prosperity to people and planet for a sustainable future that we all want.

Thank you for your attention.