

## **Habitat III**

### **Habitat III Informal Intergovernmental Meetings**

*18–20 May 2016*

#### **Second Session**

Thank you, Madam Co-chair.

I would like to begin by joining the statement made by Jamaica on behalf of the Group of G77 and China.

Brazil believes that, when discussing the preamble and the Quito Declaration, we are discussing the part of the Agenda that sets our vision for the future of our cities. Bearing this in mind, we would like to make three main points.

Firstly, we believe that we cannot discuss the future of our cities without addressing human rights. In this regard, we found the incorporation of the concept of "right to the city" in the Quito Declaration extremely positive. Nevertheless, we believe that it is important to have a more direct reference and affirm not only the commitment to the realization of the concept of cities for all, but also to the realization of the right to the city.

We also believe that the text should make an express reference to the universality, indivisibility, interrelation and interdependence of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, which is present in the Habitat Agenda. We believe we cannot move backwards, instead we should go further, calling for an integrated approach in the implementation of human rights in the urban territory, thus linking human rights and the spatial approach provided by the Urban Agenda.

Secondly, we believe that paragraph 5 defines, in a balanced manner, important principles and guidelines as regards the way we would like to see our cities and human settlements in the future. Particularly important to Brazil is that they should be inclusive and free from any form of discrimination, fulfill their social function and the social function of land, promote, protect and ensure the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, promote cultural diversity and urban-rural connections, empower women and improve social participation in the formulation and implementation of urban public policies.

Thirdly, it is important that strategic and integrated urban and territorial planning and management are maintained as drivers of change. In that context, we have the discussion of compact cities, which is found in the effective implementation section. In this respect, I'd like to point out that the Brazilian government understands the environmental, economic and social benefits of compact cities. But we believe we should not forget the rapid urbanization process that is occurring in many countries and the consequent need to plan cities for their inevitable expansion.

Currently, it is common to be faced with a paradigm where urban infrastructure plans and investments in cities in urbanizing countries typically follow, rather than guide urban expansion. Our concern is that if we focus on containing and constricting cities, rather than preparing for their expansion, we may incur the risk of maintain this paradigm, where expansion occurs and then planning, investment and infrastructure follow. Therefore, we believe we also need to have a paradigm that accommodates urban expansion, so we may qualify it and prepare for it. Otherwise we may guide our cities in the wrong direction.

Thank you.