

Habitat III

Habitat III Informal Intergovernmental Meetings

18–20 May 2016

Fourth Session

Thank you, Madam Co-chair.

I endorse the statement made by Kenya on behalf on behalf of G77 and China and would like to add some comments.

In the section "Building the urban structure", we believe it is important to emphasize the participation of "stakeholders", with clear roles, at all stages of the elaboration of urban agendas. In this context, it is important to have a combination of both "top down" and "bottom up" approaches in building the urban agenda of a country.

In the "Housing" section of "Planning and managing the urban spatial development", it is noted that there is no reference to the right to adequate housing. In this regard, we would like to recall that the right to adequate housing was recognized in the International Covenant on Social, Economic and Political Rights and the Habitat Agenda. According to General Comment No. 4 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the right to adequate housing encompasses notions of security of tenure, availability of services and infrastructure, accessibility, adequate location, among others. We believe it qualifies the implementation of policies in the area and, for this reason, we believe it is crucial to incorporate language, in the implementation section, on the need to take steps towards the realization of the right to adequate housing.

In paragraph 111, instead of affirming that "planning Initiatives should avoid peripheral and isolated mass housing schemes detached from the urban system", we could adopt a language that suggests what we could do, by affirming that "planning initiatives should take into account the use of urbanized land, especially vacant urban spaces, the orderly and progressive production of new neighborhoods in adequate land for urban expansion, and the production of housing in rural areas with patterns that are appropriate in the surrounding environment." We also find paragraph 111 too prescriptive on regulations.

As regards the issue of mobility, we very much welcome the language found in paragraphs 112 to 118, but we would like to emphasize that the subject of road safety has not been adequately addressed. In our view, it is one of the greatest omissions in the document. In this respect, we would like to stand out that General Assembly resolution 70/260, adopted last month, recalls that most traffic deaths and injuries occur in urban areas and, in this context, encourages, in its paragraph 3, Habitat III to consider the topic properly. The General Assembly resolution further recognizes that, if left unaddressed, this challenge may affect progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. For these reasons, we believe the New Urban Agenda should fully integrate road safety.

Furthermore, given the centrality of access to water and sanitation for the guarantee of the right to health and to an adequate standard of living in urban areas, and taking into account that these are rights recognized by the UN General Assembly and incorporated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we believe the language concerning the issue could be strengthened in the text through direct mention of the services to be offered to ensure universal access, such as provision of water, sewage systems, public cleanliness, solid waste management, urban drainage, and storm water management.

In the section "enhancing means of implementation of the New Urban Agenda", we would like to emphasize that the text contains no explicit mention of the role of multilateral development banks, which are relevant to the financing of long term and complex infrastructure projects. Thus, we believe it is important to incorporate language recognizing that MDBs' should continue to play a key role in providing finance for infrastructure, due to their diverse financing and implementation instruments and accumulated knowledge in the sector.

As regards 142, we would like to suggest the suppression of reference to the creation a sub-national window in the Green Climate Fund. We do not consider Habitat III an appropriate forum for the discussion of creating new windows and, moreover, believe that the mere creation of windows does not guarantee resources.

Finally, as regards 162, the Brazilian delegation would like to remember that the data collection procedures must be compatible with the right to privacy and international instruments on the matter.

Thank you.