



Habitat III - Informal Hearings with Stakeholders

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Statement by Bert Smolders, co-chair of the Business and Industry Constituency Group,
program manager for the Arcadis Shelter program and senior advisor on urban development

General Assembly of Partners towards Habitat III (GAP)

As co-chair of the GAP constituent group Business and Industry program, I thank the organizers to be able to give our recommendations to the member states.

The private sector is one of the main stakeholders in the urban world. It's excellent that this is now fully recognized. Together with our co-chair of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and other representative organizations, we have a network of thousands of private sector entities and many have been active in reacting on the zero draft.

We appreciate the zero draft of the New Urban Agenda, but we do have a number of comments which we recommend to the member states to incorporate.

With regard to the zero draft we appreciate that the important role of business and entrepreneurship has been mentioned, as well as the role that partnerships can play in city development and management.

The Business and Industry constituent group asks the member states to include our recommendations. Impossible to tell all in three minutes, but we have written a paper which is available for everyone. Herewith the key points in our recommendations.

The Habitat III conference is focused on action and implementation. This means that the New Urban Agenda must be as clear and action oriented as possible. We need clear measurable indicators and a

spirit and wording that inspires the outside world. Clear guidelines with regard to the quality of urban development and management are important for the private sector to play its role.

For implementation the cooperation of all stakeholders is necessary. We recommended the strengthening of public private partnerships.

The private sector has a growing role in the planning, building, financing and management of infrastructure. In the New Urban Agenda, this role is emphasized. Especially in urban financing, new models and mechanisms should be developed.

Water, both water management and sanitation have been mentioned, but in the opinion of the Business and Industry constituent group, water plays such an important role in urban issues that it can be much more extensive and stronger.

Natural disasters are a growing threat for cities. The private sector is often a victim, but can also play an important role in avoiding, preparing and adapting.

Well planned cities, including existing cities, city extensions and new towns, are vital for economic development. Social stable, sustainable and inclusive cities enable all in society to be included in the economy. Leaving no-one behind is in the benefit of the private sector. Increasing the quality of life - that is what the New Urban Agenda should be about. Business means action. With a clear, action oriented and measurable New Urban Agenda, business and industries can fully engage in urban processes in a positive manner.

The New Urban Agenda provides the chance to develop a shared policy framework for all urban stakeholders. It is the responsibility of both national; and local governments to provide those conditions which enable the private sector to play its role. Then we can, and will take our responsibility in the benefit of cities.

Thank you.