

**Habitat III Intergovernmental negotiations in New York – Fifth session -
Statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States – Friday 20 May
2016**

Madam Chair, distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the EU and its MS.

We want to thank the bureau, and especially the two co-Chairs, for this opportunity to share our thoughts on Section C of the zero draft.

We welcome the efforts by the Bureau to include a section on Follow-up and review that aims at defining an appropriate FUR for the NUA.

We will be pleased to provide further suggestions as we go along, in order to help ensure that a clearly defined and comprehensive follow up and review process is already provided for in the declaration itself.

We consider the FUR of the NUA important for two reasons in particular:

1. Habitat III is the first UN Conference after the adoption of the 2030 ASD, the AAAA and the Paris agreement. It thus has a great potential to set a useful and pertinent precedent for future UN Conferences as to how “effective linkages” to the 2030 ASD FUR can be made. We also would like to express our support to the upcoming work of the UNEA.

2. The NUA reflects the integrated and universal nature of the 2030 Agenda, both in terms of substance and process. The NUA is one of the cornerstones in the implementation of the multi-lateral frameworks agreed in 2015, and sustainable urban development is crucial – because of its cross-sectorial and spatial character - to achieving most of the goals and targets across the 2030 Agenda. The NUA can lay the groundwork for the localization of the 2030 ASD including the empowerment of local actors.

We therefore consider that the FUR of the NUA should be guided by the following principles:

1. We prefer to see **stronger coherence with 2030 ASD**. This is essential in order to preserve the agreed indivisibility of the 2030 ASD, through the inter-linkages between the SDGs. This idea should be more clearly reflected across several OPs (OP 164, 166 – 169). In OP 166 in particular, it should be made clear that the FUR proposed for the NUA feeds into

the 2030 Agenda FUR. It should be made clear that the NUA FUR process supports the thematic reviews of progress on the SDGs in the HLPF. Reporting on the NUA must be consistent and in line with 2030 ASD reporting and inform the FUR role of the ECOSOC and the HLPF.

2. While we acknowledge the important role of UN Habitat, we need to make sure that the entire UN system is properly engaged (OP 167). Thus, **UN system-wide coordination** in this respect needs to be strengthened. UN Habitat should continue to play an important role in coordinating the UN System on sustainable urban development in accordance with its mandate.

3. **UN-Habitat** role in the FUR of the NUA should reflect its actual mandate. Proposals that would mandate UN Habitat to coordinate the follow-up and review of the NUA as well as a **panel on sustainable urbanization** (OP 171) need further thought and discussion. We will be prepared to discuss issues such as universal membership in the UN Habitat Governing Council in the proper forum. Habitat III is not the appropriate forum, we need first to properly consider all the available options and we need to hold a consistent discussion on the governance reform of UN Habitat. In addition all these proposals will have budgetary implications on which clarifications would be needed.

4. The NUA FUR should **build on existing global, regional and national platforms and processes**, including the sub-national dimension and avoid duplications. The FUR should be inclusive and participatory, mobilize relevant knowledge and expertise, facilitate policy learning and the development of urban policies and actions. All relevant stakeholders will need to be closely associated and involved in the FUR in line with the principles of subsidiarity, proportionality, and multi-level governance. These stakeholders include local authorities and their associations, as well as civil society - recognizing citizens as urban society actors - and the private sector.

We agree with the proposals to strengthen the **international dialogue with local and sub-national governments**. This should be reflected through acknowledging cities as crucial development actors and ensuring a role for local governments that will allow them to be closely associated and involved in the FUR. Also here, consistency with the overall FUR of the 2030 ASD is important (OP 169).

5. We encourage fostering **capacity building**, including through the creation, stock-taking, dissemination and exchange of knowledge. To this end, peer-to-peer, in particular **city-to-city cooperation** contributes to beneficial long term partnerships that can facilitate a shared engagement. In this regard, we support the development and use of simple **benchmarking and monitoring tools** to help local decision-makers to identify cost-effective solutions.