



## HABITAT III INFORMAL HEARINGS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES ASSOCIATIONS

Thank you Mrs. Co-Chair

The Rio de Janeiro Municipal Government would like to emphasize the importance of this occasion and thank the United Nations for this historic meeting, in which the local and regional authorities have the opportunity to discuss the zero draft content for the Habitat III Conference.

As a local government, Rio de Janeiro is fully engaged in the implementation of the international commitments for sustainable development, as demonstrated by our ongoing municipal policies and the new strategic plan for the city until 2065, called Rio Vision 500, which has been constructed by means of a full participatory process, and also by Mayor Eduardo Paes's leadership as the Chair of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group.

Rio de Janeiro is participating in the Brazilian Chapter of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN Brazil), a network launched by the United Nations and the University of Columbia, and is also part of the Rockefeller Foundation 100 Resilient Cities Campaign.

Moreover, Rio de Janeiro has joined the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, which seeks to promote food systems based on the principles of sustainability and social justice.

We have a few comments on the zero draft relating to issues that are significant to Rio de Janeiro's model of urban planning and management.

First, we consider that the zero draft addresses several essential points that have been discussed and advocated in local governments meetings and the Global Taskforce process. We hope there will be no setbacks in the achievements shown in the Zero Draft during the Habitat III process until the end of the Quito Conference.

Furthermore, we would like to address the importance of respecting the built heritage that evinces the effort of the collective development of the city, including poor neighbourhoods and informal urban settlements. We suggest that this theme should be included in the "Our Vision" session of the zero draft.

In the paragraphs referring to urban planning and management - 98 to 104 -, it is important to consider slums and informal settlements as part of the urban planning, and also to emphasize the value of the use of technology and georeferencing of the informal settlements to ensure they are included as essential parts of the urban morphology.

In addition, referring to paragraph 30, it is essential to define indicators to measure improvements in informal settlements.

Finally, in paragraph 7, it is our belief that the role of the private sector should be further developed, taking into account, for instance, the development of public-private-partnerships as a tool to achieve the goals that are stated in the report.

I would like to say some words regarding the local governments' participation in the next steps of the Habitat III process.

As established by the UN General Assembly Resolution on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015, about the rules of procedures of Habitat III Conference, the UN encourages the local authorities to participate in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee and in the Conference, under the auspices of an accredited non-governmental organization or as members of the national delegation.

The cooperation between the three levels of government has increased and deepened in Brazil, as emphasized in the Brazilian Government statement in PrepCom 2. That enabled innovations in urban and housing policies. The Brazilian National Report contains several examples of such integrated policies.

Brazil's preparation for Habitat III has been undertaken in a comprehensive and inclusive manner. It has been led by a multi-stakeholder Council and involved civil society organizations, universities, local and regional governments.

As it has been previously stated by several speakers, Rio believes that citizens must be placed at the center of the New Urban Agenda, which should be in deep coordination with SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. It and should also recognize the "right to the city" as a key concept.

Local governments are already significant players in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, demanding innovative and effective financing and capacity-building. These actors should be taking into account in the decision making process.

In the next months, we will have the opportunity to maintain the participatory spirit of Habitat II in Istanbul and build a genuinely new agenda. We also have the chance to build smart and inclusive solutions to urban planning, management, resilience and funding mechanisms at local, national and international levels, as well as innovative frameworks for metropolitan governance.

I would like to thank the UN for this historic opportunity of hearings with local authorities. We recognize the leadership of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) in the concertation of local governments' participation in the preparatory process and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments.

Thank you very much.