



INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA, AT THE HABITAT III INFORMAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS: (NEW YORK, 18 MAY 2016)

Madame Co-Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

In this regard my statement, will be building on what was said by the Group this morning. The Group wishes to express our preliminary views on the Preamble and the Quito Declaration on Cities for All, with the understanding that we will not be considering the draft on a paragraph by paragraph basis this week.

On the Preamble:

- The function of the preambular part sets the context for how the Agenda will be adopted.
- In this regard the preamble could be shorter and some paragraphs could be reformulated and rearranged. For example in paragraph 7 which states that the New Urban Agenda aims to be concise, action-oriented, etc, we think that it should be more direct in stating what the Agenda should look like and accomplish.
- The ideas in the Preamble do not need to be repeated in the Declaration. For instance, though we deem the outcomes and agreements achieved in 2015 to be significant, we may not need to have them in both the Preamble and the Declaration. We would also like to point out in this regard that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is omitted from the list outcomes and agreements referenced in the Preamble.
- We believe that more balance is needed between opportunities and challenges of achieving sustainable development. Currently the focus seems to be more towards the opportunities.
- There are a number of expressions that we think should not be here, for example in paragraph 4 “The battle for sustainable development will be won or lost in cities”. It is important that we do not send a message that urbanization is the only process through which sustainability can be achieved.
- Like some others have mentioned, there is need for strengthening on the issue of environmental protection; we feel strongly that when we have

references to issues related to sustainable development the three dimensions need to be balanced.

- There is need to refer to all SDGs that apply here, not only to SDG11 and its related targets.
- The New Urban Agenda should not leave out the reference to human settlements. We need to establish a clear link between rural and urban. The vision now leans predominantly towards cities.
- In paragraph 5 when speaking to the outcomes of 2015, we need to reference the New Urban Agenda as a compliment to this new agenda for sustainable development.
- We must recall that we are building on the unfinished business of Habitat II even as we chart a path for the next twenty years.
- The need to have a process that is people centered and planet sensitive, cannot be over stated. At its core, the New Urban Agenda is also to foster and deliver on Poverty eradication.
- On the organizational machinery, UN Habitat needs to be fit for purpose and we are open to a constructive exchange on how to make this a reality.

On the Quito Declaration on Cities for All:

- The function of the Declaration should be to express a political vision; if this is the case it should be more precise (right now it is like an executive summary).
- The title may require further consideration. We again underscore that the New Urban Agenda should also be looking at “human settlements” and all dimensions of sustainable development should be mentioned.

The term “High quality of life” in paragraph 4 is not in our view appropriate, as it may send a message that a high quality of life can only be achieved in cities, which would not be the case.

- Sustainable Consumption and Production is not sufficiently reflected in the document.
- Given the importance of reflecting the three dimensions of sustainable development correctly we suggest using the Rio+20 language.
- Cultural diversity is very important and creates numerous benefits. This term can be further developed and reflected.
- As mentioned previously, we would like to have a broader vision of the environmental impact
- Whilst we recognize the benefits of compact cities, it has to be taken into account that in the case of developing countries there is need for new neighbourhoods. As a universal process these dynamics have to somehow be taken into account and captured in a succinct fashion.

- Finally, in paragraph 3, we would like to insert a mention of how to achieve sustainable development. Long term integrated planning is required and we need to mention sound institutions and good governance as a critical element.

I thank you, Madame Co-Chair.