



UN Major Group for Children and Youth

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Intervention at the Informal Hearing for Stakeholders in Habitat III

Panel 3 (16:15 - 18:00) - Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development, 7th June

Thank you chair for giving us the floor. We would like to raise some points about the topic in the context of this discussion.

Firstly we would like to point out the potential narrowing of environmental aspects if it only said ecological cities and human settlement.

The call for cities and human settlements to be ecologically sustainable is critical, but in the section on transformative commitments it is imperative that such an assertion does not ignore the current unsustainable patterns of the neo liberal economic model that feeds a city's' extractive capitalism needs to radically change in order to achieve sustainability.

Therefore, we would call to reconsider the formulation of those three commitments to stipulate that the three dimensions are universally and equally important and environmental thresholds are applicable to all territories.

This draft doesn't comprehensively address the impact that urban development can have on health and its role in ensuring the fulfillment of the right to the highest attainable standard of health.

Urban development needs to be done in a way that both limits the inhabitants exposure to health risks, and that minimises barriers while actively promoting healthy lifestyles and habits.

In light of promotion of healthy lifestyle, many non-communicable diseases related to nutrition and diet, such as obesity and tooth decay, are more common in cities and disproportionately affect the economically deprived and young people.

Such non-communicable diseases make up the majority of the global health burden, and decreasing their impact on early mortality has been identified as a priority in SDG target 3.4.

There is strong scientific evidence that a community-based approach is needed to address the lifestyle-related risks, such as diet, smoking and sedentary lifestyles, is essential to address NCDs.

With this in mind, unhealthy food and drink, such as highly-processed food, added sugars and sugar-sweetened beverages, carries greater economic and social costs than their face-value. We propose that taxation should therefore be applied to health-related risk drivers. Those taxation are to price the such health externalities of unregulated food and beverage production. In addition, urban spatial development should aim to create urban spaces that enable walking and cycling as primary modes of transportation and create accessible, safe public spaces that enable physical activity.

While the Sendai Framework clearly recognised the human-induced disasters as part of the definition of "disaster", the section between paragraph 79 and 83 of the zero draft has dropped it out.

A comprehensive elaboration of disasters and risk requires the draft to devote the paragraphs specifically to elaborate the characters and factors around human-induced disasters, such as nuclear disasters, chemical disasters, pandemics, anthrax, GMOs, biological hazards, infrastructural collapse, fire hazards, road and transport accidents (especially when it loads chemicals) and so on which produce the severe pollutions and damages on the people and the planet.

Thank you