

Quito 20 October 2016

Good Morning;

Thank you, Mr/Mrs Chair for the opportunity to address this distinguished audience. My name is Sandeep Chachra, speaking on behalf of ActionAid global fraternity.

ActionAid is a global movement of people working together to further human rights for all and defeat poverty. We recently elected new global co-chair of World Urban Campaign (WUC), previously co-chairing the Policy Unit 1 and experts of Policy Group 7 of Habitat III. ActionAid has been working on urban issues for a over a decade. Ensuring the right to the city for vulnerable urban populations including the urban homeless, self-employed street vendors, domestic workers and other sections of informal labour is a key strategic priority for ActionAid.

Dear World Leaders, delegates, friends of civil society organisations...

ActionAid celebrates the inclusion of the idea and promise the 'Right to City' in to the new urban agenda. We believe such an inclusion offers to the many fold aspirations of the millions of poor and excluded people around the world, Instruments and possibilities to claim the hitherto unrealized rights over geographies, economies, politics and destiny of cities.

The Right to the City is the outcome of decades of a collective and bottom-up creation that consists in the right of all inhabitants, present and future, temporary and permanent, to use, occupy, produce, govern and enjoy peaceful just, inclusive and sustainable cities, villages and settlements, understood as a common good essential to a full and decent life.

We are convinced that global mobilization is the key to make the Right to the City a pillar of the vision in the habitat III and a roadmap for all necessary implementation, follow-up and monitoring mechanisms, including high level multi-stakeholder debates in the UN system and local authorities after

adoption of NUA in Quito. World leaders must commit now to make our villages, towns, cities and settlements more inclusive, equitable, democratic, safe and sustainable for all.

Fundamental challenges, however, remain on whether the economic transition from an overwhelmingly agrarian past to largely non agrarian future can be fully sustained? Further, can the economic model which has created continued inequality create inclusive equality for all in future?

We believe these are the challenges Local and National Governments, everywhere would have to reckon with.

We further believe where NUA offers but one avenue, for realization of inclusive cities for all, with no violence or discrimination against women.

We will continue to work jointly with the global platform for the right to the city, the world urban campaign and the general assembly of partners towards the fulfillment of the human rights and Right to the City for Everyone!

Muchas Gracias