

Thank you Madame Moderator

As we continue to discuss the policy papers this morning, we express our gratitude to the panelists for their very thoughtful and timely views.

Il est évident que de grands défis demeurent lorsqu'il s'agit d'aider les villes dans la promotion de la création d'emplois de qualité et des possibilités de travail productif, éléments essentiels pour l'amélioration des résultats économiques et sociaux de ses citoyens ainsi que pour soutenir des collectivités saines et durables.

Nous devons aussi tenir compte des groupes vulnérables et sous-représentés, et reconnaître l'importance de l'inclusion, afin de veiller à ce que tous les citoyens aient accès à des possibilités d'emplois et de revenus et que personne ne soit laissé de côté.

Also important are the various governance structures and constitutional frameworks of Governments and this must be reflected in the New Urban Agenda as we move forward.

Within Canada's federal system, some responsibilities are shared between the federal, provincial and territorial governments, such as health, education, social assistance, and housing.

Targeted programs also exist for underrepresented groups in the labour market including Indigenous peoples, older workers, women, youth, new immigrants and persons with disabilities.

Through partnerships at the sub-national level, Canada delivers labour market programming and information that promotes job creation and employment for all Canadians to develop the skills they need to succeed and improve their overall standards of living and quality of life.

For instance, Canada delivers specialized labour market programming to promote the participation rate of women in the labour market, which still trails that of men. Canada will remain a world leader in integrating gender equality into our programming. This is part of our commitment to improving the lives of women and girls both at home and around the world.

Canada has also committed to working with provinces and territories in the development of several new initiatives, including the Canada Child Benefit and the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy, which will set targets and will report on progress.

As we look to the declaration, and the challenges of urban economic development, we must provide the best environment for long-term stability, growth, and prosperity for all citizens. To assist cities around the world, we must promote inclusive, transparent and accountable governance, peaceful pluralism, tolerance and respect for diversity. We must also collectively aim to increase women in governance positions.

Canada's experience has taught us to accept and respect diverse views and to understand that the strength of our society depends on the full participation of all its citizens. This commitment was reaffirmed in the recent appointment of the new federal Cabinet, in which 50% of new Ministers are women and 17% are visible minorities.

As we look to the future, strengthening urban economies will require the improvement of urban governance, particularly at the local level. This cannot be done alone and we must work together at all levels of government, and continue to work with our partners including civil society, the private sector, academia and other stakeholders to respond to local needs for achieving a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and more prosperous, safer communities.

Thank you/Merci