



# **United Nations Conference Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)**

## **Third session of the Preparatory Committee**

### **Closing Statement (Closing Plenary)**

**By**

**Dr. Joan Clos,**

**Secretary-General of Habitat III**

**Surabaya, 27 July 2015**

- Honourable Heads of Government Delegations,
- Distinguished Co-Chairs and Members of the Bureau of Preparatory Committee,
- Co-Facilitators for the Draft New Urban Agenda, H.E. Ms. Lourdes Ortiz Yparraguirre and Mr Damaso Luna Corona, representing H.E. Mr. Juan José Gómez Camacho
- Excellencies
- All representatives of local governments
- Representatives of General Assembly of Partners, and Urban Stakeholders,
- Distinguished Delegates,
- Members of the media
- Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a pleasure for me to address you after these three intense and productive days of consultations and discussions with all of you, that have taken us a considerable step forward the finalization of the Draft New Urban Agenda. The last three days have represented a historical moment, and could not have been completed without your exceptional collaboration.

I would like to thank in particular the Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee, Madame Maryse Gautier from France and Mr. Jaime Silva from Chile for their leadership and dedicated work at the Plenary Sessions.

I would also like to thank the remaining members of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for their tireless efforts and contributions.

Allow me to also express my special appreciation to the Co-Facilitators, H.E. Ms. Lourdes Ortiz Yparraguirre and Mr Damaso Luna Corona, representing H.E. Mr. Juan José Gómez Camacho

for their facilitation in finalizing the Draft New Urban Agenda at the Main Committee.

I wish to extend my warmest appreciation to all the delegations, led by Ministers, Vice Ministers, Ambassadors and other high level officials. Your statements delivered here at PrepCom3 constructively contributed to the Habitat III process and implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Of course, my special thanks go to the Honourable Dr. Basuki Hadimuljono, Minister of Public Works and Housing of Indonesia, and Honourable Madame Tri Rismaharini, Mayor of Surabaya for their great hospitality and for organizing the third session of the Preparatory Committee. We are all thankful for hosting us in such a welcoming and well-organized way.

Together with other stakeholder representatives, I am pleased to say that we had a total of over 4,240 participants, 860 of which have come from 142 different countries at this session of the PrepCom3. This represents an extremely high level of participation and is indicative of the strong interest from a wide range of partners towards the New Urban Agenda.

With this respect, I would like to welcome the organizations that have received the special accreditation at this PrepCom. We look forward to your participation in the Conference in Quito in October!

We have seen very important contributions by the United Nations system, local governments, General Assembly of Partners and other stakeholders at PrepCom3. Thank you for sharing your expertise with us. The New Urban Agenda will be a critical document for you after Quito, and we make every effort to involve you in the process.

Taking this opportunity let me remind you of the challenge at stake: this year 2016 provides a critical opportunity to achieving the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016.

The Habitat III Conference is the first global summit after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris agreements, and with a focus on implementation. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has recognized urbanization as an endogenous source for development with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goal 11 on sustainable cities and human settlements.

Hence, the Habitat III Conference is a critical milestone in shaping the vision for the future development of cities and human settlements as it has the convening power to bring together all actors to achieve these objectives.

Indeed, solutions for the complex challenge of urbanization can only be found by bringing together Member States, multilateral organizations, local governments, private sector and civil society.

From now we have less than three months before the Habitat III Conference in Quito in October. It is very important to advance in the final preparation as well as in building momentum towards the Conference.

The Quito Conference provides a great opportunity for all of us to start building our partnerships through the Quito Implementation Plan. We will be opening a call for the Quito Implementation Plan which sees your voluntary commitments towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, as a next step after PrepCom3.

By the way, the Secretariat continues to receive National Reports, some of which have been delivered to us at this PrepCom. I would like to again urge member states to prepare their reports and deliver them to the Habitat III Secretariat.

I cannot finish without appealing to you once again regarding the financial resources available for the Conference. I would like to stress that your continued support is critical in completing the preparatory process.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

I am encouraged by the outcome of this session, which I believe has served to adopt the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat III Conference. I thank you all for the efforts you have made here in Surabaya in this regard.

I am very grateful for the great work of the Main Committee, and let me once again extend my thanks to the Co-Facilitators, H.E. Ms. Lourdes Ortiz Yparraguirre and Mr Damaso Luna Corona.

Allow me to thank the Department of Conference Services and the team of the Habitat III Secretariat for their dedication and hard work in making this PrepCom3 successful.

Finally, I thank all the volunteers who supported us in running this meeting smoothly.

It is my hope that the way towards Habitat III will be an opportunity to deepen the knowledge on urbanization, particularly the important capacity of urbanization to foster sustainable development.

While we do not yet have an agreement to bring to Quito, we have gotten considerably closer. We know you will continue to push productively towards this all important objective.

To this end, I thank you very much for your contributions and support at this session of the Preparatory Committee. The New Urban Agenda, belongs to everyone, but it will belong to you too, those who have been such a crucial part of the project.

I hope you will take some time to experience Surabaya while you are here. When you depart, I wish you safe journeys back to your countries.

And of course, I look forward to seeing you in Quito in October!