

COLOMBIA



Intervención
Isabel Cavalier
Ministra Consejera

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*Verificar contra el discurso pronunciado
Discurso pronunciado en inglés en ausencia de interpretación*

Thank you Moderator.

I thank all the panelists for their contributions. They have wisely highlighted the centrality of good planning for realizing our sustainable development objectives.

Urbanization and demographic growth have **increasingly linked cities with their peri-urban and rural hinterland, spatially as well as functionally** through **economic dynamics, social links and environmental synergies**. The interdependencies between rural and urban areas become particularly apparent everywhere around the world, hand in hand with the challenges of this century, while the need to realize sustainable development becomes ever more pressing.

In this context, **competing demands** for space, natural resources and investments need to be **weighed and balanced** according to overarching territorial development goals that are linked to social cohesion, economic prosperity and environmental protection.

In light of this reality, the New Urban Agenda must promote a concept of **integrated territorial development** that reinforces the idea of complementary in **functions and flows** between rural and urban territories and that takes into account the trade-offs that emerge between them.

The concept of integrated territorial development responds to the interdependencies between complex national and regional systems of settlements and hence contributes to operationalizing urban rural linkages. A systems thinking approach from the perspective of functional territories is foundational to this concept.

This is an approach that can contribute greatly to the **equitable distribution of resources across the wider urban rural continuum**, and ensure that the needs and priorities of peri-urban and rural communities are not subordinate to the needs of city-dwellers.

Examples of **systems** essential to human life for which **complementary functions and flows** across urban and rural spaces are needed include:

- supply and distribution chains of commodities;
- basic services like water and sanitation, energy, and waste management,
- Transport systems
- Technology and communications,
- agriculture and food systems;
- ecosystem services,
- social protection systems and employment,
- financial services;
- land tenure systems;
- disaster risk reduction and risk management systems; and
- governance and decision-making systems.

Operationalizing this approach requires **land use planning** and spatial strategies, **as well as legal and regulatory frameworks** that address flows across urban and rural landscapes. The New Urban Agenda must call on governments to enable instruments **to plan and regulate** for urban growth, avoid urban sprawl, and prevent new settlements in risk-prone areas in the interest of compactness and density - and its inherent economies of scale - that make cities and regions fundamentally more productive and less impacting on the environment, as well as in the interest of resilience.

All this requires **resources and capacity that often are lacking at any level of government, but particularly at the subnational and local ones**. The New Urban Agenda must incentivize the

deployment of financing instruments, the mobilization of new sources of finance, the access to finance by local and subnational governments, as well as capacity building tools for all levels of government.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda - including SDG 11 on Cities and Human Settlements, and the ongoing discussions towards Habitat III confirm the need as well as the reinvigorated will to depart from a perspective of political, social and geographical dichotomy between urban and rural areas. **Quito represents a critical opportunity to operationalize this departure.**

Thank you