



## **Draft New Urban Agenda**

Statement by Irge Olga Aujouannet, co-chair of the Business and Industry Constituency Group,  
Director of Global Policy Affairs at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development

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Excellencies, as co-chair of the GAP Constituency Group for Business and Industry, represented by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and Arcadis Shelter Programme, we would like to thank you for giving us this opportunity to support the development of the New Urban Agenda.

Business and Industry has a key role to play in supporting both national and local governments in building sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities. We will do this by promoting economic and social development through finance, technology and employment. As a driver of innovation, business is a critical implementation partner for cities and urban settlements.

The New Urban Agenda needs to provide a holistic framework and clear guidelines that will help urban settlements prepare for and respond to urban sustainability challenges rapidly. There is an urgent need to equip cities with the necessary resources and tools - technological, financial and regulatory - to manage this critical transition.

Against the backdrop of a changing climate and massive urban population growth, the world's biggest sustainability challenges need to be resolved in cities. This will require significant transformations in our food, energy, water, transport and waste management systems globally. Disaster preparedness and disaster recovery are vital from a social, environmental and economic perspective. Business can and will ensure the provision of the required technologies.

Yet, our responsibility goes beyond providing solutions by facilitating the creation and strengthening of partnerships. Through our convening power, we are committed to support partnerships with all stakeholder groups. We will build on constructive dialogue and continuous exchange to align our respective vision and find synergies in implementation.

We also recognize the need for and commit to building partnerships based on the principles of transparency and accountability. This will allow for consistent data collection, effective monitoring, measurement and reporting of not only economic, but also environmental, social and wider societal impacts.



We call on member states to create the required space for business activity to fulfill its function of supporting economic development and social cohesion. Business and Industry is ready to join forces with all stakeholders and authorities to implement the New Urban Agenda to build the cities of the future today.