



UN Major Group for **Children and Youth** the space for children and youth in the United Nations

United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth & World Vision International Statement for PrepCom3

Thank you for giving us the floor. I am speaking on behalf of the UN Major Group for Children and Youth and World Vision International, co-chairs of the Children and Youth PCG.

Whilst we appreciate the progress made on a number of issues, we are disappointed to see that the document neglects some of the indispensable concerns of young people.

First, it is a regressive decision to delete the reference to major groups and other stakeholders. The very reason we can deliver our statement here today is because you, the Member States, decided to set the engagement modality for Habitat III as “major groups and other stakeholders.” Without this General Assembly mandated mechanism born out of the 1992 Earth Summit and used in a number of sustainable development processes, we are unable to guarantee the key role of so many in the implementation, follow-up, and review of the New Urban Agenda. We urge you to include major groups and other stakeholders, especially in paragraph 113 in the Mol section and paragraph 143 in follow up and review.

Second, the recognition of children’s rights, their right to protection from abuse, exploitation and discrimination, and full participation in city planning, the provision of safe spaces to learn, develop, and grow in a healthy and stable environment, are essentials for inclusive cities. References to children and their development are sorely lacking here.

Third, we wonder why we still cannot achieve a strong environmentally responsible agenda. When both the G77+China and the EU are calling for “Planet-Sensitive” approaches, the term should be in the text. The New Urban Agenda needs clear references to “Biological Support Systems” and “Planetary Boundaries.” There is a need to build social resilience, with particular focus on resilience to human induced disasters, conflict and chronic violence which affects children and youth.

Fourth, an Inter-Agency Task Team on Sustainable Urban Development, co-led by UN-Habitat and UNDESA must be established in order to ensure coherence between different frameworks and a UN system-wide approach. This task team can be mandated to produce the annual New Urban Agenda progress report in line with the SDG progress report and support the Member States and other stakeholders to effectively implement this agenda.

Lastly, the New Urban Agenda should specify how, when and how often Member States, the UN System, and we as major groups and other stakeholders will meet to review the implementation of this framework and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda. Except for the review of SDG 11 in 2018 at the High Level Political Forum, we have no forum in which to monitor progress made. To effectively follow-up on the implementation of this agenda, we suggest to have a Habitat III Follow-Up forum after each World Urban Forum, with inter-governmentally negotiated conclusions and recommendations that feed into the HLPF.

Thank you.