

Draft General Statement of the Holy See

HABITAT III

Third Session of the Preparatory Committee, Draft New Urban Agenda Surabaya, Indonesia, 25-27 June 2016

Thank you, Madam Chair,

My delegation would like to thank the Government of Indonesia for hosting this Third Session of the Preparatory Committee, leading up to the Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (HABITAT III) to be held in Quito, Ecuador, this October 2016, and the HABITAT III Bureau and Secretariat for their work in organizing this Session.

Following the intergovernmental negotiations that took place in New York, my delegation would also like to thank the Co-facilitators, Bureau, and Secretariat for their efforts in producing this draft of the New Urban Agenda.

My delegation is of the view that this draft of the New Urban Agenda is a solid basis for the next phases in the negotiation process. While there is still time and room to finalize a text agreeable to all, some recent additions move us further away from the primary focus of harnessing the potential of cities to help eradicate poverty and realize sustainable urbanization.

Madam Chair,

My delegation appreciates many of the draft's new additions that strengthen the references to sustainable development and its environmental dimension, like sustainable production and consumption and the impact of climate change and natural disasters on the poor and vulnerable; a people-centered approach and inclusive cities; safe, secure, and peaceful societies; safe, inclusive, and accessible public and green space; adequate housing; and the importance of safeguarding culture.

At the same time, as my delegation would support a final draft that is concise and action-oriented and that focuses on the most essential pre-requisites and needs to harness the potential of cities to help eradicate poverty and realize sustainable urbanization. In this regard, my delegation is convinced of the linkages between the realization of sustainable development, sustainable urbanization, and safe and peaceful societies, where people have universal access to public services, especially health and educational facilities. Therefore, we support a draft that comprehensively addresses health-care services and does not place "sexual and reproductive health" and "family planning" above other services.

Towards this end, my delegation also supports a final draft that truly leaves no one behind and holistically refers to all people living in vulnerable situations, avoiding specific listings that almost always excludes the most vulnerable.

In this same vein, my delegation appreciates the draft's focus on the importance of mobility and the commitment to migrants, regardless of their migration status, refugees, and internally displaced persons and the assurance of the respect for their human rights. Moreover, my delegation is of the view that these commitments should equally be captured in the Implementation section.

Finally, Madam Chair, my delegation would like to thank you for conducting the informal discussions that have taken place on the "Right to the City" and the concept's focus on sustainable and inclusive cities. However, my delegation suggests prudence in the creation of "new rights" and before adopting terms that still do not have consensus or precise definition or agreed interpretation.

Thank you. Terima Kasih.

Surabaya, 26th July 2016.