



**STATEMENT BY MR AW TUAN KEE
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MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SINGAPORE,
AT THE THIRD SESSION OF THE
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HABITAT III),
25 JULY 2016**

Thank you Co-Chairs,

1 Singapore aligns itself with the statements delivered by Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; and the Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

2 Singapore would like to thank the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the Co-Facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations on the New Urban Agenda for the excellent work thus far. We welcome the revised draft of the New Urban Agenda, which reflects many of the comments previously made by Member States and presents a good basis for further negotiations.

3 Singapore believes that the New Urban Agenda should pursue the following three goals to improve urban and human settlements – namely, a high quality of life; a competitive economy; and a sustainable environment. We believe that these are achievable objectives for *every* government.

4 We are heartened to note that the revised draft has incorporated two principles that Singapore believes are fundamental to building sustainable and highly liveable cities and thus achieving these objectives: long-term integrated master planning and dynamic urban governance. However, these principles in themselves are insufficient, as they are meant to be translated into action-oriented goals. First, cities are planned for 15-50 year time frames, based on each of their own specific needs and circumstances, while building-in flexibility to adjust to changing conditions. In addition, all stakeholders are to work together productively and in an integrated manner, implementing plans with sufficient capability, finances and resources. Finally, plans should be systematically evaluated to incorporate innovation in policy and technology. Second, urban governance systems are based on integrity, led by leaders who are both visionary and pragmatic, and who rely on sound institutions to carry out their plans. In addition, participatory planning is vital to promote equity and an engaged citizenry. Finally, city governments need to

have the capacity to negotiate well-designed contracts and guidelines for the city's long term benefit.

5 These principles and goals have been distilled from our own urban development experience over the last 50 years, and lessons learned from the best practices of other cities around the world. They are contained in a Liveability Framework, which we have shared with others and which we hope will be reflected in the New Urban Agenda. As each country will pursue sustainable urban development and measure its progress in its own way, the New Urban Agenda should affirm the plurality of approaches to sustainable urban development and acknowledge existing frameworks for sustainable urbanisation, including the Liveability Framework.

Co-Chairs,

6 Singapore is committed to international efforts to develop liveable, inclusive, resilient, safe and sustainable cities through innovation and opportunities. One of them is the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize, a biennial international award that honours the outstanding achievements and contributions to the creation of liveable, vibrant and sustainable urban communities around the world. Now in its fourth iteration, past laureates include Bilbao City Hall in Spain; the city of New York in the US; the city of Suzhou in China; and most recently, the city of Medellín in Columbia.

7 We have also engaged in many international capability development partnerships over the years. Through the Singapore Cooperation Programme, more than 107,000 foreign officials have taken part in courses ranging from trade and economy, to governance, urbanisation and climate change. Just last month, two capability development programmes conducted by the Centre for Liveable Cities were completed, involving 60 individuals of diverse nationalities who were trained on building liveable and sustainable cities. An inter-agency team from Singapore is also advising the South Indian state of Andhra Pradesh on the master planning of its new capital Amaravati.

8 Singapore hosted the 2016 World Cities Summit earlier this month, which brought together government leaders and industry experts from all around the world to address liveable and sustainable city challenges, share integrated urban solutions, and forge new partnerships. At the Summit, 110 mayors and city leaders from all over the world gathered for the Mayors Forum, and declared their shared vision of cities which pursue a high quality of life; a competitive economy; and a sustainable environment – the three goals of Singapore's Liveability Framework. They shared this vision in consonance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 11, and also aligned themselves with Habitat III and the draft New Urban Agenda. Areas of action for cities, which underscored the importance of integrated, long-term planning and strengthening partnerships and institutions for better urban governance, were also identified as a contribution to the draft New Urban Agenda. In this regard, the New Urban Agenda should recognise that existing knowledge and urban solution platforms relevant to

it, including the World Cities Summit, can continue to facilitate systematic sharing and exchange of urban development solutions and best practices among countries and stakeholders.

Co-Chairs,

9 Singapore will continue to play our part towards the collective goal of sustainable urbanisation. We welcome all cities to participate in the World Cities Summit as a knowledge platform and in Singapore’s programmes on sustainable cities, which we hope to conduct more of in future. We have implemented a new Sustainable Development Programme to support fellow developing countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and hope to partner with UN-Habitat to provide technical assistance programmes pertaining to sustainable cities.

10 I thank you for your attention.

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Singapore’s Liveability Framework

