

**Third Preparatory Committee for the UN HABITAT III Conference
Surabaya, 25 – 27 July 2016**

Statement by Ambassador Michal Slivovič on behalf of the Slovak Republic

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Under Secretary General, Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I align my statement with the statement delivered by the EU and I have the pleasure to add some remarks in our national capacity.
- We thank Indonesia and the City of Surabaya for convening this Preparatory Committee which, as we believe, will significantly contribute to finalizing of the **New Urban Agenda**.
- We also express gratitude to the co-chairs, Bureau members, the Secretariat and co-facilitators for the great effort made so far in the preparation of the outcome document.
- We would like to stress importance of regional cooperation and exchange of experience for implementation, follow up and review of the New Urban Agenda. Regional similarities of challenges can be best addressed by formulating action oriented, tailor made, regionally appropriate solutions.
- There are two good examples of such an approach. The first one is the **Urban Agenda for the EU** adopted earlier this year by all the EU member states. We agreed to create a new participative working method to tackle the most urgent challenges of European cities, with the participation of all the stakeholders in urban development. Our European Urban Agenda should become also the main instrument for implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the future.
- Another valuable outcome of the regional cooperation is adoption of the **Geneva UN Charter on sustainable housing** by the UN Economic Commission for Europe last year. In the Charter all 56 countries of the region after four years of detailed discussions were able to formulate and agree on common and shared principles for efficient housing policies.
- This example also illustrates the potential of the UN Regional Commissions – the only intergovernmental organizations of the UN system on the regional level. They are ideally placed to contribute to tailor made interpretations of the New Urban Agenda to fit regional specificities.
- We believe that these experiences in regional co-operation can be useful and inspiring for the successful translation into practice of the New Urban Agenda.