



Municipal workers
Services municipaux
Servicios municipales



WORKERS AND TRADE UNIONS PARTNER CONSTITUENT GROUP STATEMENT PrepCom3, 25 July 2016, Jakarta Indonesia

Rosa Pavanelli, General Secretary of Public Services International,
Workers and Trade Unions Group Vice-Chair, GAP

Distinguished Excellencies,

As Vice-Chair of the Trade Unions and Workers Group in the General Assembly of Parties, we represent over 300 million workers in over 160 countries, who are the majority of city dwellers and build, manage, operate and bring cities to life on a daily basis.

We welcome the Habitat III process and the release of the revised Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda of 18 July.

We appreciate the references to *'decent work and full and productive employment for all'* in the text, and we ask that this language is kept and enhanced; and recommend that all references to *'employment'* and *'jobs'* are consistently qualified as *'decent'*.

We also demand the inclusion of the *'ILO Decent Work Agenda'* among the UN reference Frameworks of the New Urban Agenda (under par. 6).

We appreciate the reference to *'universal access to adequate, inclusive, and quality public services'* (par. 48) that must absolutely be kept in. Essential public services have a major impact in reducing urban inequality and are inextricably linked to the respect of human rights: they must respond to public interest, not to corporate profitability criteria. This is why the New Urban Agenda should refer to *'essential public services'* rather than "essential" or 'basic' services.

However, ***we note with extreme concern that the critical language on the inclusion of labour standard clauses in public procurement (par. 62 first Zero Draft) has disappeared, as is the case of taxation-related language to empower local government fiscal autonomy and progressive fiscal systems par. (par 131, 133 and 152 first Zero Draft). Their full reintegration is a crucial demand of our constituency, and the pre-condition for the operationalization of decent work, and of local government capacity to finance public services to support sustainable development.***

We are disconcerted that *'workers'* and *'trade unions'* appear only once in this text, while stronger emphasis is put on business. *'Collective bargaining'* and *'labour market policies'* – eminent levers of socio-economic inclusion and sustainable development – continue to be absent in this document. This undermines the legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness of the New Urban Agenda.

Workers make business happen, they elect their representatives in democratic institutions and make cities work. Without workers those will not exist. The text must consistently include workers and trade unions among the key city stakeholders, and encourage the respect of fundamental trade union and labour rights including collective bargaining between trade unions, business and local government.

The New Urban Agenda implementation needs city workers and cannot succeed unless it addresses their challenges, needs and aspirations.

I thank you.