



**Statement by the UN Global Compact - Cities Programme to the Plenary
of the UN HABITAT III Conference, Quito, 17 – 20 October 2016**

Delivered by Professor Ralph Horne, Director of the UN Global Compact Cities Programme and Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor, Research & Innovation, College of Design and Social Context, RMIT University, Australia

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The UN Global Compact - Cities Programme would like to commend UN Habitat and the member states for their success in negotiating The New Urban Agenda. Also, the work by civil society through the General Assembly of Partners and the World Urban Campaign, and the many cities and city networks.

The New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals together provide a new vision for the international community.

We applaud the member states for their adoption of the notion of the right to the city and we also appreciate the emphasis on anti-corruption measures in articles 138 and 151.

Oxfam reported recently that the richest 62 people in the world now have as much wealth as half the world's population combined. Tackling Inequality is central to our urban agenda and is key to successful cities. Cities are people. A city can only be smart or resilient if it first provides equality, opportunity and dignity to all.

Progress depends on partnerships. We will all need to deepen and strengthen our engagement if we are to be successful in implementing our agreed Agenda.

The UN Global Compact is the UN's premier network of many thousands of businesses worldwide who have committed to 10 principles on human rights, fair and decent work, environmental sustainability and anti-corruption – the sustainable development agenda. As part of this initiative, the UN Global Compact - Cities Programme is a network of over 150 cities who have pledged through their Mayors to progress these 10 principles.

Based on a platform of cross-sectoral collaboration we are deeply committed to advancing partnered approach to sustainable urban development. Since 2003 we have supported cities, business, academia and civil society to partner in the delivery of



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positive actions on the ground. Results prove it is the only way to overcome complex urban challenges.

The UN Global Compact - Cities Programme international secretariat is hosted by RMIT University, in Melbourne, Australia. Research is critical to implementing the New Urban Agenda, partnering in evaluation, action research, urban skills and training.

We are proud to have played our part in the New Urban Agenda process, including a series of events on Ethical Cities partnering with the World Urban Campaign, World Vision, RMIT University, UN-Habitat Resilience Centre, and in side-events at PrepCom 3 and here in Quito where we showcase our city diagnostic tool for cities to assess progress and prioritize actions to deliver on both the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

Today we launch the Ethical Cities online course developed with RMIT University. It commences on 14 November 2016 on the FutureLearn platform.

We encourage cities and regions to join with us and our global and local partners and commit to the UN Global Compact principles and to delivering the new urban agenda in creation of a better world.

Your excellencies, fellow Habitat III participants, the UN Global Compact - Cities Programme is at your service and we look forward to working with you to implement the New Urban Agenda.

Thankyou