



UN Major Group for **Children and Youth** childrenyouth.org

UN Major Group for Children and Youth
Intervention at the Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meeting for Habitat III
Effective Implementation
Metropolitan and Intermediate Cities

28th April 2016

Thank you for giving us the floor.

The UN Major Group for Children and Youth, on behalf of the Children and Youth Partner Constituent Group of the General Assembly of Partners, would like to share some views and concerns about the discourse and deliverables.

The issue here is the limitation of local and subnational governments to respond to phenomena associated with rapidly growing unplanned cities and decreased populations in peri-urban and rural areas.

Metropolitan cooperation should consolidate governance and implementation architectures horizontally and vertically as to operationalise the concept of integrated territorial development, by taking into account the functional territory, local biocapacity, and its environmental thresholds.

As echoed by many Member States today and throughout the week, integrated territorial development reinforces the complementary functions and flows between rural and urban territories and contributes to the urban-rural synergies that can in the operationalization of sustainable development for all people, whether urban dwellers or not.

In this regard, we want to highlight the following ideas.

First of all, the New Urban Agenda should ensure access for local authorities to international public finance and multilateral development banks, based on a risk assessment process which fully integrates social and environmental risks.

UNEP has helped concretize these ideas through the “E-RISC” initiative, which stands for Ecological Risk Integration to Sovereign Credit. This will create a planet-sensitive financial enabling environment for cities and metropolitan areas.

Secondly, to enable cities and metropolitan areas to protect their hinterlands while activating public finance, the New Urban Agenda should operationalize the paradigm shift called for in

the 2030 Agenda by establishing municipal tax regimes on negative social and environmental externalities caused by the extraction of resources.

Ecological tax reform can shift the tax base to extraction and pollution and away from labour and value addition activities.

Lastly, once again, we would like to emphasise that, a focus on cities alone cannot tackle the issues existing in the urban-rural continuum and deliver a 'people centered and planet sensitive' urban agenda, and in this specific context prevent massive rural to urban migration, environmental degradation, and so on.

Thank you