



UN Major Group for **Children and Youth** the space for children and youth in the United Nations

UN Major Group for Children and Youth
Intervention at the Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meeting for Habitat III
Effective Implementation
Urban Governance, Capacity and Institutional Development
28th April 2016

Thank you facilitator 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.

Regarding the priorities over thematic policy development,

Urban governance has to be based on participatory, bottom-up, integrated, and evidence based approaches and practices.

These general approaches must be accepted as overarching reforms and a starting point for building specific policies.

These approaches should be extended to planning instruments, decision making tools and cross-sectorial solutions that are conceived from the perspective of **functional** territories within a people centered **and planet sensitive** framework.

Regarding universality, transferability, and context

Irrespective of any local condition, legislative framework, or governmental apathy, community participation, integrated territorial development, and evidence based approaches to policy in planning, implementation, follow-up and review are a basic universal requirement.

In terms of elaborating an evidence based framework: this should quantifiably account for ecological and social externalities of the specific context at hand in the form of ecological footprints, and assess policy impacts on human development and capabilities.

For a greater elaboration of an integrated approach, the overarching principle of conceiving urban policy should be seen through the lens of Integrated Territorial Development. This principle ensures the coherence between different policy frameworks by setting up an

integrated governing function and strong coordination and integration among multi-level governments and sectors.

Regarding barriers,

The primary barrier here seems to always be political will. In terms of enhancing participatory multi-level governance approaches, national governments are resistant to devolve power and resources to local and municipal governments, governments that are, as we all know, closest to the people they govern.

A barrier to an evidenced based approach is the political unacceptance of sound scientific concepts. For instance, “environmental thresholds and planetary boundaries” are specifically referenced in the terms of reference of the Secretary General’s Scientific Advisory Board, and academic journals, but is considered too controversial for this forum.

The primary barrier to integrated territorial development is the effective application of multi jurisdictional and ecosystem based policy generation and governance models. In addition, most of the theory and practice within the area of urban development is based on an artificial urban-rural dichotomy.

We would like to thank the EU, colombia and indonesia for their statement specially their reference to Integrated territorial development and participatory development.

Thank you