

STATEMENT BY WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL

Thank you Madame Co-Chair and Honourable Delegates.

I am Joyati Das, Senior Director for Urban Programmes representing World Vision International.

We are one of the **largest child-focused INGOs** with a reach of more than **4.3 million children** across **90 countries**. We know that millions of children and youth live and work in deprived conditions in urban areas because we are already present in the world's rapidly urbanising centres. World Vision has recognized this urbanization of poverty and increasing inequalities worldwide.

Children are the first casualties of urban poverty – often living on the streets, engaged in hazardous child labour, and trafficked to the city.

Based on this evidence, the organization has made a commitment to invest in building its capacity to address children's well-being in urban contexts. We are seeking partners to collaborate and scale up our global **Cities for Children** programmes. There is now an intentionality to move towards a more balanced portfolio, reflecting the trends of urbanization. World Vision has invested in creating a global technical urban group, represented by myself and my team members here at PrepCom II.

As a **World Urban Campaign lead partner**, we co-hosted with UN-Habitat, the first Children's Assembly alongside the Youth Assembly at World Urban Forum 7 in Medellin, Colombia. By leading the first Children's Assembly, World Vision ensured that children's voices were heard at a global platform. The aim was to change the perception of children's role in shaping cities, which has traditionally been non-existent, and to raise awareness of the importance of their **inclusion** and **contribution** in designing **safe, resilient, prosperous and healthy cities** for the 21st century.

World Vision is now a member of the **General Assembly of Partners** for Habitat III and is appointed interim chair of the Children and Youth Constituent Group. We will continue to provide children's voices and their genuine participation through this mechanism.

The New Urban Agenda will not succeed if children, who are the future, fail to be counted in formal global and local processes. **We need children to make us all accountable.**

In conclusion, Madame Co-Chair, the New Urban Agenda needs to be also driven by children and youth in the city because it will become their reality.

Thank you for this opportunity.