

**Statement of Local and Regional Governments
Delivered by Cllr. Richard Kemp, Liverpool**
On behalf of the **Global Taskforce**
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Excellencies, Co-Presidents

Allow us to start by thanking the Secretary General of the Conference for his kind words about the representation of local governments in the Habitat II conference and for recalling the long road we have made until today. Our most sincere thanks.

Local and Regional Government organizations, in their capacity as governmental stakeholders and gathered as part of the **Global Taskforce for Post-2015 and towards Habitat III**, are committed to undertaking their full responsibility and assuming their role as key partners in the definition and implementation of the Habitat Agenda, ensuring its linkages to the Post-2015 Development Agenda and its localization;

We hope in this way to contribute to managing urbanization so it is accompanied by better living conditions and sustainable development.

During the preparation and outcomes of the Habitat II Conference, local governments were recognized as a key partner of UN-Habitat in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

Habitat II was also an important step forward in recognizing the **relevance of the networks** of local authorities and contributing towards greater collaboration among them as the Secretary General of the Conference has recalled in his opening remarks.

Presently, the members of the Global Taskforce confirm their belief that **a new, broad partnership must be erected, based on a common understanding of our shared humanity, mutual respect and mutual benefit.** We would like to call for far-reaching agreements based on universal commitments.

The Habitat III outcomes need to be closely intertwined with the Post-2015 Agenda, as they will generate the basis for its localization and implementation on the ground. We will therefore need to pay special attention to the means of implementation of specific targets and indicators for cities and human settlements.

We emphasize the need to revise the implementation of decentralization processes around the world which have great impact in the state of access to basic services, the financing of sub-national authorities and infrastructures, and the development of territorial cohesion.

Furthermore Local and Regional Governments and their associations would like to emphasize the need for a **territorial approach** as being crucial to the New Urban Agenda. The **territorial focus should take into account the rural-urban continuum** as well as the important role of Metropolises, peripheral areas, intermediary cities and intermediary levels of governments.

Increased accountability and innovative formats of governance will be a fundamental change that should be factored into the outcome of Habitat III. The members of the Global Taskforce call for a Habitat III Agenda that is based on equality and accountability from the bottom up.

Acknowledging that Local and Regional Governments are not the only actors, it will be vital to ensure the full involvement of our constituency to foster the political will and innovation necessary to face common challenges and achieve the type of progress that leaves no one behind.

We would like however to ensure that we are committed to working with all the Habitat partners and call upon you to ensure that all of them taken into account in the deliberations.

We would like to end by confirming our commitment to organize the II Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities as a contribution of our constituency to the process.