

Habitat III, PrepCom 1, NY, 17.-18.09.2014

Opening Session

German Statement

- Honorable Co-chairs, Under Secretary General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen
- Germany fully adheres to the statement presented by the European Union. Allow me to add some considerations on behalf of the German Government:
- Urbanization and the achievement of sustainable urban development pose challenges and opportunities to all countries in the world. Therefore, the development of strategies and instruments to address the challenges and opportunities of urbanization need to be discussed and developed at the **global level** together with **all relevant stakeholders** to ensure outcomes that mobilize national governments, local governments and other relevant stakeholders alike. We need a global partnership
- Lessons from Habitat II need to be drawn and act upon:
 1. The **outcome** of the Conference should be a concise, concrete and focused political document, universal in nature. The formulation of clear goals, targets and indicators will help to trigger the mobilization and commitment of all relevant actors and will facilitate monitoring exercises of impacts and needed follow-up processes.
 2. **Implementation** must be fully integrated into the conceptional approach and thus be an integral part of the preparatory process in dedicated work streams. This includes mechanisms for cross sectoral, capacity development and nexus thinking.
 3. For the implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda an enabling and effective **institutional set-up** at the global and international level is of special importance. For the establishment of such an institutional framework a dedicated work stream needs to be part of the preparatory process.
- Being the first UN conference following the adoption of the Post-2015 Agenda, Habitat III needs to build on the vision, the narrative, framework and content provided by this process.
- **Local authorities** need to be able to participate actively and meaningfully in the process. They will be the main knowledge broker and the **main implementers** of the Habitat Agenda. It is the local level where improved action for sustainable development is best put into practice.
- Thus, a true global partnership has to be fostered: Multistakeholder platforms which provide high level of exchange and collaboration among governments, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, academia and civil society will lead to more innovation and ambition and will impulse the transformative process we need.
- In finalizing, I'd like to underline the importance the German Government attributes to the process of defining and implementing the New Urban Agenda. We are prepared to fully support it and to assume responsibility in the process.
- Thank you