

Statement

Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General

First session of the UN-Habitat Executive Board 2021

7 April 15.48 CEST approx

2 minutes

Dear Chair, dear ED,

dear Vice-Chairs, dear colleagues of UN-Habitat and from other constituencies,

Allow me to thank you for providing a space for our constituency of local and regional governments to provide its inputs.

We have followed closely this morning's discussions, and are grateful for all the updates provided. Most of the work carried out by UN-Habitat has direct impact on our members, cities and regions of our large constituency.

Allow us on behalf of our World Organisation to congratulate UN-Habitat and in particular the Executive Director and teams its teams for the work carried out in such trying times. The collaboration throughout the pandemic with local government associations around learning experiences

First, as constituency of local and regional governments, we see the Stakeholder Engagement Policy as an important tool to foster the involvement of local and regional governments among others into the institutional and programmatic activities of UN-Habitat.

We would be grateful to receive updates on the advancement of the ad hoc working group on the Draft Stakeholder Engagement Policy.

In this decade of acceleration and convinced that the SDGs can be the perfect framework for a new social contract what we describe as a Pact for the Future we would like to highlight the importance of linking local service provision with the SDGs achievement and the need to use the New Urban Agenda as a critical cornerstone of these goals, including the Paris Agreement.

The UN System Wide Urban Monitoring Framework is critical in our view and we look forward to active inputs from Member-States. We further want to emphasise the need to continue promoting the existing efforts on localization through Voluntary Local Reviews.

As we gear up towards the High-Level Meeting on the Review and Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, it would be important to make sure that our formal mechanism for follow-up and review, the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, is well included into the process leading to, and during, the High-Level Meeting. This to make sure UN-Habitat and local and regional governments can mutually maximise the opportunities of this critical milestone.

Second, we see critical the challenge to maintain UN-Habitat's normative work for Member-States. It is also our priority to call to Member-States and to UN-Habitat Governing Bodies to maintain financial support to the activities and programmes

developed at local level. In a context of unprecedented and universal challenges we, the local and regional governments around the world, are at the forefront of the efforts to overcome these proving times as allies of other spheres of government, of the scientific community, and as global actors with important transformational and convening power.

Allow me to end with a call, we all together need to ensure that the New Urban Agenda gets the attention it requires, as accelerator of the implementation of all SDGs, as accelerator of the localization of development agendas. Let us use Quito+5+1 to make this happen.

Thank you.