

## UN HABITAT EXECUTIVE BOARD FIRST SESSION - BRAZIL STATEMENT – AGENDA ITEM 8

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor. We'd like to thank the Secretariat for the enlightening presentation. The testimonials provided today demonstrate there is considerable interest in advancing with localization of the SDGs.

Brazil welcomes the effort to incentivize local governments to become aware of the SDGs and to improve their public policies by engaging with sustainable development in a broad sense. We also commend the initiative's proposal to improve mobilization of UN-Habitat's resources to provide technical assistance and guidance to local governments, city residents and other relevant stakeholders.

We also support efforts to better execute the New Urban Agenda and consider it to be an indispensable framework for implementation of the 2030 Agenda in cities and for channeling the potential benefits of urbanization to generate resilience, promote social inclusion and ending hunger and poverty.

That being said, we believe there are aspects of the current SDG Cities certification proposal that could present challenges. The first would be that the certification process as currently proposed could prove cumbersome. We would like to better understand the institutional resources that will be required at the Program level to adequately undertake such endeavor, including the necessary coordination between the different organizations and stakeholders at different levels.

The other aspect concerns the ability of the proposed implementation mechanisms to adequately evaluate the alignment of local governments' public policies with its respective national policies and local development priorities. It is not clear from our perspective how this complex assessment could effectively be carried out on a global scale. On the same note, we would like to understand how the inclusion of national certification mechanism, as currently proposed, would align with a certification process meant to be global.

In conclusion, although there are positive aspects to this proposal, we believe further deliberation on the mentioned aspects is needed.