

Second Session of the Preparatory Committee of Habitat III

Closing Statement

Dr. Joan Clos

Secretary-General of the Habitat III Conference

Nairobi, 16 April 2015

- Honourable Ministers and Heads of Government Delegations,
- Honourable María de los Ángeles Duarte, Minister of Housing and Urban Development of Ecuador and co-chair of the Preparatory Committee;
- Madame Maryse Gautier, co-chair of the Preparatory Committee;
- Distinguished Members of the Bureau of Preparatory Committee,
- Excellencies, Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives and Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
- All Mayors and their Delegations,
- Representatives of other Urban Stakeholders,
- Distinguished Delegates,
- Members of the Media,
- Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a pleasure for me to address you after these three intense days of debate and useful consultations that has taken us a **considerable step forward** into the preparatory process towards Habitat III.

I would like to thank in particular the co-chairs of the Preparatory Committee, **Honourable María de los Ángeles Duarte**, Minister of Housing and Urban Development of Ecuador and **Madame Maryse Gautier** of the Ministry of Sustainable Development of France, for their dedication and hard work.

I would also like to thank the remaining **members of the Bureau** of the Preparatory Committee for tireless efforts and contributions.

I wish to extend my warmest appreciation to **all the delegations**, led by Ministers, Vice Ministers, Ambassadors and other high level officials. I found the many statements delivered here to be very rich and useful, and I look forward to continuing the discussions and debates as we move forward.

Special thanks go to the **Mayors** who took time to come to participate and express their views on behalf Local Authorities worldwide.

Together with other stakeholder representatives, we had a total of around **850 participants** at this session of the PrepCom. This represents a very high level of participation and signals a strong interest from a wide range of partners in the discourse towards a New Urban Agenda.

I would like to welcome the **organizations** that have received the special accreditation at this PrepCom and look forward to their contributions towards the Conference.

During this PrepCom, participants took the first steps in the creation of a global partners deliberative platform for Habitat III, named the **General Assembly of Partners**. We look forward the contributions through this broad-based platform of partners towards Habitat III.

We also saw a very important contribution by Local Authorities, who through their international associations and networks met to share their vision and proposals towards an effective contribution to the process.

I look forward to the close involvement of all member states as we move forward in preparing for Habitat III. Through the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee and in other relevant discussions, I hope we can continue to promote a understanding of the preparatory process.

Through our various processes I look forward to working with all the delegations of member states in order to ensure a strong preparatory process that will bring the focused and transformative outcome of Habitat III that we have been asked to deliver.

Starting from tomorrow, we will be following closely the deliberations of the **twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat**, which will be debating important inputs for the New Urban Agenda.

We will also continue to follow closely the negotiations of the post-2015 development agenda, and the climate change process, in order to integrate the outcomes of their deliberations towards Habitat III.

The Secretariat continues to receive National Reports, some of which have been delivered to us at this PrepCom. I would like to again urge member states to prepare their reports and deliver them to the Habitat III Secretariat.

To this respect let me also remind you that a specific support to the preparation of National reports is available **for Least Developed Countries** keen to participate in this process and contribute to the substantive aspects of the conference.

At the regional level, the **Habitat III Secretariat** will continue to work closely with UN regional economic commissions and UN Habitat for the finalization of the Regional reports as a key element to inform the discussions ahead of the formulation of the new urban agenda.

The regional and thematic meetings already planned in the Habitat III roadmap will surely assist in gathering inputs and views at the regional level as well as the discussions on important topics.

The finalized Issue Papers will also be an interesting base of discussion for all stakeholders and government from June this year, after their finalization as the UN system contribution to the process.

The stock taking process at the policy level will gain strength in the next few months with the set-up of, and contribution from, the Policy units. I look forward to working closely with all member states as we prepare this important component of our work.

From now we have fifteen months before the third prepcom to be held in Indonesia in July next year. It will be very important to advance in the preparation as well as in building the momentum towards the Conference.

I am pleased to also inform you that I have had discussions with the Government of Ecuador, represented here by the Honourable Ministers, and with the Mayor of Quito, which have shown their full support in preparing for the Conference as a host country. I will soon make my first official visit to Quito and look forward to working very closely with them in the time ahead.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

I am encouraged by the outcome of this session, which I believe has served to strengthen the preparatory process and provided a very important contribution to ensure a successful outcome of the Conference. I thank you all for the efforts you have made here in Nairobi in this regard.

I am very grateful for the work of the Working Group, and let me extend my thanks to the Chair, Ms. Tania Roedinger-Vorwerk and her team.

I would also like to thank the team of the Habitat III Secretariat and the Department of Conference Services and the Office of Legal Affairs for their dedication and hard work. Finally, I would like to also thank all the volunteers and general staff who have made the meeting run smoothly.

I can not finish without appealing to you once again regarding the financial resources available for the Conference. I would like to stress that your continued support is critical in ensuring a strong preparatory process, and we welcome very much your voluntary contributions to the Habitat III Trust Fund.

Thank you very much for your contributions and support at this session of the Preparatory Committee. I hope you will take some time to experience Kenya while you are here. When you depart, I wish you safe journeys back to your countries. To those who are staying on for the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, I look forward to our continued interaction in the coming days.

Thank you very much for your attention.