

## **ISRAEL STATEMENT – Final Draft**

Madam Chairman, your excellencies, executive director of UN-habitat, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentleman

In the name of the Israeli government, I would like to express our gratitude to UN Habitat secretary for organizing this session and we wish for a successful 2<sup>nd</sup> preparatory committee meeting for the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. We are sure that this second session and Habitat 3 itself will highly contribute to rethink the new urban agenda.

Madam Chairman,

The holding of Habitat 3 in 2016 could not be more opportune. As everyone in this room knows, today, more than half of the global population lives in cities, and this number will keep increasing in the foreseeable future. Israel sees sustainable urbanization as a major transformative impact on economic growth, social empowerment, innovation and bridging gaps.

Madam Chairman,

Israel's urban policy is being constructed and led by the ministry of construction and housing together with key stakeholders from a large range of urban actors, including

government agencies,

local authorities,

civil society,

private sector,

academy and professional institution

and NGO's.

As part of Israel's preparation process towards Habitat 3, the first Israeli National Urban Forum will be held in the city of Acre this coming November.

Madam Chairman,

Israel is taking promising steps towards sustainable urban development with regard to the urban challenges we are currently facing.

we would like to highlight some key elements for a new urban agenda currently implemented in Israel:

- In the last year, Israel has updated the housing and urban development national outline plan, directing most of the new dwellings to the existing urban areas.

Further more, we are

- promoting citizen share in urban planning
- Improving economic feasibility of urban renewal.

- investing in rapid transportation systems
- and promoting legislation for public and private partnerships and many more.

Madam Chairman,

due to the rapid urbanization, it is not surprising that we are facing numerous challenges in urban development.

In addressing these challenges, we have to join our efforts and to engage all decision making levels, governmental and local, with multiple stake holders.

The new urban agenda should become a milestone in the history of sustainable urban development and provide a global vision and concrete steps in making the cities more liveable for all.

Finally, I would like to thank the UN-Habitat for organizing this preparatory committee and to thank the government and the people of Kenya for their hospitality.

Thank you all for your kind attention.