



Barcelona, 10th July 2014

Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group

H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau

Permanent Representative of Kenya

H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi

Permanent Representative of Hungary

Subject: Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments Comments to Revised Zero Draft in view of OWG13

Excellencies,

On behalf of the Presidency of United Cities and Local Governments and the members of the Global Taskforce of Local and regional governments for Post-2015, I would like to thank your continuous support to the dialogue with Major Groups and stakeholders and in particular to the local and regional authorities' constituency within the Post-2015 process.

We are glad to see that the latest version of the Draft Goals document includes a stand-alone Goal on cities and human settlements, acknowledging the transformative potential of urbanization.

We celebrate that the target on "full participation of women in all decision making levels" (5.5) has been maintained and that a target on "sound, enforceable and monitorable legislation and policies for the promotion of gender equality at all levels" has been included (5.c).

We believe these will greatly support the recognition of the role that sub-national governments will need to play in both the definition and implementation of a new agenda. However we regret the suppression of the target 16.5 included in the precedent version of the Zero Draft which proposed "*by 2020 build necessary capacities of sub-national and local governments for fostering peaceful and inclusive societies*". You may reconsider reintroducing this target as the achievement of the future SDGs will strongly depend on local implementation capacities.

We would like to comment the great work that has been done in the definition of the targets under the urban SDG, addressing access to public services (11.1), the need to reduce urban sprawl (11.3), and resilience issues (11.4; 11.b, 11.c) as well as an explicit reference to rural-urban links, including peri-urban, in the target (11.a) referring to development planning. All very important issues for local and subnational governments in their daily works at the service of their inhabitants, putting them at the core of the sustainability agenda.

We would also like to celebrate the inclusion of culture as an essential dimension of sustainable development in different parts of the text, but would propose to include it specifically in the urban Goal, where culture is a key tool of sustainability as a new target that could be read as follows: "By 2030 promote cultural heritage, diversity, creativity and the transmission of knowledge as a driver and enabler of sustainable development of all cities and territories".

In the same way, we regret the lack of reference to social cohesion when addressing the need for safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces, while the specific concept of social cohesion goes beyond.

We would also like to propose an amendment to the first target, to avoid promoting eviction policies; you may reconsider in target 11.1. the use of the word "eliminate" slums or, as an alternative, mention the participation of slum dwellers in the implementation of slum policies. We would propose as an alternative: "*By 2030, ensure universal access to adequate and affordable housing and basic services for all, eliminate slums and upgrade informal settlements by working with inhabitants*"

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You might wish to consider merging 11.2 (on transport) and 11.5 (on public spaces) as follows: *"Provide universal access to safe public spaces and affordable, accessible and sustainable transport for all."*

We would further suggest to consider merging 11.4 (on natural disasters) with 11.3 (integrated and sustainable human settlement planning), and make 11.4 an indicator under 11.3, since disaster risk reduction is a core part of effective urban and settlement planning. You may consider including a reference to strengthening the participation of local stakeholders in the planning process to enhance local ownership. The target would then read as follows: *"enhance capacities for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management for all, improving urban resilience and reducing urban sprawl"*. On the target 11.c., we would suggest to introduce the following amendment: *"11.c. support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, for sustainable buildings and resilient basic infrastructures, particularly for the poor, utilizing local content and materials"*

We finally feel the document is missing strong targets on good governance, including at local level, which would ensure inclusion and accountability. We believe that the notion of subsidiarity will be key to implement in an efficient manner the future sustainable development agenda and would propose that it is included in the proposed Goal 16 *"effective, accountable and capable institutions"*, under target 4 as follows *"By 2030 increase inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, local, national, and regional in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity [...]"*

We are hopeful that the efforts made by the Global Taskforce and the different networks of local and regional authorities to provide ideas on how to build the new agenda, will be taken onboard. And we hope to actively contribute to the next phase of the work, providing inputs to ensure the "localisation of SDGs targets" through the definition of the future indicators and means of implementation.

On behalf of the constituency of Local and Regional Governments we would like to reiterate our gratitude for the continued efforts to include different actors in the work of the OWG and present to you the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,



Josep Roig
Secretary General of UCLG

