

Global Taskforce reaction to the revised Habitat III zero draft released on 18 July 2016

General Comments

Local and regional governments welcome the revised draft and the new structure and clear calls to action in the text. We further welcome the increasing recognition of the roles that local and subnational governments need to play in the different aspects of the agenda. The reference to decentralization based on the principle of subsidiarity is a great improvement in the text.

We are pleased to see that the reference to the Right to the City has been maintained but we still feel the document falls short in promoting renewed urban governance to face the challenges of the coming decades and would make cities a caring and just environment for all.

There is further a missed opportunity to address the paradigm shift needed around multilevel governance and the governance of metropolitan areas.

The recognition of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments as interlocutor for the follow up and review is a great step forward. However the New Urban Agenda as it stands misses a historical opportunity to include local and sub-national governments as full actors of development policy by not recognising them their rightful place at the decision making table internationally.

Detailed Comments

We welcome the commitment "to strengthen the coordination role of local governments in the provision of social and basic services, including generating investments in communities that are affected by recurrent and protracted humanitarian crises." in paragraph 24.

Similarly, we appreciate the commitments to "support sub-national and local governments, as appropriate, in fulfilling their key role in strengthening the interface among all stakeholders" and "to support sub-national and local governments, as appropriate, to develop renewable and affordable energy and to promote energy efficiency" in paragraphs 36 and 66 respectively.

EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

In the section on **effective implementation**, we welcome paragraph 72's recognition that "the realization of the transformative commitments set out in the New Urban Agenda will require national, sub-national, and local governments to ensure an enabling policy framework, integrated by participatory planning and management of urban and territorial spatial development, and effective means of implementation at the national, sub-national, and local levels, complemented and supported by international cooperation as well as capacity development efforts, including the sharing of best practices, policies, and programs among governments at all levels."

BUILDING THE URBAN GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE : ESTABLISHING A SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORK

We welcome the continued inclusion of the reference to the International Guidelines on Decentralization and Access to Basic Services for all, adopted by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in 2007, in paragraph 74.

It is very positive that all of the paragraphs of this section (75-80) call for improved support and capacity building for local and subnational governments.

We celebrate the introduction of a reference to decentralization based on the principle of subsidiarity and the respect of local governments in paragraph 78, in order to "better enable local governments to effectively implement national urban policies, as appropriate and to empower them as policy and decision makers".

We also celebrate the commitment, in paragraph 79, to "strengthen the capacity of sub-national and local governments to implement effective local and metropolitan multilevel governance, beyond administrative borders and based on functional territories, ensuring the involvement of sub-national and local governments in decision making, providing them with necessary authority and resources to manage critical urban and metropolitan concerns."

We share the belief that local governments should determine their own administrative and management structures in order to adapt to local needs and preserve the public interest, as laid out in paragraph 80.

PLANNING AND MANAGING URBAN SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT

On **planning and managing urban spatial development**, we welcome the commitment to support local governments in developing and using basic land inventory information, such as a cadaster, valuation maps, as well as land and housing price records to generate the high-quality, timely, and reliable disaggregated data, as expressed in paragraph 91. We also welcome the commitment to improve the capacities, coordination and financing of local governments in relation to mobility and transport in paragraphs 102-104.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

On the **means of implementation** we celebrate the commitment, in paragraph 121, to "support appropriate policies and capacities that enable sub-national and local governments to register and expand their potential revenue base, especially with regard to local taxes".

We appreciate that the reference to strengthening the capacities of local governments and their associations has been maintained in paragraph 135 and 136.

C. FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW

In terms of the **follow-up and review** of the New Urban Agenda, we support the call for reporting to "incorporate, to the extent possible, the inputs of national, sub-national, and local governments" in paragraph 149. We also welcome the acknowledgement, in the same paragraph, that reporting should "respond to local and national circumstances, capacities, needs, and priorities."

We appreciate paragraph 150's acknowledgement of the importance of local governments, as key and active partners in the follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda, as well as the call for local governments' capacities to be "strengthened in order to enhance their contribution, including by convening them through their associations and appropriate platforms such as the United Nations Advisory Committee on Local Authorities (UNACLA)."

We also particularly celebrate the recognition of the importance of continuing to engage in the follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda with sub-national and local governments associations represented at the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments in paragraph 154.