

Statement by ISOCARP
Plenary of the 26th Session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat
12 May 2017, Nairobi

Honourable President

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this Plenary on behalf of the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) and the General Assembly of Partners (GAP).

First of all, we congratulate Member States on the adoption of the New Urban Agenda in Quito in October 2016. In this context, we also recognize and laud the role of the Habitat 3 Secretariat, led by the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Dr. Joan Clos. We must ensure that the legacy of Habitat III – especially vis-à-vis inclusivity and innovation – is consolidated, expanded and deepened, directed and shaped, not left to chance, in the coming months and years. In this regard, we also appreciate deeply the positive and forward-looking approach of the members of this Governing Council in the past week, which is also reflected in the resolutions you have just adopted.

Excellencies: UN-Habitat is clearly identified as a focal point for coordinating the implementation, follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda. While not prejudging the outcomes of the independent assessment of UN-Habitat commissioned by the Secretary-General, we urge Member States to support UN-Habitat in its mandated role. UN-Habitat has been a thought leader in the area of sustainable and inclusive urbanization for several decades. Both its normative and operational roles must be strengthened if our shared vision of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements is to be realized.

At the same time, the urgency and scale of the challenge demand the need for strengthening traditional alliances and building new partnerships. This is where ISOCARP, with its members spread across 80+ countries, can help. This is where GAP, with over 1200 members linked to 58000 networks, organized into 16 Partner Constituent Groups, can play an important role.

ISOCARP, on its part, has already started working towards the realisation of the commitments related to urban and territorial planning in the New Urban Agenda. We plan to roll out the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning to cities and countries, in order to help reform and transform their planning systems. The ISOCARP Institute has initiated capacity-building programmes on the New Urban Agenda and the Guidelines. As an active member of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, ISOCARP is working with UN-Habitat, World Vision, other humanitarian and development agencies, as well as UCLG, to address the risks and reality of humanitarian crises in cities, in line with the principles of the Urban Crisis Charter.

The General Assembly of Partners, too, is forging ahead with a clear strategic framework and action plan to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. In this, we hope to partner with UN-Habitat's various substantive units, its Regional Offices and national focal points, the UN's Regional Commissions, and country offices

of various UN agencies and international NGOs. We are already working and will continue to work with national and sub-national governments and local authorities, across the world.

Excellencies: The world is not the same place as it was twenty years ago. New challenges have emerged, but so have new ideas, new solutions, new stakeholder constituencies, new partnerships. Let us be bold and not shy away from embracing them, for a brighter, more sustainable urban future.

Delivered by Dr. Shipra Narang Suri, Vice President ISOCARP and GAP

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