

**Statement by UN-Habitat on the occasion of APFSD
Session 5
Bangkok, 2-4 April 2016**

Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Participants,

As MS described urbanisation as mega trend, compared to other region, this regional has most harnessed urbanisation as a tool for economic development; cities have indeed become the engine of growth. In the era of ASEAN economic integration, unprecedented rate of movements of people, goods and services, and urban economy shifting from factories to knowledge and service base and centre of innovations, and the region soon becoming predominantly urban, there is no doubt cities play critical roles in achieving 2030 Agenda. However these tools and engines have become unsustainable and urbanisation is in crisis.

We therefore welcome the Forum's dedicated session on cities and local authorities. This is the reflection of ESCAP and its member states placing an importance on role of cities and local governments play and localisation as a means of implementation in delivering the 2030 Agenda.

We are encouraged to note that national governments are now establishing national framework for the implementation of SDGs. Enabling national framework for local authorities and building their capacities are urgently called for, as it will surely boost the implementation of all the goals through 'localisation'.

Whilst we could be lost in translation amongst all the global agreements, be DRR Sendai DRR, Climate Paris, upcoming Quito new urban agenda, 17 SDGs, integration can happen at local level as people and communities do not see things sectionally.

A good news is we are not starting from scratch and we are not alone. The region is blessed with dynamic and committed mayors as you see in the panel today, who have turned around their city. Surabaya is another example under woman leadership. From youth groups to slum dwellers and business communities they are all willing to partner with us particularly for local actions. Sustainable partnership is critical in achieving sustainable urbanisation.

We can build on existing institutions and replicate and upscale good urban policies and best urban practices. We already have experiences of localising MDGs in the Philippine, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Indonesia. We have International Guidelines on decentralisation and basic services for all, International Guidelines on territorial and urban planning. UNH, jointly with UNDP, UCLG are working to develop a Toolkit for facilitation of the implementation of SDGs at the local level. Some mayors have even created a song for SDGs, for them to remember.

We appreciate the tremendous efforts and leadership by the Government of Indonesia, leading up to the Prepcom 3 in Surabaya in July and Habitat III in Quito in October, where member states adopt the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat remain committed to support member states to translate the urban elements of 2030 Agenda into a nationally owned vision that is ultimately operationalised at local level. We therefore call for NUA, that will be a forward-looking, action oriented outcome document to support sustainable development in line with the GA resolution 70/473.

Distinguished Delegates,

The new baby born on our planet will be a baby girl in a slum in between sky scrapers in Asia. With SDGs delivered, she will have a decent life and enjoy the full potential and prosperity cities offer. The NUA with commitments of mayors will realise well managed cities and cities without slums. With no actions, the girl will be left behind and slums continue to grow. Global sustainability will indeed be won or lost in cities.