

**Statement by ISOCARP/ PCG professionals/ GAP in discussion following the
Panel on Regional Presentations
Monday 25 April 3 pm – 6 pm**

Mr. Secretary General

This is a statement on behalf of ISOCARP, the wider community of urban professionals and members of the General Assembly of Partners (GAP), many of whom have played key roles in the Advisory Boards of the regional meetings held in Jakarta, Abuja, Prague as well as Toluca. On behalf of GAP we would like to thank the co-chairs and the Bureau of H3, as well as the host governments of the regional meetings, for making this process of crafting the NUA open, engaging and inclusive of a range of views.

We recognize that each region and indeed, each country, has its own peculiar context and specific urban challenges. At the same time, we also believe that certain enabling factors are critical to realizing a sustainable urban future, whether in terms of legal and policy frameworks, institutional capacities, fiscal interventions, or technology. In the regional meeting for Asia, the need for reform of planning systems and institutions was highlighted as one of the key imperatives to achieve sustainable urbanization. In Africa and Latin America, the importance of incorporating the concerns of the informal sector workers, who can make up upto 70 percent of the economy of many cities, was emphasized. Ensuring equitable and widespread access to opportunities that cities have to offer, through infrastructure, mobility, basic services & productive livelihoods, was also reiterated. In Prague, the humanitarian crisis triggered by en masse migration to cities, and the incapacity of many local authorities to cope, was an important point raised by those who dared to confront the “elephant in the room.” The use of technology and open access to data are concerns that cut across regions. All these issues need careful articulation in the New Urban Agenda.

Also, we believe that an intergovernmental agreement must be reached in Quito on the mechanism of regional and global follow up to the H3 conference. The very successful APUF6 in Jakarta demonstrated how effective regional urban consultations can be. Regular Regional forums, feeding into the regional HLPP, just as regular global/world urban forums might feed into the global HLPP, might be one way to monitor the implementation of the NUA at the regional level.

On behalf of GAP, which includes 15 partner constituent groups, over a thousand members, facilitating many millions of people, we would like to urge member states to go beyond business as usual and commit themselves, as it was also said in the morning, to real transformative actions rather than mere tweaking of the status quo; action which, when undertaken in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, will substantially and positively change the future pattern of urbanization.

Delivered by
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