



Summary Notes
Habitat III
Informal Hearings with Stakeholders
6-7 June 2016, New York

The following are the key points which emerged from the two days of informal hearings with stakeholders on the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda. The fifteen Partner Constituent Groups of the General Assembly of Partners, along with representatives from other civil society platforms, exchanged views freely with member states during the two days. Complete statements and more detailed recommendations on the different paragraphs of the Zero Draft, as made by stakeholders during various panel discussions, have been uploaded on the papersmart portal.

1. The Zero Draft has been universally lauded by stakeholders as an excellent start, an inspiring document containing all key ideas. The vision on “leaving no one behind” is particularly inspiring and one that resonates with all stakeholder groups.
2. Having said that, stakeholders believe that our aspirations could be higher, our vision bolder, and our transformative commitments stronger. These also need to be clearer and simpler in order to appeal to the hearts and minds of the people whose lives will ultimately be touched by the New Urban Agenda.
3. The New Urban Agenda needs to be closely aligned with other development agendas, including the Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and others, but it must have its own integrity.
4. The New Urban Agenda must aim to break down silos, and encourage cross-jurisdictional and cross-sectoral initiatives and collaboration.
5. The New Urban Agenda could form the basis of a new social contract between national governments, local authorities and stakeholders. However, for this, cities and stakeholders need to be truly empowered. Stakeholder groups such as women, grassroots, children and youth, and people with disabilities, must be seen as partners and drivers and not simply beneficiaries of development. This is a central element of the paradigm shift that the New Urban Agenda hopes to achieve.
6. There must be a focus on institutions and (legal/policy) frameworks in the new urban agenda. Technology and other tools cannot fix broken institutions or overhaul ineffective frameworks.
7. There must be measurable outcomes tied to financing, and innovative financing mechanisms.

8. The informal economy comprising of millions of small private investors makes up large chunks of the urban economy in many parts of the world. The New Urban Agenda must facilitate a shift from the informal to the formal economy, accompanied by protection of informal sector workers, and provisions for decent work for all.
9. The central focus on housing, planning and land issues in the New Urban Agenda is welcome and must be maintained and enhanced. The issue of precariousness, in addition to informality (of housing/ settlements) should be considered as this is a universal concern that stretches across the global north and south.
10. The New Urban Agenda and its implementation must be evidence-based and must establish the importance of using data from a variety of sources, including bottom-up community-generated disaggregated data, professional and research knowledge. Qualitative and quantitative data must be combined and must feed into policy-making. Data and knowledge should be open and shared.
11. The science-policy interface must be strengthened at all levels, global, regional, national and local. An independent multi-disciplinary panel must be established at the global level to advance the production of knowledge on cities and human settlements.
12. A robust follow-up and review mechanism must be established within the New Urban Agenda. Such a mechanism should include, first of all, periodic national reports developed collectively by the UN, national governments and stakeholders. In addition, global platforms such as the World Urban Forum must be strengthened further and made an integral part of the follow-up and review mechanism.
13. Finally, partnerships with stakeholders must be institutionalized within the New Urban Agenda. These partnerships can and must build on existing platforms such as the General Assembly of Partners and the Global Task Force. The Zero Draft neither spells out the nature of multi-stakeholder partnerships, nor how these would be encouraged and facilitated. It also needs to include specific proposals on how stakeholders would be involved in the planning and management of cities, monitoring of urban initiatives and progress, as well as follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda as a whole. Partnerships are not a gift of national governments to local authorities and stakeholders; they are an essential element in order to achieve a sustainable and inclusive urban future.