



**THE JAKARTA DECLARATION  
FOR HABITAT III  
“SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION TO  
ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT”**

JAKARTA  
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United Nations

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## HABITAT III ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING

### The Jakarta Declaration for Habitat III “Sustainable urbanization to accelerate development”

We, the Asia-Pacific National Government delegations as well as a wide range of stakeholders including local and regional authorities, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, professionals and academia, private sector, civil society, women and children & youth; participating in the Habitat III Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting in Jakarta on 21-22 October 2015 and generously hosted by the Government of Indonesia;

We met to discuss challenges and opportunities of urbanization to further sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, ahead of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

We express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for the excellent organization of the Conference and our gratitude to the people of Indonesia for the warm hospitality accorded to all participants;

We welcome the decision of the 70th General Assembly to approve the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 11: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”;

We are hopeful that a new agreement on climate change will be reached at the next United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties 21 (UNFCCC COP21), to be held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015;

We welcome the APUF-6 Jakarta “Call for Action”, resulting from the Sixth Asia Pacific Urban Forum and the Urban Youth Assembly, both held back to back with the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting for Habitat III in Jakarta, October 2015;

Bearing in mind the large diversity of the Asia-Pacific region which hosts, from most to least developed countries, highly and less urbanized states, landlocked countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as countries in conflict and fragile states;

Recognizing that in the twenty years since Habitat II urbanization in the region has been extensive, resulting in 2.1 billion people living in cities and towns and the emergence of cities as drivers of economic growth as well as a large and growing middle class. It is also a region with extreme inequalities, inadequate affordable housing and basic service provision, as well as uncertainty and vulnerabilities related to global economic trends, climate change and natural disasters;

Mindful of the fact that the Asia-Pacific region has a unique, diverse and rich history of urbanization processes, city building and community organisation, we agree to seek effective approaches, strategies and tools, that are not only able to respond the specific challenges of the region, but contributing to addressing larger global issues as well;

Cognizant of the key role of well managed and sustainable urbanization as a source of development and well-being of societies:

We strongly recommend that a comprehensive, long-term and focused political commitment and leadership is promoted at the global, regional, national and local levels, for the achievement of the SDG 11 and other Sustainable Development Goals, by operationalizing a new urban agenda for inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements;

We advocate for a radical shift in the way cities are planned, developed and managed, with people seen as change agents rather than beneficiaries. This requires an integrated approach to urbanization that includes the effective deployment of appropriate and progressive urban legislation and policy frameworks, sound and innovative financing mechanisms, appropriate land governance, quality urban planning and design, and a strong civil society that is more effectively engaged in decision-making as well as implementation and monitoring of urban development;



We further recommend the formulation of integrated, multi-sectoral and participatory national urban policies and strategies to provide a national framework to guide urban development in the medium and long term;

We recommend enabling the creation of stronger linkages between urban and rural areas to achieve more balanced economic and social development;

We encourage the development of systemic solutions to maximizing and promoting sustainable use of natural resources and reducing the emissions while continuing to meet human needs;

We reiterate the need to strongly incorporate sustainable urbanization into the strategies to mitigate and adapt to the effect of climate change;

We urge formulation of pro-poor and informal sector focused strategies to manage urban risks and improve resilience, recognizing that disasters and climate change disproportionately affect the poor and marginalised;

We encourage the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessments into land-use policy development and implementation in urban and rural areas;

We call on national governments and local authorities to develop and implement well-focused strategies and programmes to alleviate urban poverty and reduce inequalities, among others, through provision of adequate land , affordable housing and basic services including for informal settlements;

We recommend the design of appropriate policies and people centered investments taking into consideration the needs of all stakeholders especially children, youth, women, the ageing, self-employed, informal sector workers, migrants, minorities and other vulnerable groups, so that they equally engage, collaborate, lead and benefit from future urban development;

We emphasize the importance of the intergovernmental cooperation on incoming migration and displacement to urban areas;

We call upon all spheres of government to work collaboratively with other stakeholders to manage the increasing diversity and demographic complexity of our cities, in order to reduce conflict and strengthen social cohesion;

We encourage actions to strengthen the city's social mix and diversity, furthering cultural interactions including through the promotion of affordable housing and urban renewal within cities;

We further encourage the promotion of historical heritage and cultural identity to foster urban economy and livability;

We recommend encouraging well planned, productive and integrated city growth, to ensure sustainable mobility, safe and accessible public spaces including green spaces, urban regeneration and infill in order to contain urban sprawl, promoting access to affordable, reliable and sustainable modern energy services and energy efficiency;

We further recommend planning principles for cities and human settlements to develop appropriate compactness and mixed economic use in the built area, to reduce mobility needs and service delivery costs per capita, as well as harness density and economies of agglomeration;

We advocate for taking the opportunities and advantages of advanced urban technology, including communication and information technologies (ICTs), to ensure equitable information access towards building transparent, democratic, “smart” and efficient cities;

We encourage deriving new and effective multi-level and collaborative governance systems to better manage the complex challenges of interconnected urban spaces, to not be constrained by the limits of administrative and political boundaries;

We recommend filling the human, financial and organisational resource gap faced by municipal authorities in the quest to manage rapid urbanization, including through specific mechanisms to allocate direct resources to the Municipal level;



We urge to promote implementation of urban interventions based on sound financial plans using innovative funding sources and mechanisms including the private sector and philanthropies;

We commit to promote partnerships between national and local authorities, traditional leaders and other urban stakeholders, focusing on knowledge exchange, solutions' formulation, policy dialogue and capacity development;

We advocate that urban development strategies should include clear, transparent, measurable, indicators that should be used to monitor and evaluate progress and achievement;

We call for enhanced south-south collaboration and continued effective support of all UN agencies and programmes as well as other international organizations, to countries in the development and implementation of their urban policies and strategies to create and manage a coherent and interconnected systems of cities, including metropolis, small and medium cities, that are sustainably integrated and synergic with their rural territories;

We finally commit to promote the principles and the recommendations included in this Jakarta Declaration for Habitat III, ensuring that this contributes to the upcoming Third Preparatory Committee meeting to be held in Surabaya in July 2016 as well as to the formulation of the New Urban Agenda at the next United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to be held in Quito (Ecuador) in October 2016.

Jakarta (Republic of Indonesia), 22 October 2015