



## PCG PROFESSIONALS STATEMENT (3 min)

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Co-- -Chair of PCG Professionals of the General Assembly of Partners

Dear Sir Madam, your excellences' and distinguished members of member states, good afternoon to you all. My name is Architect Ishtiaque Zahir, from Bangladesh, representing UIA, Union of International Architects, based in Paris. I stand here as PCG Professional Co- Chair of the General Assembly of Partners, together with my colleague Didier Vancutsem, from Belgium. Our group has today more than 110 registered members and the network is reaching out 1.78 million professionals.

The professionals of the built environment have an important role to play in ensuring the process of making better cities in the future, by plan making, at all levels, bringing all the actors together and ensuring that citizens know how to act responsibly and take on a stewardship role within cities and their own neighbourhoods in response to the citizen rights advocated in the New Urban Agenda.

### How can Professionals contribute to the implementation of the NUA? Our recommendations – 3 key messages:

1. Cities are the result of interactions between human beings and their interrelations – a new urban paradigm has to identify and introduce **new forms of partnerships**, where for example peoples' & stakeholders' voices are at the middle. We suggest a new terminology "Peoples in Partnership" (reference to Par. 147 NUA).
2. We must redefine our **relationships with informal settlements and slums**. Urban informality should be recognized as a result of lack of affordable housing, dysfunctional land markets and urban policies, taking into account that those areas are also engines for economic growth, prosperity, and job creation. Urban Planners, Architects, Designers as experts can clearly help to plan for informal settlements. **Cities should use their expertise and share** the accumulated knowledge since decades (reference to Par. 113 NUA).
3. And as a third point, we are convinced that there is a tremendous **need of capacity building and knowledge transfer at all levels**. Participatory, bottom--up data collection should be an integral part of a monitoring and sharing process system. This can be inspired by the Partners Dashboard for Sustainable Urbanisation, one of the core elements proposed by the General Assembly of Partners in its document "Partnerships for the New Urban Agenda", together with the proposed **Innovation Laboratory - Partners' Lab for Urban Sustainability**, by mapping and making available urban solutions and initiatives managed by researchers or global institutions (reference to Par. 149 NUA).

Thank you very much for your attention.

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