



THE GROUP OF 77

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Statement by H.E. Mr. Mahmoud A. Talaat

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Republic of Kenya, and Permanent Representative to UNEP, UN-HABITAT, and UNON.

Chairman of the Group of 77 and China Nairobi Chapter.

The 57th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the United Nations Program for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat)

(UNON, Nairobi, 12 June 2015)

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates and colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of the group of 77 and China.

At the outset I wish to welcome the briefing made to the committee by the Executive Director, as well as the briefings made earlier by the secretariat to the subcommittee on the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat and the country presentation on Rwanda.

In this context, I wish to congratulate members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as well as the UN-Habitat Executive Director and Secretariat, on the successful conclusion of the second session of the Preparatory

Committee of the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, as well as the 25th Session of the Habitat Governing Council.

Mr. Chairman,

The group of 77 and China has engaged constructively in all the deliberations and consultations of PrepComm II, in a spirit of cooperation and positive contribution to the preparatory process. In this regard, we welcome the committee's resolution on the preparatory process of the conference, and call upon the UN Habitat Secretariat as well as Member States to undertake all necessary measures to ensure the implementation of the resolution, including supporting the work of the policy units and nominating suitably qualified technical experts to participate in their work.

As the distinguished delegates will recall, there still remains several outstanding issues that the committee was not able to resolve during the second session. To this end, we believe it is necessary for all participating states to actively join in PrepComm III meetings in Indonesia next year, and to reach consensus on the remaining issues in an inclusive and comprehensive manner, taking into consideration the concerns of all parties involved. That said, we reiterate the importance of providing avenues for an effective participation of all relevant stakeholders in Habitat III and its preparatory process, while preserving the intergovernmental nature of the conference.

The group of 77 and China firmly believes that the outcome document of Habitat III should address the developmental challenges that accompany the management of sustainable cities and human settlements, and explore new innovative methods of coping with the recent demographic trends and rapid rates of urbanization that are constantly placing tremendous pressure on cities, especially in developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. It is also necessary for the outcome document to lay the foundation for an inclusive and

ambitious urban development agenda that would entail a framework for making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, providing provisions of basic infrastructure and services in all human settlements, as well as international guidelines on territorial planning that are customized to national scenarios, among others. For that purpose, we call upon the bureau of the preparatory committee to commence the process of drafting the Habitat III outcome document as soon as possible, taking into account the comments of participating states and accredited stakeholders on the final outputs of the policy units.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of 77 and China also welcomes the outcomes of the 25th session of the Habitat Governing Council held last April. In particular, we commend the endurance and perseverance of all delegates who undertook the long and tedious process of negotiating the draft resolutions in the drafting committee, a process that spanned long hours and challenged the diligence and endurance of all negotiators.

In this context, the group welcomes the Governing Council resolution on UN-Habitat Governance Reform, a much needed and timely step that was very long in the making. To that effect, the Group calls upon the Committee of Permanent Representatives to expedite the implementation of the resolution, through the formal establishment of the Working Group on Program and Budget, and requests regional groups who are yet to nominate their representatives for the working group to do so in a most timely manner. We note with appreciation the constructive informal consultations that were held last week on various aspects of the work of the group, and look forward to engage in positive spirit with all members in the works and activities of the Working Group, ensuring a more enhanced oversight of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on all aspects of UN-Habitat.

The Group also welcomes the Governing Council resolution on the Contribution of UN-Habitat to the post-2015 development Agenda in order to

promote sustainable urban development and human settlements, taking into consideration the proposed goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, and the important role that sustainable urbanization and human settlements can play as a key driver of sustainable development in national and subnational development plans.

We believe that having a standalone goal for that purpose will contribute to the success of Habitat III, which will be the first global conference to take place after the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We further believe that Goal 11 and its 7 targets shall contribute to our efforts towards the effective management of the challenges of rapid urbanization, and provide an opportunity to promote a positive, mutually reinforcing relationship between cities and their surroundings across the human settlements continuum.

With that in mind, the group requests the UN-Habitat secretariat to exert all efforts necessary to contribute to the ongoing process of formulating the indicators under each of the 7 targets of goal 11, with a view to facilitating its implementation in a manner that contributes to the reduction of disparity along the rural-urban continuum, and towards a more balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

The Group of 77 and China emphasizes however that the most critical constraint remains the provision of adequate financing. In many developing countries the capacity of the Government is constrained by the low level of revenues. In this regard, we reiterate the need for the developed countries to fulfill their commitments to support developing countries efforts through the provision of the necessary means of implementation, including resources, capacity-building, and technology transfer, as well as the creation of an international enabling environment for sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of 77 and China would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate its support to the government of Ecuador as the host of the upcoming Habitat III conference, as well as to the government of Indonesia, host of the third and final session of the Habitat III PrepComm. We are certain that both countries shall spare no effort in ensuring the good preparation and organization of the conference in a manner conducive to its success.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.