



Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization statement 1st UN-Habitat Assembly

Delivered by Ms. Ludivine Cornille, Director of Programs,
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Madame the President,

I am pleased to be present today at the first UN-Habitat Assembly on behalf of the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the Executive Director of UN-Habitat for the organization of this historic first UN-Habitat Assembly.

The Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization is a New York based, not-for-profit organization formed 10 years ago by architects, urban designers and engineers. Our main role is to build bridges between the design community and the UN agenda. With our long-time partners the American Institute of Architects and UN-Habitat we promote how innovative and responsible urban planning and resilient design can improve the quality of life of all.

Following on the principles of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, urban issues are best solved by taking a cross-sectoral approach. This will require an enabling environment and enhanced cooperation and partnerships at all levels. The professionals have a critical role to assure innovative, inclusive and sustainable urban and architectural design solutions, in line with the specific needs of the cities and communities. We cannot work in silos, but bring our knowledge together to support governments in the development of adequate urban policies, that will respect our planet and the dignity and equality of all human beings.

We welcome the Stakeholders declaration emanating from the fruitful dialogues that took place at the Stakeholders Forum two days before the Assembly. Along with more than 200 partners, the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization participated in it and we would like to highlight the following recommendations:

First – Support a self-organize coordination mechanism for stakeholders engagement in the implementation process of the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs, building on successful civil society platforms and networks.

Second – Strengthen the localization of the SDGs, and the dissemination of UN-Habitat activities to the United Nations Resident Coordinators, to engage pro-actively the citizens and build new synergies particularly among the design community, the private sector and local partners involved in urban issues.

Third – Develop a stronger ONE UN System to share knowledge-based and support joint activities from the different agencies on urban development projects, to avoid duplication and create new collaboration among the UN partners. In the implementation process of the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat could play a coordinating role with the support of the Regional Economic Commissions.

And lastly – Engage more transparently and effectively the Habitat partners in the restructuration process of UN-Habitat and the formulation of its activities and programmes. We support the newly established Stakeholder Advisory Group to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and we look forward to contribute to its efforts.

I thank you.