



UNACLA QUITO DECLARATION

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We, members of the UNACLA, as representatives of the world local and regional governments and their networks; gathered in Quito (Ecuador) in occasion of the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments would like to express our commitment to the New Urban Agenda and to thank the Government of the Republic of Ecuador, the Metropolitan Municipality of Quito and the people of the city of Quito for the warm welcome provided during the III United Nations Conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III).

We salute the New Urban Agenda for its recognition of the essential role than local and territorial governments play in effectively achieving sustainable urban development; in line with the Rio+20 Declaration “The world we want”, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development “Transforming our world” and the COP21 Paris agreement amongst others.

Our contribution to the New Urban Agenda brings back the spirit of the Istanbul Declaration in 1996. We are, indeed, the “closest partner” of national governments, civil society and private sector in our common effort to fight poverty and to ensure that cities are for all.

We are fully convinced that this effort won’t be possible without the cooperation among all levels of government and all actors will be needed to make the full sustainability of our cities and towns possible.

We believe in the power of local democracy and decentralization as the means to ensure that the transformative potential of urbanization produce benefits for all. We are ready to listen to our citizens and to engage them in the management of our territories.

We salute the use of the term “local governments” all thorough the text; as local and regional governments are a sphere of government with the legitimacy of elected representation in most countries of the world.

We are aware of the difficulties than many local and regional governments will face when implementing the New Urban agenda. But we are also in a different position than 20 years ago; we are more organized, ready to learn and to act. We look forward to continue our partnership with the United Nations Human Settlement Programme – UN-Habitat, which has been a close partner over the years, and we trust the New Urban Agenda Era will strengthen our collaboration with the rest of the UN System as well. We further welcome para. 171-172 of the New Urban Agenda which launches 2-year process until September 2018 by mandating the UN Secretary General and UN General Assembly to conduct broad consultations, dialogues and analysis will result in a new institutional framework on the follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda, hoping that the process will conclude with innovative mechanisms for the engagement of local and subnational governments with the UN system.

We further commit to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level and to link the 2030 agenda with the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the NUA.

We believe UNACLA can contribute to the follow up and review of the New Urban Agenda through its close ties with the Local Government networks gathered in the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments. Through this mechanism we further commit to ensure that the voice of Local Government is heard at UN Habitat.

In this historical occasion, we would like to celebrate the New Urban Agenda and we stand ready to make it a reality.

In Quito, Ecuador, on the 16th of October of 2016