STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP
SUPPORTIVE OF HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CITIES AND URBAN ISSUES
BEFORE THE 7th SESSION
JANUARY 2014

Selection of key statements for the agenda of local and regional authorities. Not all statements are available in electronic format. Updates can be regularly visited here:

http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1573&start=1

Cyprus-Singapore-UAE

In short, Mr Co-Chairs, there is a clear indication that a SDG on sustainable cities and human settlements is practical and implementable, with possible targets such as slum reduction, governance, water and sanitation, energy, transportation, chemicals, disaster risk reduction and sustainable consumption and production. That is why our partner Singapore, which is a city-state, is co-organizing a side event on 7 January with China to showcase their flagship bilateral project – the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City – which is a model of sustainable urban development.

http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5393singapore.pdf

G77 and China

Cities are, as we know, the primary engines of economic activity, growth, development, research and innovation. With urban areas set to expand and be built by 60 per cent before 2030, cities also represent unparalleled opportunities to transform the social and economic fabric of nations. However, if current trends continue with the 'business as usual' approach where many local governments and cities are in general not well equipped, are under-resourced and disempowered to address emerging urban challenges, many countries do not stand to reap the benefits of sustainable urban development. How the SDGs address the multi-dimensional challenges of urban development in order to improve the lives of slum dwellers, provide access to basic services, including infrastructure services, how they protect local and regional ecosystems, and strengthen urban resilience and adaptation is all of paramount importance to the post-2015 development agenda.

Sustainable urban development and human settlement require transformative policies at multiple levels of governance. It requires a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach that engages all relevant stakeholders. In this regard, we call for new modalities of interaction between nations at the international level, as well as between central and local governments at the national level, in order to fulfil their respective roles as governmental stakeholders in global efforts on sustainability. Other non-state actors such as the private sector, civil society, foundations, academia, regional and global networks of cities also play important complementary roles in ensuring the sustainable development of cities which are responsive to the needs of their citizens. At the local level, city planners should

tackle urban development challenges through inclusive policies that favour people-centred objectives and participatory decision-making that include the disadvantaged and marginalised members of society.

http://www.g77.org/statement/getstatement.php?id=140106

Brasil and Nicaragua

Be it as a stand-alone goal or as a group of targets and indicators we are favorable to include as a priority of the Objectives of the Post 2015 Agenda "sustainable cities and human settlements" as well as sustainable transportation as agreed in the Rio +20 document.

http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5423brasil.pdf

European Union

We support a holistic approach to cities that integrates many aspects ranging from poverty reduction to management of a range of natural resources as well as interlinkages and interdependencies with their rural surrounding; this can improve quality of life for citizens and reduce impact on the global environment.

http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5553eu1.pdf

Norway-Demark- Ireland

The urban dimension is – as we see it – cross-cutting: It is closely linked to our overall ambition of eradicating poverty, achieving inclusive economic growth, improving the living and working conditions of people and ensuring sound urban environment. The cities of the world are likely to be a key arena when we want to address challenges such as homelessness and slums, clean and sufficient water and clean air, sanitation and waste, health, education, empowerment of women and youth, sustainable energy and climate change. In order to ensure sustainable cities, we need an integrated approach to these challenges. The post 2015-process will fail, if we fail to address urbanisation.

 http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5383denmark.pdf