



## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PARTNERS – NEW YORK DECLARATION**

*Adopted 02 October 2015, New York, U.S.A.*

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We, the constituent members of the General Assembly of Partners (GAP)<sup>1</sup>, a special initiative of the World Urban Campaign mandated as an alliance of partners and engagement platform for the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador in October, 2016, convened our second meeting on 02 October 2015 in New York, United States of America. The aim of the GAP is to coordinate stakeholders' engagement and contribution to the Habitat III Conference and in particular to its foreseen outcome, the New Urban Agenda.

We acknowledge that the first two Habitat conferences established an important conceptualization of "habitat" as inclusive of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. We also recognize that the concept has further evolved over the past two decades, and now views aspects of governance, including accountability, politics, participation, mobilization and partnerships, as well as the empowerment of women and respect for human rights, as being indivisible from the issues of sustainable urbanization.

We recognize the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the SDG 11: *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable* with its associated targets, and agree to build upon these while contributing to shaping, implementing and monitoring the New Urban Agenda.

We further agree to establish linkages with recent and upcoming global policy frameworks – the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR, 2015), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA, 2015), the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties (COP21, 2015), and the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS, 2016), and with relevant past agreements including CEDAW (1979), Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging (2002). We are convinced that the New Urban Agenda presents a unique opportunity to frame and act upon these diverse global agendas in a coherent manner, involving all spheres of government and all stakeholders.

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<sup>1</sup> *As organized in fourteen Partner Constituent Groups, namely (in alphabetical order), 1.Business and Industries, 2. Children and Youth, 3.Civil Society Organizations, 4.Farmers, 5FOUNDATIONS and Philanthropies, 6.Grass-roots Organizations, 7.Indigenous People, 8.Local and sub-national authorities, 9.Media, 10.Parliamentarians, 11.Professionals,12. Research and Academia, 13. Trade Unions and Workers, 14.Women.*

We note that while the process of adoption of the SDGs was unprecedented in its level of participation, inclusion and transparency, Habitat III should aspire to amplify this engagement and give voice to additional stakeholder groups. We also reaffirm that the stakeholder engagement process for Habitat III must build upon, and take further, the processes which were adopted, with great positive impact, at the Habitat II Conference held in Istanbul in 1996.

To these ends, guided by our Constitution, adopted 13 April 2015, we have organized ourselves into fourteen Partner Constituent Groups, with their elected chairs and co-chairs forming the Executive Committee of the Assembly in order to give voice to all stakeholders. We have further agreed on a schedule of Assembly meetings between now and Habitat III in Quito, to be held in different continents to ensure participation of stakeholders from all regions of the world.

We have agreed that the two platforms reporting to the Bureau, the General Assembly Partners and the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, will work closely together and coordinate their efforts towards building inclusive and commonly supported positions.

We are committed to developing a legacy document for Habitat III, based on sound knowledge, experience and data, which:

- features multi-stakeholder partnerships and illustrates the potential for expanding and enriching such partnerships;
- provides a framework for developing future issue-based coalitions;
- serves as an inspiration and offers prototypical elements of a renewed and updated governance architecture at international, national and local levels, that is fit-for-purpose for a sustainable, urbanizing world; and
- calls for increased development finance for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and in particular to ensure sustained participation by the emerging grassroots movement and local governments.

Encouraged by the willingness of member states to continue the dialogue with the General Assembly of Partners, we reiterate our invitation to member states and members of the Bureau to attend our deliberations in Prague, Surabaya and Quito.

**Signed:**

**Dated:** 02 October 2015

**President of GAP:** *Eugenie L. Birch*

**Vice-President of GAP:** *Shipra Narang Suri*

**Chairs/Co-Chairs of Partner Constituent Groups** (*alphabetical order*):

1. *Business and Industries*
2. *Children and Youth*
3. *Civil Society Organizations*
4. *Farmers*
5. *Foundations and Philanthropies*
6. *Grass-roots Organizations*
7. *Indigenous People*
8. *Local and Subnational Authorities*
9. *Media*
10. *Parliamentarians*
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