



WWF REACTIONS & SUGGESTIONS THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

14 October 2016

WWF welcomes the “Habitat III Agreed Draft of the New Urban Agenda” (NUA) released on 10 September 2016 and calls for the successful adoption of the Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All at the Habitat III Conference in Quito. The NUA represents a solid foundation for the achievement of urban sustainable development. WWF calls on Member States to continue to work together and in dialogue with stakeholders, for a full and effective implementation of the NUA.

WWF reactions to the NUA

WWF welcomes the work of Member States and the Habitat III Secretariat to reach consensus on the NUA, aimed at addressing the existing and emerging challenges in urban development. WWF further welcomes the active contribution of stakeholders and civil society.

WWF welcomes the recognition of the environmental dimension of sustainable cities in the NUA including: sustainable mobility; the importance of healthy ecosystems, water and other natural resources; explicit political commitment to promote and realize sustainable urban development; the need for green public spaces and their effect on human health and well-being; the commitment to facilitate sustainable management of natural resources through environmentally sound urban and territorial planning, infrastructure and basic services, to reduce GHG emissions and improve environmental services; and the aim to limit temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial level.

WWF considers that, if properly implemented, the New Urban Agenda (NUA) can significantly contribute to the achievement of sustainability goals included in other UN instruments, such as the SDGs, the CBD and the Paris Agreement; by constituting an opportunity to work at the national and local level in the adoption and implementation of policy, legal, administrative, technical or other measures aimed at promoting urban sustainable development and reducing the environmental impact of cities.

WWF further calls for a better recognition of the importance of ecosystem and climate based approaches in relation to the resilience of human settlements, the development of risk-reduction infrastructure and nature-based solutions to current or emerging challenges.

WWF further calls for the strengthening of the interlinkages between cities and climate change, by recognizing the importance of “low carbon” development and the need to develop reliable systems to monitor and report GHG emissions data at the city level, especially as it relates to a “smart city approach” and data collection.

WWF further calls for the United Nations General Assembly to adopt the required measures to report on the progress of the implementation of the NUA.

WWF suggestions for the implementation of the NUA:

WWF recognizes the NUA as an international instrument that develops a set of principles, objectives and guidelines meant to be adopted by national, sub-national and local authorities through the enactment and implementation of policy, legal and other measures aimed at shaping and regulating urban development.

WWF recognizes local authorities as key implementers of the NUA, stressing the need to create explicit and multiple financial, capacity building and other support mechanisms at the national and international level, aimed at assisting them in developing the frameworks required for NUA implementation; considering that many local governments, especially from developing and least developed countries, face considerable financial, technical, political and administrative challenges.

WWF calls for national and sub-national authorities to adopt and further develop the NUA by enacting and implementing the policy, legal or other measures needed for implementation at the national level.

WWF calls for local authorities to adopt and further develop the NUA by enacting the policy, legal, administrative, technical or other measures aimed at creating and implementing the frameworks and regimes required for implementation at the local level.

WWF calls for national, sub-national and local authorities to adopt and implement policy, legal, administrative, technical and other measures to strengthen the environmental considerations of the NUA, to create frameworks and regimes that promote sustainability as a fundamental aspect of urban development in their own jurisdictions and under their own authorities.

WWF calls for national, sub-national and local authorities to adopt and implement policy, legal or other measures, based on urban climate data, to address the urgent need to transition cities to low carbon development pathways, to support the improvement of synergies between renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as smart grids and district energy systems in cities.

WWF calls for national, sub-national and local governments to adopt and implement policy, legal or other measures to address the need to plan and manage cities, biodiversity and ecosystems in an integrated way; by recognizing the importance of ecosystem and climate based approaches, taking into account climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as resilience-based spatial design, services and infrastructure; committing to mixed use urban planning, national urban mobility plans and transit oriented development (TOD).

WWF calls for the strengthening of the urban-rural linkage by promoting efficient use of land and natural resources to prevent urban sprawl, as well as a shift in consumption patterns observing ecosystems' regenerative capacity; committing to develop safe, inclusive, accessible, green and quality spaces; strengthening transport, technology, communication networks and infrastructure provision; recognizing the link between poverty eradication and environmental sustainability; leveraging natural and cultural heritage, *inter alia*, by respecting indigenous sites and developing sustainable food policies.