

**FORD FOUNDATION**  
**MEDIA BRIEFING ON HABITAT III CONFERENCE**  
**IN QUITO, ECUADOR**

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. CHEN: Hello everyone, welcome. Thank you for joining us today for this briefing on the upcoming Habitat III conference. My name is Don Chen, I'm the Director of Equitable Developments at the Ford Foundation and we have a number of excellent speakers that will provide an array of perspectives and give some unique insight into what we can expect next week in Quito, Ecuador so I'll be relatively brief in setting up the conversation.

At the Ford Foundation our focus is on disrupting the drivers of inequality and we see similar drivers the world over. Some examples are the rules of the economy that magnify unequal opportunity and also unequal access to government decision making and resources and from these examples our focus on rules and access to decision making it underscores our belief that inequality is a choice. The rules and policies that exacerbate inequality have been put into place over decades and in some cases cemented over

hundreds of years and will take a lot of effort to reform. So for Habitat III we know how important the new urban agenda can be in addressing these challenges. The COP 21 agreement, the Paris agreement and the sustainable development goals have also offered a groundbreaking vision to address inequality and other injustices worldwide. But we often know that without Habitat III and other mechanisms for implementation, tracking progress and holding ourselves accountable to the goals we've set we can't turn these big visions into action. And that's why issues like housing, transportation and inclusive development have to be driven by action when we leave the Habitat III conference.

In our community we like to say that Habitat III is the first opportunity in a generation to shape global urban policy for the future and it is a critical opportunity for communities to have a real voice in that agenda process in a way that impacts their lives very directly. If you haven't seen it yet I encourage you to check out the New Schools Global

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Urban Futures project which developed the Habitat Commitment Index otherwise known as the HCI. It provides a look into the commitments from 20 years ago at Habitat II in Istanbul, Turkey and how much the world has changed since then. What it also underscores is that this process matters and that the decisions reached next week will likely have very far reaching implications. With that I'll turn it over to Ian Klaus who is with the State Department to discuss his vision and expectations for the convening next week.

MR. KLAUS: Thanks Don. I'm Ian Klaus, I'm the Senior Advisor for Global Cities at the U.S. State Department as well as the Deputy Negotiator for Habitat III. I'm in Medellin so if I break up or suddenly disappear or you can't hear me the Moderator or Don will shoot me an email or let me know and interrupt the call.

I know we only have a couple of minutes here but I think a couple of thank yous really are in order, actually really three. The first is for Don

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and Anna Marie and the entire Ford Foundation. They play just a tremendous role in advancing Habitat III in the New Urban Agenda and moving forward in a successful manner and we're really grateful for that. I know Ana Moreno from the Secretariat is going to join the call later but it has to be mentioned what an absolutely herculean role she and the Secretariat played during the final 38<sup>th</sup> hour negotiating session. It was challenging enough for us as negotiators but they were simultaneously taking edits and producing new drafts while staying up over the entire period so a lot of praise and credit for the professionalism that is due there. Finally, I'd like to thank everyone for joining the call because this is an important issue and it is an important issue for the U.S. government and the State Department and for HUD.

So just really briefly I'll outline why we're excited about Habitat III and how we're approaching it. Cities, I think Don really started the conversation well. You need only look at the demographics and the data of where people live, where

they're going to live, where economic production occurs, where energy is used and where carbon emissions are produced to understand how crucial cities are to fulfilling the landmark agreements of the past couple of years most notably the agenda for sustainable development and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Habitat III was and is the global dialogue in negotiations about how to do that. Of utmost importance is the role national government can play to encourage and enable local action. We're not talking about top down we're talking about enabling not directing. We talked about enabling and the role of national governments and their relationship with local governments. I'd also just like to draw attention to some of the really great policy work that exists in the new urban agenda from an urbanization perspective from encouraging cycling to addressing the concerns of coastal cities. They include some really crucial issues like the production of public spaces and sustainable debt management at the municipal level.

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So let's talk about Quito and implementation. The United States has seriously advocated in negotiations for an inclusive multi stakeholder approach to sustainable urbanization. One that must include among others local government to private sector and civil society. How this really is put into action around the country in the form of a national committee and the State Department has worked to extend this conversation globally recognizing that not everybody can travel to or participate in the conversations that will take place in Quito itself. But undoubtedly Quito is important. Tens of thousands of experts, implementers, thinkers, local and national leaders will be convening there with the opportunity to share best practices to build new networks and of crucial importance to build political will both at the local and at the national level. I think there will be questions and answers later but I'd just like to add that I've been traveling around engaging cities over the past several weeks including being in London and Medellin and Cairo and what we said there is what

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we will say in Quito. Cities matter and people matter. Without the cities we won't be able to deliver on those landmark accords. Without people-centered approaches the change that is necessary to deliver upon them is absolutely impossible. So right now I'll just leave it at that but thanks a lot for the time and engagement.

MR. CHEN: Thanks Ian. Now we're going to turn to Ani Dasgupta from the World Resources Institute.

MR. DASGUPTA: Thank you, Don and thank you Ian it is great to join in on this call. Just to underline what Ian said I think 6 billion people will live in cities in our lifetime. So how cities work will matter to not only the 6 billion people (inaudible) but economies will grow or not. (Inaudible) so I emphasize what Ian said that cities matter.

Over the last year we've been working very closely with Don and his team at the Ford Foundation to make the Habitat process and Don's team has done a

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fantastic job of supporting that process. I think next week in Quito actually a very good document to work from. So what we have focused on taking this movement forward at WRI is if all the agreements that take place what those cities do. So we have asked ourselves a question what is the implementation of this kind of a new approach and we have focused on how cities will look like in the next few years, next two decades and what choices will cities have to make and what choices will matter. So our focus has been with our partners very much on the implementation agenda and what will cities look like in what Ian just said in a policy environment that is supportive of the national government which I hope Quito will be a place where the national government commit to it.

Our investigation shows things that I want to outline before we get to the question and answer. First, our readers show that cities in the near future, the next generation of urbanization will be quite different for two or three reasons. For this to be mostly to grow the

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Africa and South Asia. Also smaller cities will grow more than just mega cities and more importantly a lot of poor people will be in these cities. Critically, the most critical thing that we found is that traditional socio-economic growth and urbanization there will be a departure from that in some countries so cities will grow but the economies might not. And a lot of the growth will happen in cities that actually do not have very high capacities. So we asked ourselves the question that if this is the reality what are the choices that cities have and what should the cities do what is the practical way forward. And our investigation and we're going to release our first installment of our report in Quito this Sunday. Which actually shows that once you look into this kind of city where the majority of people are actually formal economy and formal sector lot of people are poor, a lot of people don't actually have a lot of services. Our investigation shows that if you invest in these

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cities things do happen. We need to focus on the fundamentals of the cities, something Don pointed out, the core services. The cities need to get the basic services, housing, transport, water, energy, the basic core things that the Foundation for assistance will grow in place. But not just in place but in a place and a way that actually reaches to everyone. So we have found that for these cities to grow for the cities to be sustainable environmentally they actually have to focus on getting core services to everyone so that the cities can be productive and the economy can grow. So this idea of actually getting services to everyone has a path to which growth and environmental stability is actually a departure from what traditionally we have believed in. Because we have talked about equity before. I think what Ford Foundation is doing now is really bringing a real articulation and imperative to it. Equity to it has been for a long time kind of a moral imperative. Our work

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is showing that it is not just an imperative it is actually imperative for growth for the economies to grow and also for our climate goals to be met.

The second thing we found is that sectoral changes are very important, critical. But for cities to change cities actually have to have equation of cities that produce and reproduce has to change. So in our world we should talk about conformational change and how to change in cities and a lot of examples are on that both from the global north and south. The rest of our work actually focuses on investigating how exactly transformation and change take place in cities and we show that how we can learn from that from examples around the world and help bring other people, other cities, new cities bring transformation change that transcends sectoral change to really become sustainability and move to a more productive city kind of a movement.

So we are very focused on the implementation agenda going forward given the very success that negotiators like Ian have done to get a great document in front of us which I hope gets all signed and ready. But how we will move forward with implementation is the key and all our partners are keen to be part of the conversation and not let Quito be the end of the conversation but the beginning of the conversation. Thanks a lot Don.

MR. CHEN: Secretariat coordinator.

MS. MORENO: Good morning and thank you to Ford Foundation for organizing this. I'm in Quito already so I hope to see all of you coming next you to the Center of the Habitat III in Ecuador. I think the most important issue that we are going to see next week here is the result of a lot of the efforts for two years. We have tried to include as many voices as possible trying to innovate in the way that conferences are trying to bring a final document to the table of member states of the United Nations to be approved. That will be really visible in Quito next

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week and I think it is one of the most important legacies of the conference that we will see hopefully for the future.

I'd mention the number of delegations or for the first time in history we are going to have a national delegation of member states leading by a mayor talking on behalf of the whole country. So I think there are some aspects of the preparatory process that as I mentioned will be a legacy but will be visible in Quito and will be effecting and impacting even those ones that will not going to be attending Quito. Those ones will be following our conversations for using our other platform and will be labeled for of course online chat and of course with streaming so I hope the conversation is not just for the ones 45,000 we're expecting to come to Ecuador next week but others that have been part and will be part of the implementation of this new urban agenda.

This implementation and I agree of course with Ani and Ian had mentioned before is the most important thing. This is the beginning of

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commendation. It is a commendation that is about one of the most important challenges that we will have in the next years. I believe after the climate change and the fight against poverty and hunger the future of cities of one of the most relevant challenges that we have of humanity and it has not been so relevant in the past decade and it should be in the center of the discussion and we're happy that of course we have the capacity to at least everyone here in Quito to understand how that implementation is going to happen and when and how we can make it active for the local, regional and national level.

In fact, I believe one of the aspects of the preparatory process has been the dialogue between national governments and local governments. That is going to be a really interesting challenge for the future, how the implementation of the new urban agenda is going to impact cities at the local level and how we're going to increase the awareness of those cities. In aspects that normally have not been so easy to explain and get the information and that means about

issues that are related with issues related to taxes, issues related to of course with mobility, of course with energy, of course with basic services so it is a global agenda issue that affects all cities in the world, it effects cities of different sizes, it effects cities of different places. So hopefully that implementation that we're going to see is starting in Quito will be impacting quickly everyone all those citizens that have been following in the last years and increased awareness on urbanization.

I would like to highlight of course the key implementation plan, the new urban agenda that will be adopted on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October in Quito has mainly two aspects of the Quito Declaration. The Quito Declaration outlining a common vision a change of paradigm on the way that we plan, the we finance, that we go forward and that we be a city trying to ensure more equality to increase the quality of life of cities and then we have a key implementation plan. That key implementation plan it's an agenda, it will be adopted. The adoption will hopefully bring a lot



of action on the document but the most important aspects of Quito next week is the commitment that some organizations, some institutions are going to present and jointly it starts after Quito. I think that key implementation plan is key and those that even have not are not going to be part of the conference as I said in the city of Quito Ecuador will be able to follow those commitments and see how partnerships and how public private collaborations are going to make this happen.

The document and this is something that we have been also saying in the last month of course it is a really important document especially because it is the first time in the history of the United Nations that there is a conference of urbanization. The previous to have it were more general about human settlement, this time we're talking about urbanization. We need to reflect about that is not excluding conversations it is focusing conversations on aspects that need clear expectation to face all the challenges that humanity will have and really

important for us. It was mentioned of course climate change. I was mentioning the fight against poverty and hunger, of course inequalities and of course social inclusion. So we believe that this is the time to focus conversation and is the time to join forces on implementation. The document is the starting point. It is not something that we need always to refer to. The point that where we join the conversation.

My last comment perhaps is to say that the issues impact not only the visible citizens but also what we call the invisible citizens. There is a lot of informal settlements around the world that needs to get into the conversation, that needs to be in the next years in that implementation of how they're going to be part of the planning of their cities and how they want to see their cities in the future. There is a pilot project in this conference to have informal communities that we need to work in the next years in implementation on their side, on their areas increasing awareness about what the urban agenda how

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can they benefit about that new urban agenda. I think that is a piece of something that is happening but can reflect a lot how we need to change and the way we approach the implementation of some of the documents that normally are adopted by all member states.

So summarizing, trying to get everything ready for all of you that are going to be joining us next week in Quito this conference is going to bring us a legacy on the way that it has been prepared and the preparatory process but that is our legacy in the way that it is going to be implemented and we are going to welcome not only all of you coming to Quito but also all of the others that would like to join in the conversation. It is urban October. We started October with World Habitat Day and we will finalize the month of October with the World Cities day on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October and I hope that we will continue with challenges and challenging even the new urban agenda in the next year because we are going to be even farther in the implementation and ensuring that our cities are better for the next years. Thank you very

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much.

MR. CHEN: Thank you Ana. I understand we have Katia on the line to talk about civil society's role and gender in particular. Do we have her on?

MS. ARAUJO: Hi. This is Katia Araujo for the commission.

MR. CHEN: Great. This is Don Chen, hello. We are on the call and ready for your comments on Habitat III and its importance to civil society.

MS. ARAUJO: Okay. Thank you for having me. I want to quickly make two key points. I think it is important for the local (inaudible) and when I say the (inaudible) I would like to (inaudible) not only referring to academics, researches, professionals and practitioners and global advocates but I would like to emphasize that they considered the (inaudible) local organizations (inaudible). Unfortunately, they won't be here in Quito (inaudible) represented by three large networks yet there is a fear that society must use (inaudible) come together and speak about quickly how we are (inaudible) urban agenda to the (inaudible)

climate change (inaudible) introduction. (Inaudible) global framework and we have to figure out quickly in a useful way so we can make it the global agenda relevant.

A second point that I would like to make in terms that there are many stakeholder groups already working on this effort and they have established partnerships that are working together and pay attention to the (inaudible) this global policy framework and integrated approach. So talking about that we cannot operate in silos but actually operationalize this framework holistically. That being said this convening will you provide a partnership to finalize an audit of what exists, what is taking place and develop clear road maps of existing capacities that are innovated and (inaudible) that are aiming to break the silo. Those should be supported (inaudible) with specific attention to the urbanization elements in implementation of the new agenda.

The second question I would like to address

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is in relationship to what needs to happen in the aftermath of this global convening to make this work a success. In this regard, undeniably the success of implementation of the new urban agenda we're depending largely on capacity building that must be part of policy making and implementation of the new urban agenda and also the adoption of the new urban agenda must incorporate capacity development action leading to establishing and strengthening local capacity. I would like to highlight the fact that also in relationship to strengthening the local capacity because to plan and to manage implementation guaranteeing (inaudible) of the new urban agenda so that implementation is achieved. And I'm just highlighting the fact that the strengthening of local capacity is very important because they already think existing capacity should look towards leverage from and use as a resource.

So in that regard I would like to say in the aftermath of Habitat III we need to have a massive push for a diversity of local mechanisms

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conceptualized for local positions for the implementation of the new urban agenda in (inaudible) with the (inaudible) must be established and (inaudible). These are the two things I would really like to highlight. Also, there is an urgent need to support the local process driven by local priorities and community organizations and local capabilities. I mean the grass roots and the urban dwellers urbanization working already on those issues so now that we have the new urban agenda it is critical that its implementation (inaudible) I will highlight and really nail this over and over again because we cannot lose this opportunity to make this agenda relevant. Also, it is a critical challenge to ensure that implementation of the (inaudible) and priorities are not weakened and most importantly different segments of civil society must be engaged and playing an active role in implementation monitoring and accountability process. We will not be waiting to be invited. Do I have more time?

MR. CHEN: I think we're pretty much at time  
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if you just wrap it up with a final thought that would be great.

MS. ARAUJO: Okay. So in terms of one final thought that I was having in relationship to I think the capacity of the urban stakeholders to understand urbanization is really key and you've got to make use of the tools and knowledge that we already have that citizens can move toward the sustainable future that we want that is inclusive and just and that the equality is essential to the process. I hope that during those days in which the wide range of activities that are taking place I think we make use of that with documents and we come up with very clear actionable recommendations and road maps.

MR. CHEN: Okay thank you so much Katia. This is Don Chen again. I just want to thank all of the speakers and I'll note that four of our speakers are calling in from Ecuador and Columbia so we're very appreciative that you have all been patient with the technology. I'll just end this portion of the call by noting that we've reinforced this notion that the

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conference represents unprecedented global resolve and the global agreement about the importance of and the need for inclusive, equitable and sustainable urbanization but it is going to be challenging and we all know that so we have to be intentional about getting diverse stakeholders to work together, learn together and hold each other accountable for the progress that we want to make. In other words, we can plan now or we can pay later as the cost of economic exclusion and climate change really begin to skyrocket if we don't resolve to work together. Before we jump into questions I want to note that Salin Geevarghese, Deputy Assistant Secretary from the Department of Housing and Urban Development is also on the line but we have the rest of our speakers too. Katia, Ani, Ian and Ana so please open up the lines for our reporters to ask questions now.

MODERATOR: All right ladies and gentleman if you'd like to register for a question you can press the 1 followed by the 4 on your telephone and you'll hear a 3 tone prompt to acknowledge your request. Our

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first question is from Robert Soutar from *China Dialogue*. Please go ahead.

MR. SOUTAR: Hello. Thanks very much to the speakers for very interesting presentations and thanks for organizing the call today which was really interesting. I had a couple of questions, one for Ani first of all. You talk about the urgency of meeting immediate service needs for growing urban population but how can city authorities in local communities who have these immediate needs and limited finances ensure and implement climate resilient infrastructure choices which may in turn impact cities abilities to deliver these services. And then I had a second question if I could put that now which was for Ian Klaus. Thanks for your presentation from Medellin. That the city is often (inaudible) is a prime example of transformative change and moving from a (inaudible) capital too modern (inaudible) city with affecting transport and other services. But I wonder what hope there is for scaling up the apparent success story that is Medellin or transferring its lessons to mega cities across the

world in China and India and how we can get there. I mean it seems to me that that lesson has even been transferred to Bogota which is not so far away which has been talking about getting a metro system for 70 years but still doesn't have one.

MR. CHEN: Let's hear from Ian first because I know he has to leave early. Ian.

MR. KLAUS: (Inaudible) in a taxi cab now in route to the airport so that I can get to Bogota. A couple of hours from now I'll be even more informed to be able to answer that. I do think that you touch on something important and I think I'll just answer it so I don't have too much time very briefly with something a bit conceptual about how we understand cities (inaudible). I think actually your first question touched on some key issues such as access to municipal debts for example (inaudible) infrastructure. Those questions are at the heart of your second question too in terms of the ability to develop a metro system. I just say that we at the State Department are quite humble when we look at in the world in terms of all

the work that is going on between cities intel,  
between cities that are encouraged by networks,  
between cities that are encouraged by foundations like  
the Ford Foundation. So we don't take the perspective  
that all of the sudden there are a couple of good  
examples in Medellin and now national government to  
come in and somehow show cities around the world that  
they should pay attention to it. A lot of that work  
has been developed to a certain degree independent of  
national capital. So the question now is how do we  
encourage it in ways that haven't developed. So in  
certain instances that means mega cities actually have  
international dialogue with themselves quite a bit and  
it is not clear to me that you need foreign ministry  
to connect them. Secondary cities tertiary cities do  
need help joining global dialogues. So where we can  
identify best practices like those in Medellin and  
success stories getting that information in the places  
that haven't previously had access to them it is to us  
is crucial in a role that we think we can play and  
certainly there is a dialogue in Quito.

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MR. CHEN: Great thank you Ian. Ani?

MR. DASGUPTA: Thank you Don. Robert your question is absolutely terrific and very central to the kind of questions we at WRI are asking ourselves. What do these cities that look at the end of financial capacity and institutional capacity do to not only react to what is needed today but how to actually plan for the future? And our (inaudible) focus on this question and comes to this following conclusion that the decision cities make today is because cities don't change overnight. Infrastructure rolls land use they make today actually have to stay for the next 30 to 40 years. So the basic assumption is as cities go richer they will fix themselves actually doesn't work because the decision they make today is going to make them embedded. The high energy consumption, low productive embedded cities. So our focus is the following that this needs to be as Ian was saying earlier that it needs to be a part of a national, local dialogue and a partnership with the national local government and in the local government our work shows that cities need

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to focus on a few of the core services in the most common sensical way. Because it is not just protecting the climate or (inaudible) it is also providing services. To give an example, when cities choose to focus on public transport and get public transport to everyone that actually increases not only access to people to schools and jobs but also increases the productivity of cities makes it climate resilient and makes it actually also work shows resilient to future climate shocks. So these are important (inaudible) not for one thing or the other actually all these three things environmental protection, productivity and quality of life we think are interconnected. The same thing for housing. Providing affordable housing to the city center's core to what cities need today but also what cities need tomorrow. What we see is not happening though is that we are making choices in cities that are locking cities into bad outcome not only today but for a long time to come.

The last point is that a lot of discussion

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goes about there is not enough funding, we just don't have enough money to do this. Our research shows actually even the money that is being spent today is not spent in the right way. So we need a piece of work to show how much funds are providing transportation and we showed if its spent on sustainable transportation we will actually require less funds in total not more funds. Not that more funds in not required it is moving from the brown to the green investment is the key. So you're asking a very good question but our answers to that at least from our research is focused on prioritization, moving to core services and innovating on the core services in a way that actually builds not only today's needs but also for future resilience.

MR. CHEN: Fantastic. More questions.

MODERATOR: The next question is from Henry Gass with the *Christian Science Monitor*. Please go ahead.

MR. GASS: Hi and thanks everyone again for calling in and from your places around the world. My

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question is we have the new urban agenda that is going to be formally agreed at the meeting and the you've all been talking about sort of the importance of the discussions after that and the implementation and looking at that. I was wondering besides the new urban agenda is there anything else at the meeting specifically that is going to be formally agreed or have any binding affects especially in terms of implementation?

MR. CHEN: Do you want to direct your question to a specific person?

MR. GASS: Sure. Don or Ani or maybe Ian as well if he is still here.

MR. CHEN: Maybe we should hear from Ana Moreno since she is the coordinator of the Secretariat. We'll hear from her first and then the rest of us can chime in.

MS. MORENO: Sure, thank you. Well the document that I was mentioning is going to be adopted officially on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October. It was agreed on by the 10<sup>th</sup> of September by all the regional groups that

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are representing a member state. That document is integrated by Quito declaration and a key implementation plan but the good news is that we agreed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September we are focusing Quito about the discussions on implementation. So apart of the plan about the high level round tables that are going to take place focusing the discussion on implementations (inaudible) negotiated there are going to be different areas and different places where we are waiting on. I already know that there are going to be the presentation of different commitment. That means that they are going to be launched there. There have (inaudible) that have been working (inaudible) process so nothing that is just now improvised because of the document agreement in September. There are a lot of organizations that during the (inaudible) process have already started to talk to each other about how to implement and how to ensure that those partnerships are going to take place. We are going to have in Quito what we call the urban stage. The urban stage is going to be the place where all those

commitments are going to be presented. There you will have governments where you're going to launch the mobility plans. You will have different organizations working together to join their force against disasters and of course improving resilience. Right now in the key implementation plan (inaudible) you have more than 800 commitments but it is not about the number and I really always honest about what we've done. It is not about the number it is about in fact to have less commitment but really implemented with one. In fact, coming back to the previous question it is about sharing experiences and it is about cities corporations, it is about north corporation, south corporation, that is the key implementation plan and the urbanization.

So in the conference you're going to have a week of these commitments and weeks of conversations and some events about how to do it especially how to monitor and indicators and about data and then you will have of course member states on that conversation among themselves especially regionally and those that

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have some comments that they seek to try to see how they will (inaudible) future. I would like to say there is an issue in the conference in a way Ani has mentioned now it is about what we call the science of cities. There is a way by research that cities that can be better planned and hopefully at the conference we will need to start to talk about that. About data, about how we are going to capture that and how are we going to ensure that the science of cities is taken into account in the plan. So in conference in Quito is going to be a mix of everything. The idea is that in one year and two months we meet again in the (inaudible) in February --

MODERATOR: We've lost Ana's line again.

MR. CHEN: I think she was wrapping up so why don't we continue. This is Don Chen; I can take a crack at that question as well. I'll underscore what Ana Moreno was saying about not only the document but also the things that happened around Habitat III including civil society and participation their networking, the rights of the city platform which is a

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very important component of many civil society organization efforts with regard to Habitat III. Regarding the commitments. This is an architecture that was really popularized by the Clinton global initiative and back in 2012 when the Rio plus 20 conference occurred one of the biggest commitments coming out of that conference was a \$175-billion-dollar commitment by nine multilateral development banks to invest in sustainable transportation and that was achieved through a variety of different stakeholders and has proven to be very promising in the aftermath. I'm going to point you to two recent blog posts which also underscore other commitments and expectations that people have highlighted. One is on the Ford Foundation website. The blog post is entitled What to Expect at the Habitat III conference on Urban Development. There is a piece by Michael Cohen and Lena Simmons from the New School talking about what Ana mentioned which is the need for monitoring data evaluation holding all of the stakeholders accountable to the goals that we set

forth. So that is one example of a commitment that while not binding in the treaty sort of way or the international accord sort of way is none the less something that we think is realistic to expect from the conference.

The second one is that Citiscope that [citiscope.org](http://citiscope.org) the most recent blog post is about philanthropies role. So the Ford Foundation and a lot of other foundations have been involved in Habitat III as well as the related UN processes of the sustainable development goals and the Paris agreement. And philanthropy increasingly sees this role as a partner with the UN agencies and most importantly with civil society organizations and local governments to focus a lot of implementation. So those are a couple of resources for what many of us are expecting will come out of a successful Habitat III conference.

MR. KLAUS: Don, this is Ian. I'm still on the line, I can also tackle those pretty quickly if you'd like from our perspective and also I'd like to really mention that (inaudible) from the domestic

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perspective in the U.S. in terms of implementation and let me note that we sing the praises of the metro cable and the bibliotheca and the escalator and let us also sing the praises of the telecommunication network in Medellin. Sustainable urbanization particularly in pursuit of implementing the SDGs and of course Paris is a very, very complicated question. Countries have different structures, cities have different political orders and what works on one end doesn't necessarily work in the other end. So approaching this from the perspective of something binding could -- have to be consistent with the sort of issue in the way that (inaudible). In terms of implementation a couple of questions that we think are important and we should consider when we address beforehand (inaudible) quickly whether or not that Quito itself is successful and there is a question of whether or not it is inclusive. As it comes to implementation that means while we included people in the conversation to really encourage sustainable urbanization. Does it encourage north side dialogue a lot of urban networks are north

and best practices have to be shared north to south and south to north. Finally, as was mentioned previously on the global south and then in a larger sense building of political will which is crucial for implementation at the national and local level. So I think those are some things that we can think about in terms of (inaudible) whether or not all of the actors who can (inaudible) are able to (inaudible).

MR. CHEN: Thanks Ian. I think we have time for one more question.

MODERATOR: The next question on the line is Vin Chin Lee from *People Daily Sun*. Please go ahead.

MR. LEE: Hi thank you very much for your introduction. My question is I want to confirm that why you choose Quito as the venue of this conference. Is Quito an example of the infrastructure should be improved? My second question is how South American countries can benefit from this conference, thank you.

MR. CHEN: Does anyone want to field that one? It was a combination of a political process in deciding where the conference would be held and an

opportunity to showcase a rising global city. You guys may know that Quito is a historic city, it was the first city designated by UNESCO as a world heritage site in the urban context so it had a lot of very positive factors in consideration but it was also a political process that took a while to work out. I'll leave it at that. Any final thoughts from our speakers? Any other things to add?

MR. GEEVARGHESE: Don, this is Salin I don't know whether you can actually hear me. Can you hear me?

MR. CHEN: Yes we can hear you.

MR. GEEVARGHESE: My apologies on background noise. I'm here at the UCLG conference in Bogota with numbers of mayors from around the world and I guess my thoughts reemphasize some points that were made earlier. On the point about the importance of networks I would reemphasize and that has gotten reiterated. I can imagine that both coming into Quito and coming out of Quito that part of implementation will be how is it and what might be the roles of



whether it is in the public or private or philanthropic or civil society sectors, how do we actually reinforce learning networks particularly among practical problem solvers that mayors actually are. So that would be one comment. The second comment actually is another reiteration and reminder of something that Ani put on the table. Beyond financial commitments and new financial commitments that are made I think the point that we will have to think creatively about how we deliver solutions in a different and better way sometimes with existing resources I think is a point that needs to be made. Yes, there will need to be new financing vehicles and new funding that is made available but sometimes I think we realize particularly at the city level that if we can think in a more imaginative and creative way about delivering a solution with multiple benefits just by looking at the same problem through a different lens I think will be another way for us to come out of Quito thinking that we have to deliver differently and better and with more impact.

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MR. CHEN: Great, thanks Salin.

MR. DASGUPTA: Don can I add one line?

MR. CHEN: Yes.

MR. DASGUPTA: So Salin so good to hear from you. I was just reflecting on Henry's question about what success will look like. I just want to add two things. I think Ana because she has been working on the document itself there are two things in the document that highlights something that is very different from the past two Habitats. One is there is actually language which I hope everyone agrees to next week is actually a regular reporting of progress. That is critical. Without measurement there won't be any progress. All of us want to not only in the non-profit sector and the foundation that want to actually be supportive of this and how we can help and this is not easy. This is critical and connecting that measurement of cities to LDG and climate agenda as one otherwise cities will get totally frustrated which is also in the language would be very helpful if that gets solidified. So for us if they get the

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implementation agenda, a reporting agenda and a commitment to national government for national policy would be three things we would look for success. We have actually written about it if you look at our blog site we have actually published some of these things. I just wanted to add that, Don, thank you very much.

MR. CHEN: Thank you. Okay thank you very much for joining us. I'm going to draw this to a close. Again, we really appreciate from our speakers, to the journalists who are attending here. For those of you who are attending the conference we'll see you in Quito.

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