Habitat III
United Nations Conference Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

World Cities Day Theme Forum

Networking Event

Remarks by
Dr. Joan Clos
Secretary General of Habitat III

Quito 18 October
Honorable Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People’s Republic of China, Chen Zhenggao,

Honorable Minister of Housing and Urban Development of Ecuador, Maria Duarte,

Distinguished guests,

Colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour and pleasure to attend this Forum on World Cities Day Theme, and the launch of the 2016 edition of the Shanghai Manual.

Today China continues to pushing forward the largest urbanization process in the history of mankind.

China’s urbanization model has been a clear example of how urbanization can contribute to economic growth and prosperity in parallel to the important industrialization process.

Their impact on the economic and social prosperity of its citizens is remarkable.

500 million people were lifted out of poverty and over 260 million people moved from agriculture to more productive activities.

In UN-Habitat we are very grateful to the Chinese government for their commitment in supporting World Habitat Day since Shanghai World Expo in 2010.

The 2016 edition of Shanghai Manual we launch here today highlights practical examples, best practices and model cases which focus on among others, Social Integration and Inclusive Cities.

The Manual and World Cities Day have continued to advance the global debate on the topic of sustainable urban development.

Since its launch in 2010 as a guide for mayors and urban managers, the Manual has proven to be an essential reference for cities in finding and testing new urban development solutions.

The experiences shared in the new edition go a long way in demonstrating that sustainable urban development can be achieved, through partnerships and inclusivity, innovation and knowledge-sharing.

Similarly, I am glad to note that since its launch in 2014, World Cities Day has drawn great interest in the international community, as a platform for debates and
discussions on the topic of Sustainable Urban Development leading up to the Habitat III Conference.

In the last two years, more than 200 city, national, and regional level celebrations have been held during Urban October, the month where UN-Habitat and its partners organize activities on topics in sustainable urbanization.

The World Cities Day theme this year, *Inclusive Cities, Shared Development*, is at the heart of global discussions and a focus of the New Urban Agenda.

This year’s World Cities Day celebration will be of great significance to us in the United Nations and to our partners, as it will mark the beginning of the process of promoting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda through *Together Beyond Habitat III* activities.

Thank you very much