Joint Statement

by UN Habitat Deputy Executive Director, Ms Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, and the OECD Development Centre Director, Mr Mario Pezzini, on their commitment to cooperate to address cities’ financing gap

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are pleased to participate at the historic Habitat III conference and reiterate our shared commitment to work together to support efforts by developing countries to address the financing gaps their cities face.

The intense and extremely rapid process of urbanization in developing countries, particularly in Africa, can lead to significant opportunities and considerable challenges, such as congestion and poor governance, if appropriate public goods are unavailable. In this context, our organizations recognize the need to develop and deploy tools for financing urban development in developing countries, particularly in Africa, and the need to follow up on the Third International Conference on Financing for Development held in Addis Ababa in July 2015.

Thus, UN Habitat and the OECD Development Centre intend to join private and public actors to strengthen the capacity of national and local authorities to manage opportunities and challenges in urban settlements, ensure effective absorption capacity of financial resources at the local level, improve the co-ordination between private and public actors financing urban development, and scale up financial resources mobilization for urban development in Africa and in other regions.

To this end, both our institutions are ready to co-operate further to develop projects jointly, exchange knowledge and best practices, and create a platform for policy dialogue, initially focused on financing cities in Africa. We believe by deepening our collaboration in these ways, we can tangibly promote cities that are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

UN-Habitat is the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.
Learn more about UN Habitat at www.unhabitat.org

The Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is a special platform for knowledge-sharing and evidence-based policy dialogue where developing countries, emerging economies and OECD member countries interact on an equal footing. The Inclusive nature of its membership, coupled with its expertise, helps to find innovative policy solutions to pressing development challenges.
For further information: www.oecd.org/dev