

**Research and Academic Partner Constituent Group (RAPCG)**

**of the General Assembly of Partners**

**Statement**

Delivered on behalf of

**the Research and Academics Partner Constituent Group (RAPCG)**

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Distinguished Delegates and Representatives of the Member States, it is a great honor to be here today to share the contributions of the research and academic community to the implementation to the new urban agenda. The Research and Academic Partner Constituent Groups has members from more than 70 countries around the world. Each member is part of larger networks of academic associations, research institutions, and reputable universities. We are delighted to be among the key stakeholders in the New Urban Agenda, and highlight the importance of several sections and paragraphs in this historic document, these include paragraphs 42, 126, 128,137, 147, 149 ,150,157, and 162.

The RA members are enthusiastic about the promise of the New Urban Agenda and are committed to supporting our governments and communities to ensure key components are implemented over the course of the next twenty years. Academic Institutions have extensive resources and knowledgeable personnel experienced in sustainable urbanization. We all stand ready to assist in the NUA implementation.

We propose a science-policy interface mechanism: a knowledge platform on sustainable urbanization, where academics and researchers from all disciplines provide for the use of sound research methods and support the co-production and sharing of knowledge to better inform policymaking, including using a systems approach to understand and address complex urban, socio-economic, and environmental issues, and strengthen the capacity of government agencies to serve their constituents.

The open sharing of knowledge, expertise and experience related to sustainable urbanization would generate policy relevant to cities and towns on issues of livability, equity, public health, safety, resilience, sustainability and governance. The primary purpose of a science-policy interface would be to provide empirically-grounded practical guidance **based on consolidating and evaluating existing knowledge and generating new knowledge on sustainable urbanization.**

The New Urban Agenda highlights the importance of capacity development initiatives and it calls for the creation of mechanisms for multi-stakeholder exchanges of knowledge, information,

data and best practices for implementation and monitoring. Yet, the document does not specify exactly how capacity development can scale up to meet the needs of cities, nor does it specify exactly what a multi-stakeholder exchange would look like and operate to meet the demands of the NUA. **Research and academic institutions have leading potential for building capacities, due to their knowledge resources and access to relevant professional and community networks.**

We will work to achieve sustainable urbanization and cutting-edge, scalable capacity building initiatives, and promote innovation, robust all sciences-policy interfaces in urban and territorial planning and policy formulation. In order to achieve this potential, member states need to invest in the research and academic sector.

We propose to all member states to consider research and academia as a full support to implement the NUA.

Thank you,  
On behalf of the Research, and academia constituent group