

## 16th Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)

24 to 28 April 2017

### Written Statement by UN-HABITAT

*Agenda item 3: Ensuring effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through leadership, action and means, (a) Understanding the needs of local authorities and communities and supporting and equipping them for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*

As we move towards effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we believe that the role of local and regional governments is critical to its success and that cities are the key for the SDG multi-sectorial approach. Many governments have incorporated the principle of subsidiarity into their legislative frameworks. Many of the responsibilities for effective implementation of the SDGs are already assigned to local governments, but the challenge cannot be achieved without the full cooperation and fruitful dialogue of all levels of governments, the co-creation of solutions is the way if we are to succeed with this vital plan for humanity and planet.

Elected officials, Mayors, Governors and Councillors have to respond to the daily demands of the people and are directly accountable to them. As policy makers, they respond by prioritising on issues, managing resources and building trust with the citizens. Many SDGs will impact directly to their responsibilities, particularly in delivering basic services and promoting inclusive territorial development. Local and regional governments and their associations are progressively taking ownership of the global goals. Yet they need to perceive SDGs as a vehicle to help them responding to the citizens needs, rather than a foreign agenda giving them additional tasks and pressure.

One aspect of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at the local and regional levels will be the development, adoption and implementation of legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks that have the potential to effectively achieve their desired policy objectives. Well designed frameworks have local and regional governments as central partners in their design as well as their implementation, including in transparent impact assessment and post implementation assessment.

UN-Habitat, jointly with UNDP and United Cities and Local Governments are supporting the localization of the 2030 Agenda by creating awareness about the importance of SDGs for local, regional governments and their associations, as well as providing a global platform where experiences in SDG implementation can be shared and inspire others. This effort to steer the territorial dimension of the Agenda 2030 will make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable and will achieve the promise of the SDGs.