



## **United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

### **Remarks to the Plenary at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development**

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Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me first to thank and compliment the Government and the people of Ethiopia for their hospitality and the excellent arrangements in hosting this important conference in

Habitat III and its preparatory process has opened to policy debate to local governments, mayors and urbanists around the world, giving a broad base to the new urban agenda that will be set for the next 20 years.

**To bridge the urban finance gap, there must be commitment to finance urban development and a recognition of the role of urbanization in development. There will be no sustainable development without sustainable urban development.**

To enable local and subnational governments to provide the services they are expected to deliver, UN-Habitat recommends four areas of focus:

**Firstly, a supportive governance and institutional environment is critical, from the central level down.**