

Dear Sir or Madam,

We believe that Australia's commitments in relation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda provides an important framework for establishing this role. We foreshadow that the Australian Government may need to provide reports on how it is meeting its global obligations in this regard, and there is international work in developing appropriate reporting frameworks. It is likely that this will be advanced before the next UN Habitat World Urban Forum being held in Kuala Lumpur in February 29018.

We are pleased that the Australian Government was well represented at Habitat III for the launch of the New Urban Agenda, by Ms Gillian Bird, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the UN.

We note the recent work that has been carried out in developing performance indicators for Australian cities. We would suggest that there is an opportunity for these (and other aspects of the Smart Cities initiative) to be much more closely aligned with the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda to enable the required global reporting. We would also strongly suggest that the Australian Government's role should extend to building capacity of local governments for implementing the New Urban Agenda, and providing macro-level policies which enable the essential transformative planning models to emerge. In addition, there is the potential for Australia to assist other jurisdictions in the Asia Pacific region in building their own capacity, and developing performance reporting frameworks.

The Eastern Regional Organisation for Planning and Human Settlements (EAROPH) is the UN accredited peak body for the Asia Pacific Region. We are a member of the General Assembly of Partners and the Habitat Professionals Forum. We have had input into the development of the New Urban Agenda and we have an ongoing role in its implementation. In this regard we would be pleased to work with the Australian Government in developing its reporting framework.

Regards,



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