

***Joint Statement by the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Development Bank of Latin America, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank Group, the Islamic Development Bank and the World Bank Group at Quito Habitat III, United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development***

**Promoting equitable, sustainable, and productive urbanization and urban communities:  
Our Commitment to Implementation**

- 1) We, the undersigned Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) —African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank Group, the Islamic Development Bank and the World Bank Group are committed to working together to ensure that the programs we support promote a model of urban development that encourages equitable, sustainable, inclusive and productive settlements, including small rural communities, villages, market towns, intermediate cities, and metropolises. We will do so within a comprehensive view of settlements and the urbanization and urban regeneration process that centers on people and their needs, and that mitigates and adapts to climate change impacts in a proactive way.
- 2) We do this in the context of the development needs of our public and private sector clients in our borrowing member countries, their national housing and territorial development plans, and the Sustainable Development Goals. We already provide policy, advisory, financial, and technical support to countries, regions, and cities to help them harness the transformative forces of urbanization for positive outcomes. In line with our respective institutional mandates and governance structures, we will foster coordination between urban, regional and national development plans, strengthening planning institutions capabilities, and access to finance at all levels of government and in the private sector.
- 3) We have a strong record of working with partners to finance investments that contribute to expanding the access to adequate housing and to urban infrastructure and services, and that strengthen the capabilities of the national and subnational institutions responsible for planning and financing housing and urbanization.
- 4) MDB finance is usually combined with substantial funds from other public and private sources of financing. Guided by our institutional mandates and our member countries' own development goals, we are committed to support the implementation of the UN New Urban Agenda through direct financing, catalyzing other resources, as well as domestic resource mobilization. As such, we

are determined to continue working to strengthen domestic financial markets, deepen financial inclusion, and attracting sources of co-financing to enable innovative and concessional funding to address the challenges of the poor and most vulnerable urban residents.

## **Harnessing the transformative forces of urbanization for positive outcomes**

- 5) As a group of long-standing multilateral development banks, committed to working together towards common goals, we have a responsibility to respond, collectively and individually, to the diverse challenges of a rapidly urbanizing world. We will continue to consider how to harness the transformative forces of urbanization for improving equality, inclusion, sustainability, and productivity across our strategies, programs, and operations, taking care to ensure that the poor and most vulnerable members of society also benefit from urban development.
- 6) We will continue to support the expansion of the supply of a variety of adequate housing options that are safe, affordable, and accessible, along with sustainable and inclusive urban planning. We are also committed to supporting all levels of governments in their efforts to develop and implement housing and urban policies that incorporate participatory planning throughout the design and implementation; and to expand opportunities for city-to-city collaboration and private sector engagement for sustainable development.
- 7) Together with other multilateral, bilateral, national, and commercial finance institutions, we will support the mainstreaming of the UN New Urban Agenda in the context of national, regional, and urban policies. Among themes to be addressed are urban planning and design and municipal finance, seeking to establish connections between the dynamics of urbanization and the overall process of development. We will place special emphasis on the need for strengthening and modernizing urban governance models to manage the processes of rapid urbanization, conurbation, and metropolitan growth that impact our member countries; and to take advantage of the new possibilities offered by technology and innovation. The UN New Urban Agenda will guide our housing and urban development priorities, and provide a platform for learning and knowledge sharing.
- 8) We recognize that harnessing the transformative forces of urbanization for positive outcomes will require trillions of dollars of investment, especially as we aim to cope with the challenges of climate change and environmental risks due to natural and anthropogenic factors. Public finance is critical, but it is not enough to fully address the needs associated with housing and sustainable urban development. We will therefore continue to work with the private sector to mobilize and catalyze financing through the use mechanisms such as Public and Private Partnerships (PPPs) and land value capture which will leverage resources, innovations, as well as promoting technical and managerial capacity. We will assist with efforts to create appropriate incentives and the enabling environment that promote the participation of the private sector in the provision of affordable housing and urban infrastructure, within the guidelines of comprehensive territorial plans.

- 9) We will work towards increasing our public and private clients' access to domestic and external financial resources, including the blending of grant resources with both investment and advisory support. These funds provide technical and policy assistance, capacity building, and project-level support to help to mitigate risk and ensure effective outcomes. The funds also enable socially, environmentally, and economically sound projects to become financially viable where the public sector lacks resources or technical capacity to implement them, or to provide incentives which help overcome market imperfections. Combining these resources with our own amplifies the impact of our work.
- 10) We will use our global reach, technical expertise, and local knowledge to address housing and urban development at all levels – from policy through operations. We also have the convening power to bring many actors together to work with our public and private sector clients.
- 11) We will continue fighting against any kind of fraud and corruption, and will require fair and open competition in the procurement processes related to the activities we support. We will also continue to share best practices and promote the highest social and environmental safeguards and governance standards in all our programs, policies, and operations.
- 12) We will continue to evaluate and report on the outcomes of our work, and to share lessons learned with the broader development community. We will measure the impact of our work promoting equitable, sustainable, and productive urban areas based on objective evaluation of lending and technical assistance.
- 13) We are committed to continuing supporting our public and private sector counterparts in the design of appropriate development solutions. With our member countries in the lead, and an eye towards reaching the world's poorest, we will respond ambitiously to the great urbanization challenge.