



Thank you Mr. Co-Chair,

We listened with interest to the presentations and discussions today. As the WMG we would like to highlight a few points.

We agree that it is important to address the existing and failing development model that entrenches inequalities and to address causes of urban challenges, including consumption and production patterns. Tomorrow we will abound in this element.

We emphasize the need to strengthen urban-rural (and peri-urban) linkage to ensure food security and sovereignty, and access to affordable, quality food, water, energy and other resources. Urban rural synergies will avoid exacerbating environmental degradation both in the territories concerned and in the remote areas where the resources are being exploited in extractive processes.

Targets can be directed toward:

- Expand active engagement with slum dwellers, grassroots women's groups and networks and positioned mayors and local government associations as key actors in promoting sustainable cities and democratic local governance
- Increase the promotion and protection of green urban and safe public spaces, or "urban green infrastructure", as important as hard infrastructure of energy grids and transport networks. They provide a range of social goods (co-benefits for physical and mental health,

community cohesion, mobility, reducing emissions, preserving biodiversity, improving climate resilience).

A number of speakers indicated that the market and private sector cannot take sustainable urban development forward cohesively. This highlights the importance of public sector responsibility (at all levels) to ensure sustainable development. (This is why we promote strict regulatory and accountability framework for private-public partnerships, including social and environmental externalities).

This morning the WMG discussed 2 key elements that we want to reiterate:

1. Participatory, inclusive actions at the local level to promote the empowerment of local actors and improve gender equality and women's rights
2. A gendered and people-centred approach that is cross-cutting and institutionalized at all levels.

Emilia