OPEN LETTER TO CO-FACILITATORS

H.E. Lois M. Young
Permanent Representative of
Belize United Nations

H.E. Ib Petersen
Permanent Representative of
Denmark United Nations

27th May 2016

Excellencies,

We welcome the engagement of Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) during the negotiations on the draft resolution for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level. We also appreciate your efforts to seek our feedback and make statements at the informal hearings.

We would like to express our full support for the letter you will have received from civil society organisations raising three areas of concerns for consideration by yourself and Member States: Mutual Accountability, Commitment to “leaving no one behind” and Commitment from Member States to deliver and Reporting on implementation.

The local and regional government constituency would also like to draw your attention to these points and stress our concern that our constituency has not been acknowledged in this resolution as a key partner in the follow-up and review process, even though we will be key in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is widely recognized, among Member States and by UN agencies (UNDP, UN Habitat), that achieving the SDGs will not be possible without localizing the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

We would also like to raise concern at the “institutionalization” of two sub-groups of non-states actors: civil society and the private sector, which will not ensure a fair representation of local and regional governments in the negotiations, as a specific constituency falling under the non-states actors status, despite being governmental stakeholders.

We also regret the change proposed in the proposed themes for the coming HLPF, in particular regarding the 2018 session, which would address “sustainable and resilient societies” rather than the specific issue of urbanization and its related challenges, as previously suggested. In the follow-up of the Habitat III Conference and adoption of the new urban agenda, in which we hope to see the SDG11 fully integrated, we believe that the Theme: ”Making cities sustainable and building productive capacities” would be a great incentive for Member States to ensure the link between the two agendas and promote sustainable urbanisation.

The concerns mentioned here, if addressed, would set the minimum standards for a meaningful follow-up and review process and be consistent with the ambitions of 2030 Agenda.

We sincerely hope that, in your role as co-facilitators, you are able to draw the attention of Member States to our feedback and recommendations.

We appreciate your efforts and hope you are able to give due consideration to our inputs.

Yours Sincerely,

Signatories, on behalf of the Local Authorities Major Group and the Global Taskforce:
United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
ICLEI - Local governments for sustainability
Nrg4SD
Commonwealth Local Governments Forum (CLGF)