STATEMENT
by Ambassador Alain Brian Bergant
on behalf of the Human Security Network at
Habitat III – UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development
17 - 20 October 2016, Quito, Ecuador

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Under Secretary General Clos, Ministers, Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues and Friends,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the members of the Human Security Network, a
cross-regional Network composed of Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland,
Jordan, Mali, Norway, Panama, Switzerland, Thailand, South Africa as an observer and
my own country, Slovenia. The Human Security Network is an informal group of States
that promotes the integration of the human security approach in policies and
programmes at international, regional and national levels.

The Network is advocating a people-centred, holistic approach to human security,
complementing the more traditional understanding of national and international
security, also when it comes to the current global challenges. Ensuring peace and
security as well as building peaceful and inclusive societies must remain at the forefront
of international community endeavours.

Habitat III is taking place as one of the first major United Nations intergovernmental
conference after the historic adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
and presents the opportunity to address urban and human settlements challenges and
obstacles to achieving sustainable development in all three dimensions worldwide.

At its core, human security is about protecting people from threats to their life, safety,
fundamental rights and dignity and with that it's also closely linked with the principles
of sustainable development enshrined in the 2030. The New Urban Agenda provides
another important impetus to the implementation of the respective goals and targets and
mandates not only safe and sustainable housing as an engine for human security and
prosperity, but also all human settlements, free from all security threats and
vulnerabilities including crime and other violent acts. As stated in the New Urban
Agenda this is another historic opportunity to leverage the key role of cities and human
settlements as drivers of sustainable development in an increasingly urbanized world.
Development and human security are interlinked and mutually dependable.
Human security is a unifying concept that bridges notions of security at all levels, from the individual, community, and/or local (i.e. human security) to the national and global levels and can thus offer guidance in our common endeavour for true sustainable development.

We, therefore, encourage States to integrate the human security approach in their policies and programs to help address effectively the persistence of multiple and complex challenges we are facing today, including poverty, growing inequalities, environmental degradation, but also challenges such as natural disasters, effects of climate change, armed conflicts with a direct impact on sustainable urban development.

True sustainable development can only be achieved if all stakeholders are committed to transforming the common global vision of not leaving no one behind into concrete action at all levels.