CSD19 Local Authority Major Group Opening statement

Delivered by Mr Felix Dodds, Executive Director, Stakeholder Forum

The Local Authority Major Group welcomes the Chairperson's Draft Negotiating Document.

On the issue of transport, Local Authorities appreciate the recognition of urban transport issues and priorities for action, especially in paragraph 10.

Concerning waste, the Local Authority Major Group believes that the text should more clearly recognize that in many countries around the world governments at the local level are responsible for waste management. Section 37 c) on capacity building in local governments is a step in this direction, but needs to be further emphasized.

Moreover, we would encourage making the linkages between waste and SCP more explicit in this section. We believe that producer responsibility schemes should be given a role, since they can give producers an incentive to design products which use less hazardous resources, increase recyclate use in manufacture, reduce wastage, and facilitate more recycling at the end of the products life-cycle.

Regarding SCP, the Local Authority Major Group supports the establishment of a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production. Within this framework, we strongly support the inclusion of a Sustainable Urban Development Programme to be lead by UN-Habitat with the involvement of other relevant UN agencies, local government associations and other relevant partners. Such a Programme will support local authorities as key actors in SCP practices and promote learning and sharing among cities.. The 10YFP Sustainable Urban Development Programme should help to integrate local, national, regional and international efforts for SCP as well as enabling Local Governments to solidify and expand their SCP actions.

In closing I would like to comment on cross-cutting issues and implementation. At the local level, sustainable development issues are inextricably linked and often taken care of by the same person or team. Much implementation is finally done at the local level. These two facts should be included in the text on cross-cutting issues and implementation.

Thank you for your attention.