**Voluntary commitments to implement a disability inclusive and accessible New Urban Agenda**Presented by: Janett Jimenez on behalf of GAATES

The Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments (GAATES) is delighted to attend and pleased to present our organizational commitment to contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

GAATES is the leading international organization dedicated to the promotion and implementation of accessibility of the sustainable built, social and virtual environments, including architectural, infrastructural design, transportation systems, habitat, and ICTs so that everyone, including people with disabilities and older persons are able to fully participate and contribute to society.

In accordance with our mission, GAATES is committed to the implementation and outcomes of initiatives that promote sustainable urban development. GAATES has established a number of programs and initiatives, and undertaken numerous projects that promote sustainable urban development. Examples include;

1. GAATES operates the Global Accessibility News weekly electronic newsletter, which enables GAATES to share with a global audience of stakeholders, including persons with disabilities, States Parties and industry leaders, the latest news and best practices in relation to accessible and universal design of the built environments, inclusive transportation innovations and strategies, and technological advances in assistive and accessible technologies.
2. GAATES developed a TOOLKIT on KEY INDICATORS OF ACCESSIBILITY for Reporting on the UN CRPD. This report, initiated and funded by The Delta Centre at the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs identifies key indicators on Universal Design and Accessibility in a national and international context. The toolkit serves to inform States Parties and is a model for signatories to the UNCRPD, and fosters a higher level of understanding of accessibility and universal design around the world.

The toolkit identifies indicators that may be relevant when the signatories compile their reports to the UN in accordance with their obligations to UNCRPD, especially in relation to Article 9 on Accessibility. Accessibility of course being a key factor in achieving The Sustainable Development Goals, addressing accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities with respect to the Urban Development Agenda in Goal 11 – Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

The toolkit provides an overview of accessibility and universal design indicators and measures that have been reported on by signatories to the CRPD. Over 110 key indicators were extracted from the country reports on universal design and accessibility.

One challenge in developing a set of key indicators is the need to make them contextually relevant. In order to have good indicators, they need to be drawn from local contexts, culture, and perceptions of stakeholders, including government and persons with disabilities. Central to the development of good indicators is the engagement of persons with disability. Such engagement is key to all facets of community living and for ensuring the New Urban Agenda is reflective of all members of society for public transportation and infrastructure, housing, information and communication technologies, recreational spaces, product design and development, and government or private services.

1. GAATES has undertaken several projects with Cities and States Parties that addresses the full inclusion of persons with disabilities while addressing sustainable urban development.

Mostly notably, GAATES is currently working with the Emirate of Dubai via the Community Development Authority to assist the Emirate create a fully inclusive and accessible society, free of barriers and fully inclusive of persons with a range of abilities, in time for the World Expo 2020.

The project addresses two areas that exemplify actions that need to be taken in promoting the New Urban Agenda: accessibility of the physical built environment, and mobility and transportation. GAATES is assisting the Emirate in the development of laws, standards and best practices that collectively support the achievement of universal accessibility in Dubai. The new legislation, standards and policies will also be in keeping with the Articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), ensuring Dubai is fully accessible to all residents and visitors alike.

GAATES is working with the Emirate of Dubai to establish a seamless approach for the development, adoption and rollout of an updated Dubai Accessibility Standard. The project will also define a Dubai Universal Accessibility Action Plan (DUASAP) which will define the timeline, milestones, and the activities required to implement a comprehensive overall accessibility plan, now and in the future.

In conclusion, it is these types of collaborative projects and initiatives that GAATES continues to support and undertake – working with stakeholders, developing capacity through workshops and training for Cities and Governments, developing the necessary Accessibility Standards and Guidelines which are supported by legislation reflective of the rights and Articles of the CRPD, and ensuring the development of a comprehensive implementation programme that is achievable – which are reflective of our commitment and contribution to sustainable urban development, as stressed in the New Urban Agenda.