**Country:** Commonwealth of Australia

**Committee:** UN-HABITAT (5th Session)

**Agenda Item:** Smart Cities and Sustainable Development Goals

Known for its vast geography and an urbanized population concentrated along its coastline, Australia recognizes the critical importance of sustainable urban development. As a nation boasting a robust economy anchored in services, mining, and agriculture, and offering high standards of education and healthcare, Australia stands at the forefront of the global transition towards Sustainable Smart Cities. However, despite our high level of development, Australia is not immune to the challenges posed by rapid urbanization. The increasing density of our urban centers presents serious tests regarding environmental protection, resource management, and infrastructure resilience. Australia believes that the path to sustainable development lies in viewing urbanization not merely as an infrastructure issue, but as a holistic humanitarian matter affecting the well-being of future generations.

The global community is currently facing an unprecedented crisis where uncontrolled urbanization, environmental pollution, traffic congestion, and unregulated resource consumption threaten to render cities uninhabitable. This trajectory poses a grave threat to the shared future of humanity and the planet. Within the scope of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in accordance with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), Australia acknowledges the efforts made in the past. The challenge is not solely technological; it is deeply human. Global temperature rise and the deterioration of urban air quality are direct consequences of past urban planning models that prioritized consumption over sustainability. Therefore, it is imperative for member states to reaffirm their commitment to past UN resolutions aimed at reducing carbon emissions and promoting green infrastructure, acknowledging that the window for effective action is narrowing.

Australia advocates for a policy framework that transforms the SDG vision into tangible realities, identifying three focal points: economic resilience, combating environmental pollution, and building cities worthy of human dignity through technology. We firmly believe that the SDG agenda is not merely a "Technology Project," but a "Human Project." To this end, Australia implements strategies to transform citizens from passive consumers into active partners in urban design. Our approach ensures that no one is left behind by prioritizing the development of technological skills across all demographic groups. Furthermore, Australia utilizes digital data to rigorously monitor urban performance and create evidence-based plans. We invite the Committee to adopt a human-centric approach that questions not just "how" technology is used, but "why" it is used. We call for international cooperation to build cities that protect human dignity and secure our common future.