



First 2020 session 2020 of the Executive Board of UN Habitat

Monday, June 29

- Good morning, it is with great pleasure that I speak to you today. I wish that all of you and your close ones have remained safe and healthy in these complicated times.
- I would like to thank the Chair of the Executive Board, Mr. William Lehmberg, for the opportunity to address the Executive Board Members and Member States, as well as participants accredited to the UN-Habitat Assembly and ECOSOC.
- I am also grateful to the Executive Director, Maimunah Sharif, for her efforts to ensure business continuity and strategic leadership of UN-Habitat, despite the many challenges associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The unprecedented crisis we are still facing has deeply affected every sphere of our lives. The pandemic is not only a health challenges, as it has also reshaped our economies, transformed our work and living spaces, mobility needs, and even the way we interact with others.
- Furthermore, it has undeniably proven that marginalized people are the ones to suffer the most. Especially in cities, people without adequate housing, lack of access to clean

water and waste management systems, unsecured income, are being disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

- Nonetheless, I am convinced that it is **through multilateralism that we will be able to ensure collective action** on development and humanitarian efforts, as well as the greatest impact on the most vulnerable and often forgotten communities.
- In this sense, I am happy to see that, **despite being a relatively small international agency, UN Habitat has been working diligently to ensure that the urban dimension, as well as urban-related solutions, have been well-positioned amongst the key actions of the wider UN system COVID 19 relief efforts.** This includes the Secretary-General's Report on COVID-19 and Cities, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's work on the Humanitarian Response to COVID-19, and the agency's very own COVID-19 Response Programme involving activities in 64 countries.
- **Throughout the last six months, the mandate of UN-Habitat is more important than ever.** Think of the amazing resilience of our health workers, of our colleagues who are setting up hand washing facilities in favelas and slums, and of our partners delivering basic urban services, housing and transport.
- Based on this, I **strongly urge all Member States to support the agency by making contributions that allow UN Habitat to continue carrying out and fulfil its obligations and mandates.**



- Nonetheless, we also need to **urgently advance on our stakeholder engagement strategy**, especially the private sector, to strengthen the agency's operation and funding efforts.
- **México is deeply committed to this process, and will be seeking ways to further strengthen our contribution, engage more actors, and strengthening the funding efforts of the organization.**
- Once again, I would like to thank the Chair of the Executive Board for this opportunity to address you here today, and reiterate my support to the Executive Director, for her strong efforts to reform the organization.
- Finally, thank the Executive Board bureau and the UN-Habitat Secretariat for the careful preparations that enable us to meet and go about the very important oversight work of the Executive Board.
- Please be sure that you have the support of my Presidency organization in your efforts to leave no city behind.