

**First UN-Habitat Assembly, 27 – 31 May 2019**

**Remarks by Mr. Victor Kisob, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat  
High-level Networking Luncheon hosted by the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme  
Tuesday 28 May 13:00-15:00**

Your Excellency, the Prime Minister of Fiji,

Honourable Ministers,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Participants,

Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here today. We celebrate 10 years of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme and diverse partnerships improving the quality of life for 4 million slum dwellers, particularly for women and youth.

UN-Habitat is grateful for the Tripartite Partnership with the Secretariat of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the European Commission and UN-Habitat. We are honored to have the ACP's political support and the funding from EC to deliver the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in 40 countries, 190 cities and a network of over 1,000 trained Country Team Members.

UN-Habitat is also grateful to all the Member States who have partnered with us in this noble work to seek sustainable urbanization and surmount the challenge of slums in our cities. Your trust in our mandate has been confirmed by the commitment to grace this historic 1<sup>st</sup> UN-Habitat Assembly in Nairobi.

With your feedback and through our constant exchange, the Programme innovated to go to scale with you – to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in slums and informal settlements, particularly to implement SDG Target 11.1, which is on basic services, safe and affordable housing and slum upgrading.

We would like to thank and congratulate you again for your sustained leadership demonstrated in mobilizing domestic resources, putting urban poverty reduction as a national priority and finally engaging in new thinking and doing. You implemented with us new ways of ensuring effective and inclusive participation, data collection; you implemented new ways to develop policies and adapt legislation, equip local authorities with pro-poor development frameworks, and finally enable community-driven sustainable transformation for making cities a “home” for all – step by step.

I am very pleased about the opportunity to listen to you today and look forward to expanding our partnerships and further move together towards making our commitments reality by 2030 and beyond.