

**UN-Habitat Assembly – Final Press Briefing
Press Centre, United Nations Office at Nairobi**

**Remarks by UN-Habitat Executive Director, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif
31 May 2019, 13:00**

A very good afternoon to you all.

- 01.** Thank you for joining us at the final Press Briefing of this very first UN-Habitat Assembly, here in Nairobi, Kenya.
- 02.** It has been a long but very exciting and productive week. An important week for UN-Habitat, and for all of us in this urbanizing world.
- 03.** We marked our first UN-Habitat Assembly, with one overarching goal to find collective and innovative solutions to re-direct our urbanizing path, to make it an inclusive and sustainable one, leaving no place and no one behind.
- 04.** We marked this Assembly together with:
- 05.** Four Heads of State and Government, from Kenya, South Sudan, Yemen and Fiji, around 50 ministers, 10 deputy ministers, 63 mayors and representatives from 127 governments from all the corners of the world.

More than 3,800 persons were badged:

- 1,118 were government representatives,
- 129 local government,
- 143 United Nations and Inter-Governmental Organizations,
- 469 stakeholders from NGOs, academia, researchers, foundations and the private sector,
- 143 members of the media,
- 35 special guests,
- 553 guests,
- 292 exhibitors,
- 10 permanent observers, and
- 950 members of the United Nations family here at the United Nations Offices at Nairobi.

- 06.** I thank each and every participant, from the Heads of State and Government that graced the Assembly and provided critical insight on the importance:
- i.** ... of having sustainable communities for our children and children's children;
 - ii.** ... to ensuring economic prosperity and livelihoods for all citizens;
 - iii.** ... to the urban resilience needed in cities and communities in conflict and,
 - iv.** ...the unprecedented threat of climate change, which requires innovation every day to prevent a world catastrophe.
- 07.** To government representatives who are still working tirelessly to reach a consensus on the Assembly's resolutions and one decision to enhance the work of UN-Habitat – and a Ministerial Declaration – which we hope will be reached by the close of this Assembly, this evening.
- 08.** As the world's highest-level decision-making body on urbanization, this Assembly and all its participants shapes the way forward on setting the standards, norms and guidance on ensuring a better life for all, in an urbanizing world.
- 09.** I am also immensely grateful to our urban stakeholders, who ensured that we remain grounded, not forgetting those that are often most marginalized in our cities and communities, including women, girls, the elderly and the differently abled.
- 10.** My sincere appreciation to the members of the media, who have taken the time to cover this Assembly. Thanks to your coverage, editorial media had reached more than 162 million people by yesterday.
- 11.** In closing, UN-Habitat is encouraged by the positive outcome of the Partnership and Pledging Conference. US\$ 152 million was pledged by 21 countries:
China, Colombia, Republic of Congo, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, India, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, South Africa, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland and Zambia.
- 12.** Thank you for investing in UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan, providing the means to implement the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 13.** A final Press Release, announcing the outcomes of the Assembly will be shared once the deliberations have ended.

Thank you, Asante Sana.