

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

**Remarks by Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat**

## **HOST COUNTRY RECEPTION**

**DATE: 28/05/2019 at approx. 6:30, 2 minutes, Main Tent**

### **Salutations**

**Honourable James Macharia, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works**

**Mr Charles Hinga, Principal Secretary for Housing and Urban Development**

**Mr Patrick Bucha , Secretary of Housing**

**Ms Jane Mwangi, Director of Housing**

1.0 It gives me great pleasure to welcome all our delegates, governmental representatives, stakeholders, and all our guests to this lovely setting to celebrate the first UN-Habitat Assembly.

2.0 A special thanks to our hosts the Government of Kenya, represented by H.E. CS James Macharia. We are all very grateful to Kenya, who is not only hosting this evening's dinner but is a superb host country for the entire United Nations community here in Gigiri.

3.0 UN-Habitat, as you all know, is one of two UN agencies headquartered in Nairobi. I am also glad to say that we have been here since 1978 and this is our 41st year. On behalf of the United Nations family, and especially from UN-Habitat, I would like to thank President Kenyatta and the Government of Kenya for the support and continued great cooperation. Kenya has been especially kind to me and I am very pleased to be here.

4.0 In the last one and a half years since my arrival in January 2018, I am glad to say that a lot has been achieved particularly in the reform process of UN-Habitat. This is aligned to the wider UN-wide reforms to make the entire organisation more nimble, responsive, transparent and accountable. UN-Habitat is in the midst of reform. With the support of our member states, we have a new Governance framework. The Assembly we are celebrating here tonight owes a great debt to our hosts, Kenya, who made funds available to ensure we have a full-fledge programme. Poland and Germany also supported; and together we are now able to host a full assembly.

5.0 I do not wish to stop us from dinner so please allow me to end my speech today with a special word of thanks to all of the delegates present here in Nairobi. Some have come from very far places while others are giving us full local hospitality. We are indeed very fortunate to have such support for UN-Habitat. Rest assured, we are here in Kenya to stay and contribute back to our host country.

Thank you.