

First UN-Habitat Assembly, 27 – 31 May 2019

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

Local and Regional Governments Forum at the UN-Habitat Assembly

29 MAY 2019 – 18.00 – 18.15h, CR 1

Dear Mayors, Governors, local government representatives and other participants to the UN-Habitat Assembly that are joining us today

Welcome to the first Local and Regional Government Forum taking place within the first UN-Habitat Assembly. We are very happy that this event can take place today as the voices of Mayors and local and regional governments are key to implement both Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda. Both global agendas have major implications for the day-to-day action of local governments, from fighting poverty, to inclusive urban planning, from protecting the environment to run reliable, affordable and effective basic urban services. There are many connections between the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators and the New Urban Agenda. At UN-Habitat we think the Quito Agenda is an accelerator for Agenda 2030, many of its paragraphs talks about the key role that local governments play to achieve sustainable cities, we like to consider the New Urban Agenda a kind of inspiration, a spirit for change, that can guide local and national action to implement the SDGs.

As we have said in many occasions, we need you. UN-Habitat and the UN System need to hear the voices and recommendations of local and regional governments to implement the global agendas. We hope that this first Local and Regional Government Forum bring innovative ideas about how to bring the New Urban Agenda and Agenda 2030 together, working in synergy for sustainable cities in a more sustainable planet.

I wish you the best proceedings during today's discussions. I am sure that, together, we will be able to find solutions, ideas and inspirations to work together with member states, partners and the UN System for a better world, for all.