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NAIROBI, 28 May 2019 – UN-Habitat, which is currently holding its first UN-Habitat Assembly, announced the hosts for three of its flagship events aimed at promoting awareness on the state of the towns and cities and reminding everyone that they have the power and responsibility to shape the future of the places where they live. The three events support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The UN-Habitat Executive Director, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, told delegates at the Assembly that World Habitat Day, which is celebrated on the first Monday in October, will be hosted by the Government of Cameroon in the city of Yaoundé on 7 October this year. The theme will be “Frontier Technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth”. During World Habitat Day, UN-Habitat will award Scrolls of Honour for best practices in this agenda.

The Executive Director also announced that World Cities Day, which is marked on 31 October each year, will be hosted by the city of Ekaterinburg, of the Russian Federation. The theme will be “Changing the world: innovations and better life for future generations.” She said UN-Habitat appreciated the partnership with the People’s Republic of China and Shanghai Municipality on the World Cities Day Platform for promoting the international community’s interest in global urbanization, pushing forward cooperation among countries and addressing challenges of urbanization.

UN-Habitat will celebrate Urban October as usual from 1 to 31 October.

The Executive Director further announced the host city of the Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF11) to be held in 2022.

“I wish to congratulate the city of Katowice, Poland, whose excellent and responsive bid was selected by a committee of UN-Habitat and the wider United Nations family, including UN Environment, UNICEF and UNESCO. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank the countries that expressed their interest to host the World Urban Forum in 2022. I look forward to future opportunities for partnership with them,” she said.

The World Urban Forum is the world’s premier conference on cities. It examines the most pressing issues facing the world today – rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and poverty. It has become one of the most open gatherings in the international arena.

The Executive Director added: “UN-Habitat wishes to congratulate and thank the cities of Yaoundé, Ekaterinburg and Katowice, for their interest in hosting these UN-Habitat flagship events, and in demonstrating their dedication to a better urban future for all.”

The Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) will be held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 13 February next year with the theme of “Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation”.

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