

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

**High Level Political Forum (HLPF) Local 2030 Event on “Local Action for Global Commitments”**

**Tuesday 16 July 2019 at UN Headquarters, New York**

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**Dear representatives from member states,  
UN colleagues,  
Mayors, Governors and local governments,  
Partners from the private sector and civil society,**

I am very proud to see us here today discussing the local implementation of Agenda 2030 and to see around this table such a group of committed institutions that believe that the SDGs need to happen at local level if we want that no one and no place is left behind.

Localizing the SDG is a journey that started back in 2014, and while there is much to be done yet, this event is the proof that when partners come together under one common objective, great things can be achieved.

For UN-Habitat, it is particularly important to have local and regional governments fully engaged in the local implementation of Agenda 2030. They are the ones that can make things happen locally and their commitment to the SDGs has been well proven over the last years. I believe that we are now opening a new phase of the process, when we need to pay now special attention to those cities who have less resources, less possibilities and less capacities to be able to achieve Agenda 2030 at local level and for all.

Another point that I would like to raise here today is how we can ensure that SDGs keep their transformative aspect all through the process. Agenda 2030 is a unique opportunity to do things differently, to change governance mechanisms, financial systems and break silos, how to make the SDGs truly transformative is one of the questions that we need to solve, and I hope that this event and this HLPF is able to give us some ideas and responses.

We all know that governments alone will not be able to achieve the SDGs, without the contribution of private sector, local communities, organized civil society and the citizens themselves, we won't reach the objective. I would like to congratulate the Local 2030 initiative for bringing all these different and fundamental partners here today and wish you a fruitful debate during these two days.

Thank you very much.