

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

**Seizing the Urban Opportunity: Launch of the report of the Coalition for Urban  
Transitions at the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019**

**Sunday 22 September 2019 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York**

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**Deputy Secretary General Madame Amina Mohamed  
Sir Nicholas Stern  
Mr. Andrew Steer  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

A very good afternoon!

On behalf of UN-Habitat, I wish to convey our pleasure to be here and to accept this extremely important report developed by the Coalition for Urban Transitions! UN-Habitat has greatly appreciated being a part of this collaborative, multi-partner effort. Such a detailed, well-researched case for the national development benefits of addressing climate change in human settlements was desperately needed. Thanks to all who made this happen.

The report's message that local and national governments must work together effectively to deliver decarbonised cities resonates well with our own experience gathered over several decades from working in the field. The importance of a just urban transition, that ensures a zero-carbon future and improves the lives of the poor, is one of the report's most important recommendations.

We look forward to building these findings into our ongoing work on strengthened climate action, for example through the Urban-LEDS project supported by the European Commission, or through our support to various countries on enhancing their NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions). We also hope to take this discussion forward at the 10th session of the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi in February 2020, to which you are all warmly invited.

We must also use the key recommendations of this report to guide the development and implementation of several initiatives developed under the ICLA (Infrastructure, Cities and Local Action) track for the Climate Action Summit. I can say with confidence that this report will provide the evidence, the arguments and the way forward, for stronger and more effective multi-level governance for climate action, with cities and human settlements at the heart of such efforts.

Thank you.