

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

**Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) Reception at the United
Nations Climate Action Summit 2019**

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

**Excellencies,
Mayors,
Fellow GCoM Board Members,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

A very good evening!

I am happy to help welcome you to this reception hosted by the Global Covenant of Mayors. I am proud to serve on the Board of this important and vital organization.

I have 3 messages for you this evening:

To Mayors who are already members of the Global Covenant – I salute you, and encourage you to take full advantage of what this global network has to offer, by way of tools, networking, and best practices.

To Mayors who are not yet members of the Global Covenant – I encourage you to join. As a former mayor myself, I know that it is important to stand with other mayors who are taking bold action to transform lives in cities and communities. The Global Covenant helps you know that you are not alone in doing the right thing and implementing transformational actions. You stand in solidarity with other mayors who have the political courage to make climate action a priority.

Finally, to the Global Covenant Secretariat – please know that UN-Habitat stands ready to help the Global Covenant get to the next stage in its development:

UN-Habitat's new Strategic Plan places even greater emphasis on helping cities address climate change and all the adverse impacts it creates on the social, economic and environment fabric of our cities.

We look forward to strengthening our engagement with Global Covenant of Mayors on research and innovation, as well as in other areas.

We appreciated the Global Covenant of Mayors Secretariat's supportive words related to the Building the Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor Initiative. This is a new initiative that UN-Habitat and partners are launching at this week's Climate Action Summit. Now, following the launch, we hope to collaborate with interested mayors on addressing this important and

neglected topic in priority ‘hotspot’ cities. Please join us! Should you be interested, UN-Habitat stands ready to work with you.

Through the Global Covenant of Mayor’s, let us work together to help our cities reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and build the climate resilience of our residents – especially the urban poor.

Thank you!