

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

**Local and regional government Forum Special Event during the United Nations
Climate Action Summit 2019**

Tuesday 24 September 2019 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York

**Esteemed member states,
UN colleagues,
Mayors, Governors and local government representatives,**

I am very happy to be here today, during this Second Local and Regional Government Forum, following last edition during the 2018 HLPF. The Forum this year is especially important not only it provides a space to listen to the important voices of Mayors and Governors but because it is focused on how they are implementing Agenda 2030.

The Forum is also opening up a renewed space for Dialogue between member states and local governments, as this year the Forum takes place during the SDG Summit, at the highest level. The SDGs are a renewed opportunity for new forms of multilevel governance. Dialogue between the different levels of government is more necessary than ever as we are all living in the age of climate change with cities and communities facing the brunt of it on a daily basis.

This multilevel government dialogue needs to be reinforced with new and innovative ways of doing so that resources are better distributed and responsibilities are better realized. It is clear that the different components of public administration needs to work together to make Agenda 2030 a reality for all our citizens. This can only work if we have a new narrative of trust between all levels of government based on our collective responsibility to implement the SDGs.

I am also particularly happy to observe how the coalition of institutions organising this Forum is working well, and how synergies are being put to the best use. I want particularly to thank the efforts of the Global Taskforce of local and regional governments to bring such a representative group of Mayors and Governors from each part of the world.

For UN-Habitat, it is crucial to have local and regional governments fully engaged in the 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. Today, we need to pay special attention to those cities who have less resources, less opportunities and less capacities to be able to achieve Agenda 2030 at local level and for all.

We also need to ensure that the SDGs keep their transformative quality, which must not be lost in the implementation 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 the key question for this HLPF.

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 will not achieve our goals.

I would like to leave you with some key words that is guiding the new way of working at UN-Habitat: Think, Do, Partner and Share. This is the only way to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. We need to bring lofty goals to the ground, we need local action and we need to leverage on all of you to get us there.

Thank you very much.