

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

**World Habitat Day 2019: “Frontier technologies as innovative tool to transform waste  
to wealth”**

**Monday 7 October 2019 at the Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico City**

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**Your Excellency Deputy Minister Martha Delgado Peralta,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This has been an extremely stimulating day with many new insights into how we can use frontier technologies and innovation to manage our waste in a transformative way. I would like to thank you all for your fascinating inputs into our very lively discussions.

World Habitat Day was established to focus global attention on sustainable urbanization and through our discussions today, as well as the other celebrations in countries around the world, I believe are making real progress contributing to UN-Habitat’s vision of a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world.

We heard some excellent, compelling high level speeches this morning from the Ministers from Mexico, the representative from Cuba, our colleague from Mexico City and other high level representatives.

The two panels in the afternoon discussed in depth the solutions to current challenges. We looked at solutions to the growing problems of waste and how working with the informal sector can support this. The panels looked at promoting the circular economy to minimize waste by looking at the whole life-cycle of a product. In addition there was a productive discussion on how the informal sector can contribute hugely to achieve sustainable waste management in the world’s cities. And there were several concrete ideas on bringing in innovation and frontier technologies to support us in reaching our goals.

So now, it is to each and every one of us, to turn our words into action. On this I would like to repeat my invitation for cities to join Waste Wise Cities Campaign. I want to again thank our esteemed hosts, the Government of the United Mexican States and the City of Mexico for hosting World Habitat Day. It has been a wonderful opportunity for me to return to Mexico and hear about the positive work on sustainable urbanization taking place here.

And finally, ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank all of you for coming to celebrate World Habitat Day with us and showing the world the urgency of acting now to achieve sustainable waste management.

Thank you.