

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

Mayors Civic Reception and Benjamin Barber Award

Saturday 9 November 2019 at Durban Art Gallery, Durban

**Your Lordship the Mayors,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of UN-Habitat, I wish to convey our most sincere appreciation and pleasure to be part of this Civic Reception and Benjamin Barber Award of the Global Parliament of Mayors Summit.

As a former Mayor and now as an Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, I am particularly glad be part of this gathering of mayors leading from the front in the efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.

With the theme of Empowering Cities for the 2020's, A Decade of Change, I am delighted to see mayors shaping multilevel governance and partnerships towards achieving concrete actions that put people, health, security, migration and human rights at the centre of sustainable development.

On this occasion of the Civic Reception, allow me to ask each one of you to raise a glass and toast to the leadership of Mayors and to your partnership with the United Nations.

I would like to invite you to further consider promoting this dialogue at the tenth session of the World Urban Forum which will take place in Abu Dhabi on 18 to 20 February next year.

Thank you.