

**Closing Speech of H.E. Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Executive Director of UN-Habitat
at the June 29 Executive Board Meeting**

1.0 Your Excellency Mr Chairperson, Members of the Executive Board 2019-2020, please allow me to record UN-Habitat's gratitude for your support for the organisation in the past year. We are particularly grateful for the Bureau's support at the UN-Habitat Assembly, the 10th session of the World Urban Forum and throughout the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic.

Your Excellency Chair,

2.0 Please allow me to also record my thanks to you personally for your continued leadership and guidance of the Executive Board bureau. Let me also record UN-Habitat's gratitude to the bureau members for your time and efforts to help us rebuild this organisation. It has been an interesting experience and now proving to be a long and winding road.

3.0 To the all other members of the UN-Habitat Executive Board bureau, let me take this opportunity to thank all of you. As you know, the Board plays a crucial oversight role particularly over our work programme, budget and administrative matters.

4.0 We look forward to receiving guidance from the Ad-hoc Working Group with regards to prioritizing and budgeting the normative work of UN-Habitat. As the distinguished delegate from Germany has said: we need to learn to do less to achieve more impact. We also look forward to engaging Member States more actively and to ensure we meet your expectations both in terms of impact and in terms of communicating that impact with you.

5.0 Let me return to the importance of the Foundation non-earmarked trust fund. We need a deeper and wider pool of contributors. Multi-year pledges and contributions will be key. We are only 6 months into the new structure, and I believe you have heard today that we have a multi-prong strategy to diversify funding within the resource mobilization strategy. We count on you as allies and advocates for UN-Habitat in this direction to leverage our outreach. We also look to additional funds and contributions this year, as we have only 13 member states pledging funds rather than the 20 contributing countries last year. Now is the time to fund UN-Habitat to lift off. I can only promise you more sweat and tears to deliver the mandate you want us to achieve.

Distinguished delegates,

6.0 To support Member States and cities to solve challenges and advance sustainable urban development, we will soon be launching a Catalogue of Services with a sampling of UN-Habitat's areas of expertise and tools. A brochure with an overview of the key offerings has already been uploaded on our website, while the full catalogue will be launched on the occasion of the High-Level Political Forum next month.

7.0 As the Board has set the date of the next Executive Board meeting on 27-29 of October, the Secretariat will start preparing for that important meeting, when hopefully we can meet in person. Please let me thank Conference Services at UNON and also H.E. Madam Zainab Hawa, the DG of UNON for her continued support of UN-Habitat.

8.0 Finally, allow me to thank my team led by Mr Victor Kisob, the Deputy Executive Director and also my colleagues Raf Tuts, Christine Knudsen, Gary Landes and Neil Khor, who led working teams to prepare for this meeting. Let me take the opportunity to thank Mr Chris Mensah, and the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies for their dedicated support. Not forgetting Kamal, Leon and David who provided ICT support throughout the meeting.

On behalf of UN-Habitat, stay safe and I look forward to our meeting in October, where I hope to be able to welcome all of you in person and in Nairobi. Asante Sana.

Thank you.

(657 words 5 minutes)