Statement by Hon. Martha Delgado, President of the UN-Habitat Assembly

2020 Second Session of the Executive Board Meeting
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UN-HABITAT

27 de octubre - 12:05 – 12:10 hrs am (CDMX)
Intervención, en inglés, de la Subsecretaria de 5 min. aprox.
Plataforma virtual

[Vocatives]

- Jafar Barmaki, Presidente of the Executive Board and Ambassador of Iran in Kenya
- Ms. Maimunah Mohd Shariff, Executive Director of the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi
- Representative of the Government of Kenya (TBD)

12:05 Participation

[Opening remarks]

- Good morning to all in Nairobi and good evening to those in different countries all around the globe.
- It is with great pleasure that I speak to you today as President of the UN-Habitant Assembly.
- I would like to thank the Chair of the Executive Board for the opportunity to address the Executive Board Members and Member
States, as well as participants accredited to the UN-Habitat Assembly and ECOSOC.

- I am also grateful to the Executive Director, Maimunah Sharif, and this is the perfect space to acknowledge her outstanding efforts to ensure business continuity and strategic leadership of UN-Habitat, despite the many challenges raised with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

[Main messages]

- Since we last met on 29 June, the world continues to be in the grip of the pandemic. However, thanks to multiple UN agencies efforts, including UN Habitat, we now know more of the virus, and how to better manage sanitary measure.

- According to the latest data, 95% of the cases are in cities and urban areas; yet, it is also there where we see the largest shoots of recovery.

- It has become evident that those cities that work with its communities and central governments are recovering faster and better. Similarly, at the world stage, it is symbiotic multilateralism that will underpin the socio-economic recovery of countries. Hence the importance of working with organization such as UN habitat to ensure the effective alignment and implementation of national polices at the local level.

- Furthermore, in the hardest days of the pandemic, we have seen how the most vulnerable communities were impacted with scarce alternatives to healthcare services. Particularly women and children
were severely affected by the shutdown of our economies and the lockdown at home.

- Even in developed countries, women were locked out of board rooms and offices, plus there is also the specter of violence at home.

- On this, I Celebrate the work of UN-Habitat with UN Women on protecting women’s rights, particularly those that live in underprivileged communities.

- Governments worldwide have had to enact policies that prioritized health over the rights of individuals. However, it is important to recall that basic human rights cannot and should not be left out of the recovery plans.

- I am happy to see UN-Habitat actively advocating to Member States to ensure there would be no evictions during the lock down period. In fact, to date, UN-Habitat working with over 1,000 cities especially in the developing world, continues to provide more than 2 million hand washes, build infrastructure, and ensure protection for the most vulnerable communities.

[Closing remarks]

- As the current president of UN Habitat’s assembly, I strongly urge all Member States to support the agency, particularly by making contributions to the Foundation General Purpose fund.

- This will allow the agency to continue carrying out and fulfilling its obligations to implement General Assembly mandated activities, as
well as the resolutions we collectively passed at the first UN-Habitat Assembly in May last year.

● Once again, I would like to thank the Chair of the Executive Board for this opportunity to address members of the Executive Board and to reiterate my support to Madame Maimunah Mohd Sharif, the Executive Director, for her strong efforts to reform the organization and meet the challenges of COVID-19.

● Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Board bureau and the UN-Habitat Secretariat for the careful preparations for this Second Session over three days and review together the work of the Executive Board.

● Please be sure that you have the support of my Presidency of the Assembly in all the efforts required to leave no one behind.