



Valuing our communities and cities

**UN-Habitat Executive Director, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**  
**World Cities Day 2020**  
**Launch of the World Cities Report 2020**  
**31 October 2020**

I am both delighted and grateful, that His Excellency, President Uhuru Kenyatta, has agreed to launch UN-Habitat's flagship report - *World Cities Report 2020*. This is an important moment for us, especially during the global observance of World Cities Day, which is taking place in Nakuru of Kenya.

UN-Habitat's World Cities Reports are internationally renowned, for providing the latest thinking and findings, on trends, conditions and ideas around urbanisation, and city affairs, that have been considered as a megatrend of this century. World Cities Reports are an excellent tool, to inform policy and to launch global and regional debates, on the most up-to-date and pressing topics. The last World Cities Report was published in 2016, and has been downloaded for over 166,000 times.

We are proud to have had such an impressive critical mass of experts, contributing in different capacities, to the production of the various chapters of this Report, and another distinguished group of subject experts review it, under the leadership of our Knowledge and Innovation Branch. The Report highlights the importance of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11, which is critical as we plan for the global recovery of our human settlements.

The theme of the Report - The Value of Sustainable Urbanization - is very timely given the current COVID-19 challenges, and the need to rethink the role of cities and urbanisation, in responding to this global crisis. We are convinced that, this Report will inspire further studies, debates and analysis as we harness the dynamism, creativity and energy of cities, to build back better and greener for all.

I now have the honour, to hand over to Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works, Mr James Macharia who will launch the World Cities Report on behalf of His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta.