



**UN HABITAT COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES MEETING
1 July 2021 High-Level Midterm Review**

Statement of Prof M Siraj Sait, Co-Chair of UN Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE) and Director, Noon Centre of Equality and Diversity, University of East London

Hon'ble Mr. Chair, Your Excellencies, Madam Executive Director, and partners

On behalf of the UN Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE) and my co-chair Ms. Dyan Currie, I would like to thank the Committee of Representatives for the opportunity to participate in this High Level Midterm Review and will be briefly focusing on the strong stakeholder engagement and joint implementation of UN Habitat strategies and plans at the local, national and regional level.

SAGE was constituted in 2019 at the first UN Habitat Assembly comprising of 16 urban leaders from diverse expertise and regions to strengthen coordinated engagement of all stakeholder groups, and advise the Executive Director in five areas: advocacy, resource mobilization, policy and leadership, monitoring global commitments, and collaboration in programmes.

The key achievements and ongoing efforts in multi-stakeholder partnerships during the past few years are

1. Regular monthly meetings SAGE meetings with the Executive Directors or senior managers on UN Habitat strategy toward joint implementation and monitoring.
2. Implementation of the UN Habitat Stakeholder Declaration 2019 adopted by over 200 stakeholders, in line with the UN Secretary General's New Stakeholder Contract.
3. Planning of key events such as the World Urban Forum 2020 and onwards to WUF 2020 in Poland, where tens of thousands of diverse stakeholders are expected.
4. Supporting national level urban policy development, for example by facilitating coordination between National Urban Forums.
5. Advising on initiatives across the UN on urban futures such as the New Urban Agenda Platform.
6. Ensuring that all urban voices are heard especially women and youth, among the 16 constituencies recognised by the UN, through intersectionality via the newly formed Social inclusion unit which inter alia promotes human rights and empowerment.
7. Intervening at the local development levels with local authorities, UCLG and grassroots level, supporting and expanding UNACLA inputs.
8. Participating in UN Habitat flagship campaigns such as the Global Land Tool Network, reaching policy makers, researchers, professionals, civil society and development agencies such as the World Bank and Islamic Development Bank.

9. Augmenting UN Habitat's regional level projects or initiatives in all regions including Africa, Asia Pacific, Arab and European countries.
10. Providing resources to key capacity development programmes across the world through UN Partners, especially in the context of inclusive pandemic policy responses.
11. Raising awareness and mobilising funds through participation in innovating financing dialogues and projects.
12. Bringing together 14 of UN Habitat advisory boards, platforms and networks representing key constituencies and priority themes, to ensure coordinated, integrated and sustainable urban development.
13. Fully involved in supporting UN Habitat directly as well as promoting the New Urban Agenda, UN Habitat's vision, best practices and tools elsewhere.

Through SAGE and other initiatives, UN Habitat has transformed stakeholder partnerships and engagement through co-creation of strategic, scaled responses in urban areas based on new data and expertise needed to guide stakeholders in transformative action for innovative, green, inclusive and prosperous cities and regions.

SAGE would like to sincerely commend the Executive Director Ms. Maimunah Mohd. Sharif and UN Habitat Senior Managers for keeping stakeholders and its constituencies at the heart of its strategic planning, programme development and delivery.

We have been closely following the contributions of member states and contributing to proceedings of the UN Habitat Assembly, UN Habitat Executive Board and are grateful of your support, resources and guidance during these challenging times.

The stakeholders are entirely supportive of UN Habitat's significant mandate and programme, and are committed to work collaboratively to secure inclusive, green and sustainable cities under the inspiring leadership of its Executive Director and team.

We would like to thank the Committee of Permanent Representative for giving stakeholders a space at the table during this high level mid term review and would be happy to provide more detail of UN Habitat stakeholder engagement and successes as needed.