



**HABITAT PROFESSIONAL FORUM (HPF) STATEMENT IN Executive
Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Program
Second Session November 2021**

Dear Excellences, Distinguished Guests.

Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF) is one of the UN-Habitat partners mechanisms gathering built environment professional associations and representing several million architects, planners, surveyors and valuers, engineers' etcetera. It stands for advocacy and knowledge exchange, raising awareness, solidarity and support among professionals in this difficult time.

Human settlement professionals around the world are supporting the UN-Habitat strategic actions to rebuild and inclusively socialize local settlements, communities, territories, cities and regions, especially during and following the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. These initiatives provide an opportunity for the Executive Board of UN-Habitat to consider the Program's strategy and activities in light of the priority needs arising from different situations and the geographic contexts of Member States to improve quality of life, promote peace and encourage a greener and more just recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

In response to these needs, HPF is developing *a Just Recovery Roadmap document* offering guiding principles on how to build resilience, respond, and recover during and after the pandemic including Re-tooling Planning Systems, Reinforcing Health dimension of urban interventions and Stronger Impact from Sectoral work. Digitalization, localization, standardization, new regulations, focusing on the localization of sustainable development are the new concepts essential for the new normal through reinforcement and coalition.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda provide an effective framework for coordinating with the recovery efforts of professionals and their accumulated experience support the review of implementation of the New Urban Agenda for more effectiveness and efficiency to be conducted at the High-Level Meeting next April 2021 in New York.

Now "more than ever" is the time to invest in professional multilateralism. If we stand together, we will rise together. We will recover better together. WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER and no one is safe until everyone is safe, acting in Speed, Scale, and Solidarity to save lives of our communities, protect societies and recover better for the sustainable future of the world.