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**HABITAT PROFESSIONAL FORUM (HPF) STATEMENT MENT IN Executive Board  
of the United Nations Human Settlements Program  
First Session March 2022**

**Excellencies, Chair, ED UNHABITAT, Distinguished Guests.**

*It is an honor for me to attend the first session of 2022 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) to present the efforts done by professionals to support 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.*

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.

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 Enhancing the Impact from Sectoral work. The roadmap also identifies the challenges facing the future of cities and regions, the good practices of the professionals, the needed adjustment to the implementation systems, and the required institutional capacity and support for Change. Digitalization, localization, standardization, new regulations, focusing on the localization of sustainable development are the new concepts essential for shaping the new normal, through reinforced action and expanded coalitions.

***HPF was invited to participate in the PGA Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanization last November 2021***, Our participation in this Committee is a great honor and we hope we can contribution in the ***HLM next April 2022*** by presenting the importance of The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda to 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 will be conducted at the High Level Meeting next April 2022 in New York, to consider the priority needs arising from different contexts to improve quality of life, promote peace and encourage a greener and more just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The severe conflict unfolding in Ukraine is also at the **center** of HPF concerns, as cities are the battleground as well as the recipients of internally displaced people and refugees.

Now "more than ever" is the time to invest in professional multilateralism and to act in Speed, Scale, and Solidarity to protect societies and recover better for a sustainable future.