

SCRIPT FOR THE VIDEO OF THE OPENING CEREMONY IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 2022 UN-HABITAT EXECUTIVE BOARD UNDERSECRETARY MARTHA DELGADO

March 29th, 2022.
Intervention: 3 minutes.

[Vocatives]

- **Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, Executive Director UN Habitat
- Members of the Executive Board, UN Habitat

[Mensaje]

- On behalf of the President of the UN-HABITAT General Assembly and Under-Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Martha Delgado, I am Dr. Hugo Isaak Urban General International Coordinator, It is an honor and a privilege to be here today with you.
- Dear Members and participants of this first session of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat.
- First of all, I would like to express my congratulations to Maimunah Mohd Sharif on her election for a second term as Executive Director.
- This reflects the good work she has done during her first term and the need for continuity, it recognizes her vision that focuses on housing, localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the implementation of New Urban Agenda.
- As the representative of the Assembly, I could not agree more with the priority areas in which her second term is focused and which, is also in line with the recommendations of the Member States in the Mid-Term High-Level Review of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan.
- It is critical to advance the climate agenda and commitments made with more than 1,400 cities that form the climate action network. This is part of its broader strategy to focus on climate adaptation with a special interest in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable communities.
- For the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, it is important to translate urban policies into management practices at the local level. Here she certainly emphasizes the need for cities and city managers to budget differently, develop action plans and raise funds to implement SDG-inspired policies.
- In budgetary matters, there is a strong commitment from Mexico to the Secretariat's pragmatic budget proposal for 2023.
- It is prudent for the Secretariat to propose a baseline of USD 3 million for the overall budget for 2023, as this is a reflection of the liquidity constraints facing the Program.
- It is essential to achieve the desired objectives and for this reason have adequate funds, this budget can be increased up to 12 million USD as approved at the last meeting of the Executive Board.

- The strenuous efforts of the Secretariat to better position UN-Habitat in the wider UN System have been outstanding. So much so that the Secretary-General is prioritizing UN-Habitat for additional regular budget posts.
- This is the first time in two decades that the Programme is being prioritized, which further highlights the work carried out and recognizes the importance of the issues promoted here.
- As President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, I am conscious of the need for the Member States to speak with one voice to support UN-Habitat and the Secretary-General in prioritizing this Program in more regular budget positions. I invite Member States to provide and manage their support through their permanent missions in New York and especially in the Fifth Committee.
- Mexico, as an entity committed to UN-Habitat, offers to support through a voluntary contribution of 3 million dollars in order to achieve healthy finances in the organization as the leadership of its Executive Director has communicated, in support of the general budget in 2022. Once again, I urge the Member States to do the same, within their possibilities.
- Finally, I would like to mention the importance of multilateral action through the UN System. A world in conflict is not capable of making cohesive decisions.
- We have witnessed the importance of the UN-Habitat mandate and how the Secretary-General has prioritized sustainable urbanization within the United Nations System and also as part of his Agenda and with the vision of building together the New Urban Agenda.
- It is time for Member States to properly fund UN-Habitat and adopt the Indicative Scale of Contributions that Member States have adopted for UNEP.
- The impact of UN Habitat work particularly in the area of post-conflict reconstruction work is also expanding. UN-Habitat needs consistent funding to be able to meet its normative obligations and help the Member States translate that technical guidance into projects that can be scaled up on the ground.
- The mandate of sustainable urbanization, like all other UN programmes, is under tremendous stress and scrutiny. This is not the time to shrink from multilateralism and in fact, we need to double our efforts to raise the importance of the mandate and to highlight the benefits of multilateral organizations like UN-Habitat as we lay the foundations for lasting peace through sustainable urbanization
- On behalf of my country and the President of the UN-HABITAT General Assembly, Martha Delgado, thank you very much for your time and for supporting millions who dream of a more equitable, just, and inclusive world, a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world.

HIZ/EVA/OAL