

## **Keynote Speech of the UN-Habitat Executive Director at Jakarta Development Collaboration Network**

### **Rise of Resilient and Liveable Cities: Green and Just Recovery**

**Date: 16 December 2021**

I really appreciate to speak to you today, on climate and resilience. These issues have risen to the very top of my agenda – OUR agenda, since I took the helm of UN-Habitat in 2018. Thank you, Governor Anies, for having me to kick off the Jakarta Collaboration Festival event. I strongly appreciate your commitment - to climate and your city's future, and to international collaboration, for instance in your stewardship of C40. And Jakarta's hosting of UCLG ASPAC, over so many years, and now further strengthening its support to cities and local governments in Asia and Pacific, with your support.

In UN-Habitat's Report on Cities and Pandemics that was launched this year, we have called for a green, just and healthy urban future. Recovery and resilience are no abstract concepts. The damage to people and property is all too often real and heavy. Indonesia recently again witnessed this at Mount Semeru, and I convey my sincere sympathies to the government and the local governments, and the affected people.

The climate crisis is undeniably a cause for urgent action. Cities are so much in the epicenter of risks, of the pandemic and of climate risks, with unabated pollution, while cities concentrate the majority of mankind.

Colleagues, let us all be the ambassadors for sustainable human settlements and spread the fact that climate change is not the culprit, it is merely the outcome of unsustainable urbanization and lack of planning. If we get our cities and communities right, emissions from construction, building and transportation, among others, will be effectively reduced, which could contribute extensively to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The 2021 SDG Progress Report for Asia and the Pacific, published by UN-ESCAP, shows that, for the whole of the region, SDG 13 on climate change, undeniably regressed. That is bad news amidst some good news: all other SDG goals progressed – admittedly well below the required target, but nonetheless, with only a more exception: a strong decline of SDG 14 – on life below water, on marine pollution. That is still a bleak message for Asia's coastal cities and metropolitan ports – Jakarta included.

This makes strong and innovative action, and change by leading cities in the world, so important. Linking climate and resilience planning to investment, augmenting climate finance for developing countries, increasing the share of finance going into adaptation and resilience, from the paltry 5% globally today to a just 50%.

I was much encouraged, having participated fully in COP26 in Glasgow last month, that developing countries will get access to more resources and more adaptation funding. COP27 in Egypt next year, is expected to be the adaptation COP, and of special significance for the climate agendas of African countries, and of all developing countries. COP26 also amplified the need for more local-national collaboration, for multi-governance solutions for climate action, and for the strongest possible collaboration between cities, local and regional governments to put local action on the national and global agendas.

As a result of COP26, Member States will need to prepare updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and climate plans, with more commitments, more clarity. This is a key opportunity for cities and local governments to advance local climate agendas, and adaptation and resilience planning as part of the Nationally Determined Contributions and the National Adaptation Plans.

We would also like to take the opportunity to encourage Member States to submit their New Urban Agenda Reports, which will be assessed and discussed at next year's High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of New Urban Agenda. This High-Level Meeting will be convened by the President of the General Assembly in New York on 28 April 2022.

The Indonesian G20 Presidency will be another milestone next year, to advance the recovery agendas of developing nations. I would like to reach out, Governor Anies, to Jakarta and host of the U20, to engage with UN-Habitat and our partners. This year, I was much encouraged by the strong support of the Indonesian Government, in the Italian G20, for the pivotal importance of SDG localization and Voluntary Local Reporting. I look forward for a U20 hosted by Jakarta, to support action on SDGs, and advocating VLRs as a tool for charting out a greener and more just urban future.

I look forward to seeing new collaborations, including with Jakarta and Indonesia.

UN-Habitat's work spans our support to the poorest communities, in flood-prone cities, youth in deprived neighbourhoods. We have a renewed focus on low-carbon planning, nature-based solutions, and waste management and plastic pollution, and the latter should be soon also with Jakarta. Our global programmes have developed advanced tools for evidence-based planning. More and more of our solutions are now becoming digital tools, and our flagship programme on SDG Cities will certify cities on SDG progress planning and investment.

I wish you all a great afternoon, and a great start of embarking on the U20 and in 2022.

I hope to see you all at the World Urban Forum 11 in Katowice, Poland, in June 2022, where hopefully Jakarta will share and exhibit its achievements and aspirations.

Sampai Jumpa.