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DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**The Deputy Secretary-General's**

**Message on the occasion of UN-Habitat Assembly  
High-Level Dialogue Second Session, “A sustainable  
urban future through inclusive and effective  
multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable  
Development Goals in times of global crises”**

**Nairobi, 7 June 2023**

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past days, there has been a clarion call from cities and local governments, facing crippling crises and risks on global scale, including a rising cost of living, energy and food crisis, and rising inflation.

These crises are further amplified by the persistent health and economic threat of COVID-19; a war in Europe and sanctions with implications on an integrated global economy; and an escalating technological power race. Implications and knock-on effects to our urban agenda, now and in the future, will be profound and complex.

As a global community, are we prepared for the future of our urban agenda?

Looking ahead, are we prioritizing collective action, data and investments to reduce the risks of tomorrow?

The Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly is playing a crucial role in raising awareness on how to shape a more secure future through multi-level governance systems, longer-term policies, resiliency measures and funding structures to address urgencies and opportunities, including through strategic partnerships.

In this context, I applaud the work of the UN-led Local 2030 Coalition launched in 2021 to elevate local actions across the UN and serves as a platform to engage, inspire and scale local innovations for the SDGs. As we build for the future we want, we must work closely with public-private and community local actors, and UN country teams to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

Here too, representatives of the Global Task Force on Local and Regional Governments and other constituencies of the New Urban Agenda are key. In this way, the UN Habitat Assembly is also putting into practice the principles of inclusive, networked multilateralism to inform the Summit of the Future next year.

As we approach the review of SDG 11 at the High-Level Political Forum this July, I invite you to bring forward the outcomes of this Assembly, to amplify solution-oriented

approaches at local and sub-national levels as a contribution to the SDG Summit in September.

I invite Member States to participate at the SDG Summit, at the highest level, to take stock of progress, assess setbacks, and present ground-breaking solutions to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs.

A set of High-Impact Initiatives are under discussion to demonstrate that transformative progress is possible and happening in different contexts, despite the challenging circumstances, and to mobilize leadership and investments to scale progress.

There is great promise for the Local 2030 Coalition to showcase how inclusive and multi-partner initiatives are contributing to the necessary transitions in energy, food, digital and social protection at local and sub-national levels to advance the 2030 Agenda.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I commend your government's leadership at this Assembly, around key resolutions that will help the international community to make progress on the SDGs.

I wish you a productive outcome in Nairobi, that will bring the voice of local champions to the SDG Summit and beyond, as we all shape a better future for people and the planet.

Thank you.

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