

**2020 Second Session of the Executive Board Meeting
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UN-HABITAT**

*27 de octubre - 12:05 – 12:10 hrs am (CDMX)
Intervención, en inglés, de la Subsecretaria de 5 min. aprox.
Plataforma virtual*

[Vocatives]

- Jafar Barmaki, Presidente of the Executive Board and Ambassador of Iran in Kenya
- Ms. Maimunah Mohd Shariff, Executive Director of the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi
- Representative of the Government of Kenya (TBD)

12:05 Participation

[Opening remarks]

- Good morning to all in Nairobi and good evening to those in different countries all around the globe.
- It is with great pleasure that I speak to you today as President of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
- I would like to thank the Chair of the Executive Board for the opportunity to address the Executive Board Members and Member

States, as well as participants accredited to the UN-Habitat Assembly and ECOSOC.

- I am also grateful to the Executive Director, Maimunah Sharif, and this is the perfect space to acknowledge her outstanding efforts to ensure business continuity and strategic leadership of UN-Habitat, despite the many challenges raised with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

[Main messages]

- Since we last met on 29 June, the world continues to be in the grip of the pandemic. However, **thanks to multiple UN agencies effects, including UN Habitat, we now know more of the virus, and how to better manage sanitary measure.**
- According to the latest data, **95% of the cases are in cities and urban areas**; yet, it is also there where we see the largest shoots of recovery.
- It has become evident that **those cities that work with its communities and central governments are recovering faster and better**. Similarly, at the world stage, it is **sybiotic multilateralism that will underpin the socio-economic recovery of countries**. Hence the **importance of working with organization such as UN habitat** to ensure the effective alignment and implementation of national polices at the local level
- Furthermore, in the hardest days of the pandemic, we have seen how **the most vulnerable communities were impacted with scarce alternatives to healthcare services**. Particularly women and children

were severely affected by the shutdown of our economies and the lockdown at home.

- Even in developed countries, women were locked out of board rooms and offices, plus there is also the specter of violence at home.
- On this, I Celebrate the **work of UN-Habitat with UN Women** on protecting women's rights, particularly those that live in underprivileged communities.
- Governments worldwide have had to enact policies that prioritized health over the rights of individuals. However, **it is important to recall that basic human rights cannot and should not be left out of the recovery plans.**
- I am happy to see **UN-Habitat actively advocating to Member States to ensure there would be no evictions during the lock down period.** In fact, to date, UN-Habitat working with over 1,000 cities especially in the developing world, continues to provide more than 2 million hand washes, build infrastructure, and ensure protection for the most vulnerable communities.

[Closing remarks]

- As the current president of UN Habitat's assembly, **I strongly urge all Member States to support the agency, particularly by making contributions to the Foundation General Purpose fund.**
- This will allow the agency to **continue carrying out and fulfilling its obligations to implement General Assembly mandated activities,** as

well as the resolutions we collectively passed at the first UN-Habitat Assembly in May last year.

- Once again, I would like to thank the Chair of the Executive Board for this opportunity to address members of the Executive Board and to **reiterate my support to Madame Maimunah Mohd Sharif, the Executive Director, for her strong efforts to reform the organization and meet the challenges of COVID-19.**
- Finally, I would like to **thank the Executive Board bureau and the UN-Habitat Secretariat for the careful preparations for this Second Session** over three days and review together the work of the Executive Board.
- Please be sure that you have the **support of my Presidency** of the Assembly in all the efforts required to leave no one behind.

BGV/DDS