



**UN HABITAT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
15-16 November 2021**

**Statement of Prof M Siraj Sait, Co-Chair of UN Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE) and Director, Noon Centre of Equality and Diversity, University of East London**

Hon'ble Mr. Chair, Your Excellencies, Madam Executive Director, and partners

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of 16 global urban leaders who comprise the UN Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE) including co-chair Ms. Dyan Currie. We have regularly presented our contributions on strengthening partnerships towards sustainable urbanisations before this board. In our 2 minutes today, SAGE would briefly focus on three questions.

1. How can stakeholders meaningfully engage with UN Habitat strategic planning, and fully participate in the roadmap toward sustainable communities and cities?
2. How can UN Habitat partners and groups coordinate better to strengthen alignment for delivery of SDGs and NUA?
3. How the Stakeholder Engagement Policy is essential for systematically partnering with UN Habitat and Member States?

First, SAGE has regularly met with UN Habitat senior managers and the ED, to discuss flagship projects and domains of change toward enhancing inclusive stakeholder impact at both policy and operational levels. Key dimensions include affordable and community housing, land rights, climate change, innovative finance, livelihoods, human rights, displacement, gender equality, inclusive cities, accessibility for disabled persons, and localizing the SDGs. We are supporting alignment with the UN Secretary General's New Social Contract and UN Habitat's promotion of compliance and climate finance to ensure COP26 agreements, as reiterated by the Commonwealth and other declarations.

Despite challenges, UN Habitat has made progress toward inclusive, just, green and prosperous cities in the past few years. UN Habitat regional offices have delivered major projects despite conflict, disaster or pandemics. We have reviewed and support the UN Habitat 2020 annual report, as well as its work program and budget for 2022.

Second, UN Habitat's inclusive ethos is reflected through a dozen advisory groups and campaigns, representing youth, women, disabled persons, professionals, universities but better collaborations are needed including city governments and businesses. The ED has tasked SAGE to liaise with all stakeholders, as we seek early meaningful participation for WUF11 and other high level consultations.

Finally, SAGE welcomes the Ad Hoc Working Group on Stakeholder Engagement Policy meeting on 29 November 2021 chaired by Switzerland and partners look forward to contributing to a framework where partners collaborate and monitor progress, with trust and common purpose with Member States in tackling the huge challenges of poverty, exclusion, climate change, conflict and pandemics.

Thank you, ED for using UN Habitat's convening power for collaborations toward co-creation and joint implementation. We request Member States to support meaningful, systematic and inclusive stakeholder engagement toward successful outcomes of UN Habitat policies and programmes.

**Dyan Currie and M. Siraj Sait**

Co-chairs, Stakeholders Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE) Nairobi  
16 November 2021