

UN HABITAT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 29-31 March 2022

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, Madam Executive Director, Your Excellencies, UN Habitat colleagues and partners

On behalf of the UN Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE) and my co-chair Ms. Dyan Currie, I would like to thank the UN Habitat Executive Board for the opportunity to speak today and at earlier sessions, statements for which are on record. I seek to update the Executive Board today on progress stakeholders are making toward joint implementation of UN Habitat strategies and plans at the local, national, and regional level.

SAGE comprises of 16 global urban experts, advising the Executive Director and UN Habitat on both multi-stakeholder coordination and supporting the implementation of the UN Habitat programme towards meeting the SDGs and New Urban Agenda (NUA) targets. Stakeholders have been playing an active role in key outputs and events such as the UN Secretary General's Quadrennial Report, NUA Platform, global urban monitoring, urban climate action and in preparation of various reports, concept notes and agendas. SAGE has continued to work and build on its previous successful engagement with stakeholders and contributions to UN Habitat activities.

A concrete example of the Executive Director's support for enhanced stakeholder engagement is the upcoming UN Habitat Global Stakeholder Consultations to be held virtually. It is unprecedented in several ways. First, in bringing together all diverse stakeholder groups in a transparent process for the first time. Second, the response from stakeholders has been enthusiastic with many hundreds of registered participants including representatives of UN agencies. Third, over 100 case studies have been submitted, addressing gaps relating to national reports on NUA and urban SDGs.

These valuable inputs are intended not just for the High Level Meeting in New York in April 2022, but gathering momentum towards the World Urban Forum (WUF), the Second UN Habitat Assembly, High Level Political Forum, and various other events such as Urban October and COP27.

SAGE would also like to note with appreciation the extensive consultations carried out by Mr. Patrick Egloff, DPR of the Swiss Federation, as chair of the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement. We look forward to a framework that would facilitate further productive dialogue and co-creation of sustainable approaches towards inclusive, just, and prosperous cities and communities.

SAGE has also been involved in various aspects of preparation of the next WUF, including nominations for the WUF Advisory Group, and we look forward to the Executive Board confirming the dates and the venue of the upcoming conference.

SAGE would like to thank Member States as well as the Executive Director and UN Habitat senior management for partnering and engaging with all stakeholders towards toward successful outcomes of UN Habitat policies and programmes.

Dyan Currie and M. Siraj Sait

Co-chairs, Stakeholders Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE) Nairobi
30 March 2022