

**Mr. LANCE JAY BROWN**

I am Professor Lance Jay Brown, President of the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, the CSU, and today I am representing the Habitat Professional Forum and chairperson Dr. Mona Rady.

It is an honor for us to attend this meeting and I want to thank the President of ECOSOC for today's discussion on critical topics all related to the Covid and post-Covid environment and in the midst of our code-red climate crisis and with ongoing conflicts raging in Europe and other parts of the world.

The Habitat Professional Forum, the HPF, is a consortium of 28 professional organizations from around the world, and is a mechanism established by UN Habitat to engage with professional communities and help advance interdisciplinary dialogue in support of sustainable urbanization, the 17 SDGs, especially SDG 11, and of course the New Urban Agenda.

The HPF reflects the spirit of the UN and recognizes the importance of engaging professionals to multiply impact and to build capacity for the next generation of professionals. The energy of the HPF has been devoted to working together in a collective effort for a just environment and the creation of the 2022 Roadmap to regenerative Recovery, a HPF major report being unveiled this week. The report outlines policies and strategies for building back better and push for increased engagement of professionals and more deliberate action.

While we already know a great deal we have also learned much during Covid. We need governments to listen and create the conditions for contribution. We look forward to continued engagement with the United Nations through UN Habitat and to more fruitful activities in support of global, diverse, inclusive, and equitable sustainable urbanization.