

CLOSING REMARKS

BY

**H.E. MR. COLLEN V. KELAPILE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)**

AT THE

ECOSOC SPECIAL MEETING

ON

**“SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION AND THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA”**

**21 APRIL 2022
12:55 – 13:00 HOURS**

ECOSOC CHAMBER

Please check against delivery.

- **Excellencies;**
- **Distinguished Delegates and Participants;**

1. I would like to thank all of you for your valuable contributions to today's meeting. Member States, the United Nations system, and our partners had the opportunity to reflect on some of the key findings of the latest report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda and share recommendations to accelerate its implementation.
2. As underscored in the recommendations contained in the Quadrennial Report, the follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda must have effective linkages with the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure coherence.
3. The New Urban Agenda recognizes the key role of local Governments and their associations in advancing sustainable development, driving climate action, and building peace, and ensuring inclusive and resilient future for all.

4. Most SDGs have targets that depend on actions at local level. And on climate action –adaptation and mitigation -- cities have been at the forefront. Over the years at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, we heard the experiences of some countries that established structures to link national with sub-national, regional/local Governments to strengthen their capacity to implement the 2030 Agenda. And some have even pioneered voluntary local reviews to contribute to the attainment of the SDGs.

5. I am inspired by the ongoing efforts of Member States and the United Nations system to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. We must build on good practices and the lessons learned in the response to the pandemic as cities have been at the forefront of this response. And they can offer solutions for the recovery from the pandemic as well as for urgent climate action.

6. Local Governments with the support of national Governments can reduce poverty and inequality through inclusive urban planning and the provision of affordable housing and basic services.
7. I would like to recognize that the mandate of UN-Habitat has increased substantially. Sustainable urbanization is now a megatrend that warrants our urgent attention.
8. It is for this reason that we call upon UN-Habitat to take on more work, facilitating the implementation of the system-wide strategy for sustainable urbanization at global, regional, and country level, to assist us in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
9. While we have asked the Organization to do more, we have not yet provided UN-Habitat with the resources and capacities it needs to realize its mandate. I urge Member States to consider this matter as we move forward to High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly next week.

Excellencies,

10. I will present the key messages from this ECOSOC Special Meeting at the upcoming High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the New Urban Agenda on **28 April**.

11. As President of ECOSOC, I am fully committed to mobilizing the ECOSOC system around the New Urban Agenda to accelerate its implementation, together with our global blueprint - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I thank you for your kind attention.