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Nairobi, 23 April 2020

Dear Partner,

I would like to inform you of [UN-Habitat's COVID-19 Response Plan](#) to support countries in their response to the pandemic and to invite you, as a valued partner, to join us in the COVID-19 Campaign titled: “**Take action with us in cities and communities**”, being launched today, Thursday, 23 April 2020.

The Campaign calls on UN-Habitat's stakeholders including civil society organizations, community groups, professional, academic and research institutions, businesses and local authorities to commit to acting in together solidarity to fight the pandemic in cities and helping the most vulnerable communities. It will run online and provide a central place to network and share solutions, initiatives, good practice, lessons and stories from partners and strengthen integrated action to improve the resilience of cities and communities.

I hope that the Campaign will rally partners to amplify the actions outlined in the Response Plan to support low income and densely populated areas in 64 countries in Africa, the Arab States, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions. It will also help mobilize the US\$ 72 million required to implement the plan and to scale up UN-Habitat's efforts to improve affordable access to water and sanitation, raise awareness about COVID-19, provide temporary shelter, create alternative income generating activities, ensure safe transport and repurpose buildings for the isolation of those infected with the COVID-19. UN-Habitat also needs you, our partners, to support us to collect data and map existing and emerging hotspots to ensure urban responses are targeted and evidence based.

As the pandemic plunges the world's economy into a global recession, UN-Habitat, is working with a coalition of global thought leaders and stakeholders to develop policies and measures to mitigate the local social and economic impact of COVID-19 and I would very much appreciate your inputs and review of these instruments.

UN-Habitat is already collaborating with national and local governments, and other stakeholders in support of responses to emergency needs at community and local levels. To date, UN-Habitat has provided seed funding of over USD 1.3 million for projects in 13 countries and has jointly launched with United Cities and Local Governments and Metropolis, a #BeyondTheOutbreak virtual live learning series for mayors and local leaders to share urban solutions.

Earlier this week I held a virtual meeting with the UN-Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAGE) on COVID-19 and wider sustainable urban development issues which resolved to initiate webinars with stakeholders to dialogue and inform UN-Habitat of key areas of focus now and post COVID-19 pandemic as the agency considers the impact of COVID 19 on cities and communities.

Please contact Christine Auclair, Advocacy and Campaigns at christine.auclair@un.org for more information on the COVID-19 Campaign; or Jane Nyakairu, External Relations Branch, and Donor Relations and Strategic Partnerships Unit at jane.nyakairu@un.org, if you wish to donate in support of the COVID-19 Response Plan.

I stand in solidarity with you and all those at the fore front of the pandemic to save lives and livelihoods, ensure food security and safety for those most at risk.

I wish you good health and look forward to our continued cooperation in our response to COVID-19 to improve the quality of life for all in an urbanizing world.

Yours sincerely,



Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director