

UN HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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Executive Director**

**Briefing on the outcome of the ninth session of the World Urban Forum
(WUF 9)**

Agenda Item 10

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ED INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT ON THE WUF9 OUTCOMES

Distinguished delegates, it is my pleasure to report on the Ninth session of the World Urban Forum held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 7th to 13th February.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Government of Malaysia and the city of Kuala Lumpur for being excellent hosts of the Forum, and particularly the people of Malaysia for the warm welcome granted to the over 23,000 women and men attending the event.

This figure makes the ninth session of the World Urban Forum the most attended ever, since its inception in 2002.

However, the incredible statistics of this edition of the Forum, the first after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, should not shade off the high quality and relevance of this event confirmed to be the world premier conference on cities and sustainable urban development.

The theme of “Cities 2030, cities for all: Implementing the New Urban Agenda” was at the center of the discussions and a wide range of actors debated it, bringing different perspectives through the more than 500 events of the programme; these were complemented by countless networking activities as well as formal and informal meetings that took place within the forum and certainly resulted in new partnerships and more coordinated actions for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at all levels by all actors.

The Advisory Group of the WUF9, composed by representatives from all main constituency groups and co-chaired by the Malaysia Minister of Urban Wellbeing and the President of the GC , examined daily reports coming from all main sessions and issued the Kuala Lumpur declaration that truly summarizes the essence of the recommendations coming from the participants, to localize and scale up the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Distinguished delegates,

Let me remind you that the Kuala Lumpur declaration and the substantive report of the WUF9 will be presented in the next Governing Council to inform the discussions and the approval of the next UN-Habitat Work Programme and Budget.

However, before then, the preliminary outcomes will constitute inputs to the preparation of the quadrennial report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to be submitted in July to ECOSOC, as mandated by member states.

I pass now the floor to Christine Musisi to provide some additional key facts and figures on the WUF9 before we conclude the briefing with a short video that will give you the flavor of the event.

I Thank you for your attention