

Statement of the Sultanate of Oman

in UN-HABITAT Meeting

29th June to 1st July 2021

**The Chairperson,
The president of UN-HABITAT Assembly,
UN-HABITAT Executive Director,
Distinguished Delegates**

Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honor to take this opportunity to thank UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Madame Maimunah Sharif, and her efficient team for preparing this high-level meeting as well as their great efforts in insuring the smooth running of business in this organization during this trying time of covid-19 pandemic.

I also seek the Chair permission to welcome the new members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UN-HABITAT who have joined us recently.

Sustainable Development:

The Sultanate of Oman has pursued achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through integrating them in long-term strategies and medium and short term development plans and programs, where the National Urban Development Strategy (2040) was approved with blessings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarek, as a major enabler for the implementation of Oman Vision (2040), which is the spatial framework foreseeing the country's urban development over the next 20 years. Some of its priorities are: achieving a balanced urban and rural development with clear and specific structure for residential areas, guiding the urban growth, working towards achieving the balance between the socio-economic and

environmental dimensions of development for conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and achieving the balance between the population distribution and the various investment programs and activities in a harmonized and integrated manner.

This emphasizes that the Sultanate of Oman is keen to adopt the international agenda in this area, and put in place policies, initiatives and programs that guarantee the achievement of its goals. This keenness comes as a natural extension of the principles and values of sustainability, equality, justice, peace and participation, which are all entrenched values of the Omani community from inception, enabling the Sultanate to attain numerous tangible achievements in the major areas of economic, social, environmental, cultural and political sustainable development in the past years.

The Sultanate in its endeavor to achieve these goals relied on a broad communal participation as it believes that the responsibility of achieving them involves individuals, private sector, and civil society institutions, which deepens the concept of partnership and citizenship, and to insure the community ownership of the development agenda, contributing to the socio-economic and environmental sustainability.

Urban Environment:

The Urban Strategy guides the general development policies on the national and provincial levels, such as specifying Special Planning Zones. It is a new concept aiming at providing efficient management and planning tools for areas of natural and cultural ingredients. The urban policies aim generally at developing urban communities that are coherent, safe, sustainable, attractive for work and able to withstand the different variables, while strengthening the urban-rural relations.

Combating Corona Pandemic:

The Sultanate has adopted a plan for economic stimulus under these exceptional conditions witnessing many variables on the local, regional and international arena. The plan aims at supporting the efforts made to

mitigate the fallout effects of the pandemic on the national economy, through providing a set of motivational measures and initiatives concerning taxes and fee and improving the investment and business environment and supporting the small and medium enterprises as well as incentives for work market, employment and bank incentives.

Cooperation between the Sultanate and UN-HABITAT in Common Areas:

The Sultanate hopes to enhance the partnership with UN-HABITAT for contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level according to Oman Vision 2040 and the National Urban Development Strategy. The most important areas of cooperation and partnership include:

- Implementation of the Urban Strategy in all Governorates and achieving balanced development between cities and rural areas.
- Building national capabilities in an integrated manner in terms of strategy governance and implementing the technical content.
- Developing the urban monitoring on an international level for following an assessing the urban trends to enable determination of priorities and the required measures to guide the urban development.

As it presents its efforts in the above mentioned areas, the Sultanate of Oman, despite the challenges, seeks persistently to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and believes that sharing the country's experience and experiments in such a high level forum will play a big role in achieving these goals.

Thank you for your attention.