

UN-Habitat pursues collaboration with Turkic states

Nairobi/Istanbul, February 27, 2023 – UN-Habitat, the United Nations agency responsible for sustainable urban development, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Organization of Turkic States. The parties have agreed to collaborate and jointly advocate for urban development to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements and reduce inequalities and poverty in the Turkic states.

“Cities are here to stay, and the future of humanity is undoubtedly urban. But cities are not only the sources of problems. They offer innovative solutions to address the challenges – COVID, Climate and Conflicts,” said the Executive Director of UN-Habitat Maimunah Mohd Sharif at the official signing ceremony. “We need to better plan, build and manage our cities.”

The collaboration between UN-Habitat and the Organization of Turkic States will focus on building capacity in Turkic countries, supporting the development of city-level governance frameworks and introducing participatory budgeting mechanisms. It will also help collect and analyze data on urban governance as well as develop and run public awareness campaigns to promote urban governance reforms.

As a result of the collaboration, policymakers in Turkic states will have access to urban data and analysis that can feed into better urban planning and policies. The parties also plan to initiate incubator projects to catalyze sustainable development in a number of cities.

Through its City Investment Facility, UN-Habitat will offer support to cities in developing plans and project documentation to attract investment, as well as conduct training programmes for mayors and city managers. The parties are also thinking about plans to organize a Regional Urban Forum for Turkic states.

The Organization of Turkic States, formerly called the Turkic Council or the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, is an international organization with the overarching goal of promoting cooperation between Turkic-speaking countries. Its current active members include Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. Hungary, Northern Cyprus, and Turkmenistan hold observer status. The organization

was proposed by the first President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, in 2006. It was founded in 2009. The secretariat is headquartered in Istanbul, Türkiye.

About UN-Habitat (www.unhabitat.org)

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. It has programmes in over 90 countries that support policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in cities through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action.