

## **Executive Director of UN-Habitat visits Türkiye**

*Istanbul/Nairobi* 24 February 2023 – The Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, came with a short mission to Türkiye on the invitation of H.E. Mme. Emine Erdoğan to visit the earthquake-affected regions. During her stay, she also updated H.E. Mme. Emine Erdoğan about the progress of the implementation of the Zero Waste Resolution 77/161 and preparations for International Zero Waste Day.

The Executive Director of UN-Habitat expressed her condolences to the families affected by the tragic earthquake in Türkiye and offered support for local humanitarian response efforts.

The United Nations issued a \$1 billion appeal for Türkiye to support more than 5 million people affected by the earthquake. In addition, UN-Habitat is calling to set aside at least half a million to support local authorities in their response on the ground.

On 6 February 2023, southern Türkiye was affected by a devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake. Tens of thousands of people lost their lives or saw their homes devastated by the earthquake. A week later, two earthquakes measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale were registered in the region.

During her visit to Türkiye, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat also discussed zero-waste initiatives. She shared UN-Habitat's experience with debris clearing and waste management after the Beirut port blast in 2021. UN-Habitat also introduced environmentally sustainable methods to segregate, reuse and recycle the waste material from destroyed buildings.

Last year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 77/161, introducing the International Day of Zero Waste. It will be observed for the first time on 30 March 2023. The event is jointly facilitated by UN-Habitat and UNEP. The day aims to raise awareness of the importance of zero waste, responsible consumption, and production practices and highlights how urban waste management contributes to sustainable development.

**About UN-Habitat ([www.unhabitat.org](http://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.