

**U.S. National Statement by Mr. Solomon Greene, Principal Deputy
Assistant Secretary Policy Development and Research, U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban Development
at the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme (UN Habitat Assembly)
Second Regular Session
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Thank you, Mr. President. Madame Executive Director, Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates, and stakeholders:

I am honored to lead the U.S. delegation to the second UN-Habitat Assembly on behalf of the Biden-Harris Administration and the U.S. Secretary for Housing and Urban Development Marcia Fudge. We welcome the opportunity to engage on the Assembly's timely theme of building and supporting sustainable and inclusive cities in times of global crises.

We meet today, emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic and facing unprecedented global challenges, from the growing climate crisis to refugee and food emergencies exacerbated by Russia's unprovoked and unjustified full-scale war against Ukraine, including its attacks on Ukraine's cities and civilian infrastructure. As these challenges compound a growing trend of rapid urbanization, we need to redouble our efforts to achieve the SDGs. Cities and urban settlements, where most people live, depend on us.

Ensuring urbanization happens sustainably is an urgent priority for the United States. Like our counterparts in other countries, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development serves the most vulnerable of our communities to decrease barriers towards upward mobility, create decent homes, promote equitable development, and achieve sustainable communities. The U.S. also support communities around the world in their recovery from disaster and conflict. We are committed to building local, regional, and global partnerships that will advance sustainability and

resilience to ensure well-managed cities become powerful engines of economic opportunity and innovation.

The United States has a host of programs worldwide to promote transformative change in cities that advances SDG 11. Fulfilling the 2030 Agenda's promise to "leave no one behind" requires our commitment to the foundational principles that support sustainable development: inclusion; transparency; the rule of law; human rights; inclusive and sustainable economic growth; the empowerment of women and girls; climate action and environmental sustainability; and harnessing the power of science, technology and innovation at home and abroad. In this regard, the robust involvement of stakeholders in UN-Habitat's meetings and activities is vital.

We also recognize that UN Habitat is now running a core budget surplus. This is the direct result of the resolution to establish this Assembly and the Executive Board in 2019. We call on all Member States to contribute to UN-Habitat, including to the core budget, and thereby enable UN Habitat to realize its full potential. This is especially important given the number of important resolutions the Assembly is poised to adopt.

Finally, UN Habitat's commitment to strengthen accountability, including to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, is fundamental to our collective goals to build safe, sustainable, and inclusive communities.

It is our hope that this Assembly reinforces UN-Habitat's positive trajectory and positions the organization as a major contributor to building a better urban future. Thank you.