

**UN-Habitat Statement to the  
Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on  
Sustainable Development  
(APFSD10)**

**Mr. Srinivasa Popuri**

**Monday 27 March, 11:15-  
12:00 (Agenda Item 2)**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Participants,

Through the 9<sup>th</sup> APFSD, key messages on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda from this region for the High-Level Meeting were consolidated, with facilitation of UN-Habitat, ESCAP and the Government of Indonesia. In the High-Level Meeting in April 2022, Member States affirmed their commitment to the New Urban Agenda as a framework to achieve the SDGs and other global agendas.

Asia-Pacific is now “majority-urban”. UN-Habitat strongly appreciates the mobilisation of Member States and urban stakeholders in this APFSD, especially with regard to the strong engagements on SDG localization and urban climate action. We are glad to see here today several UN Resident Coordinators, who are helping all UN agencies to work as one, to serve at best Asia-Pacific governments, cities and communities.

The pandemic made abundantly clear that we need progress towards achieving universal access to adequate housing, as a human right, a safety net, a welfare commitment, a new social contract. This requires national governments to engage and re-engage on holistic housing policies integrated in innovative and climate-smart national and urban planning frameworks.

UN-Habitat’s Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is keen to increase its collaboration with Member States and partners, including UN country teams, towards urban climate action and environmental sustainability. Climate policies need more local and urban content and more climate investment needs to reach local levels.

We also call for more collaboration and support for countries and cities in crisis. Urban resilience strategies need improved multi-level governance, a resolve to address land tenure and other injustices and access to finance to future-proof basic services and infrastructure.

We are particularly glad to see the strong willingness and the many initiatives on the localization of the SDGs as a driver of change. We call on Member States to mainstream Voluntary Local Reviews. We are glad that our collaboration with ESCAP, for instance through the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy, will now be replicated in global collaborations also in other regions of the world.

To further the above challenges and opportunities for SDG action, UN-Habitat is convening the second, universal United Nations Habitat Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, from 5 to 9 June this year. The Assembly will focus on a sustainable urban future for all through inclusive and effective multilateralism.

If sustainable urban development is crucial for the world to achieve the SDGs, then we need to set clear and innovative pathways notwithstanding the many crises ongoing now in the world and the region. UN-Habitat will strongly appreciate your support and collaboration.