

Video Remarks

(UN-Habitat Focal Point:
Graham Alabaster)

**150th Session of the Executive
Board of WHO**

**Strengthening WHO
preparedness for and response
to health emergencies**

EB150/15

Date of the Event, 24-29/01/22

(depends on programme)

Time & Venue of the Event

Geneva, Switzerland

- **Excellencies**
- **Honourable Ministers**
- **Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization**
- **Colleagues, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen**

A very good morning/afternoon/evening to you all!

It gives me great pleasure to address this 150th Session of the Executive Board of WHO.

Back in 2020, little did we know the challenges that the current covid-19 pandemic would bring. Not only have many lives been sadly lost, but we see a legacy of enduring hardship and inequity, both socially and economically.

As we take stock, learning from this and other health emergencies, there is no doubt in my mind of the critical contributions that city governments and local authorities have made. This is evidenced in their management of outbreaks and the future potential for emergency preparedness. UN-Habitat has recently documented some of the lessons learned in our report **Cities and Pandemics: Towards a More Just, Green and Healthy Future**.

Recalling last months World Health Assembly launch of the “**process to develop historic global accord on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response**”, as our contribution, UN-Habitat will actively engage with Local Authorities and city governments to support emergency preparedness and in support to ensure urban planning and public health standards are achieved. We will share more details at the upcoming World Urban Forum, in Katowice Poland 26-30th June 2022.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, We value our partnership with WHO and look forward to an even deeper collaboration, following our MOU, which Dr Tedros signed in Geneva towards the end of last year.

I wish you success in your deliberations and thank you for your kind attention.