Dear World Urban Campaign Co-Chairs:
Mr. Bert Smolders from Arcadis,
Ms. Sri Husnaini Sofjan from the Huairou Commission,
Mr. Sandeep Chachra from ActionAid India,

Dear World Urban Campaign Partners,

A very good morning, afternoon or evening to all of you, wherever you are in the world.
It is my pleasure to open this World Urban Campaign Assembly today, and to welcome you all to this milestone event.
Since the last World Urban Campaign Steering Committee meeting held during WUF10, life has changed in many respects for all of us. In many countries, there is a race to go back to a new normal, but in many others, the pandemic is triggering multiple damaging impacts.

To address the complex situation, I believe that you have moved forward, by engaging in a series of dialogues through the COVID-19 Urban Thinkers Campus Series, to reflect on the many gaps faced in cities and communities during the pandemic.

You have also revisited the vision and the governance of the World Urban Campaign, through a robust process managed by the WUC Secretariat. The new vision of the WUC reinforces the need to achieve tangible results, to achieve the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs in partnership with UN-Habitat. I am delighted that this was achieved, in order to make the World Urban Campaign fit for purpose, to better contribute to the UN Decade of Action.

The UN Decade of Action demands urgency and ambition. It is a call to the world, to rapidly ramp-up action. This requires strong advocacy and engagement, to help galvanize and connect people and actors, to take action for an inclusive and sustainable urban future. I believe that the World Urban Campaign can help in that global advocacy effort.

Today is an important day, as the Steering Committee has just been elected, and the World Urban Campaign will start afresh with a new governance. I would like to congratulate the new elected Constituent Groups Chairs who will form the Steering Committee.
Your role is important to revitalize the campaign, to contribute to action towards achieving the SDGs. The essence of the Campaign is to promote dialogue and cooperation, to accelerate urban change and jointly promote solutions and action.
I would like to commend the work of the three Co-Chair: Bert Smolders, Sri Husnaini Sofjan and Sandeep Chachra, for their leadership in these recent difficult months.

I would like to reassure you about UN-Habitat’s commitment to the World Urban Campaign. We are also counting on your active engagement, to help us deliver the urban dimensions of the Decade of Action.

Thank you.