



"LET'S GO TOGETHER": A ROADMAP FOR OUR CITIES

Dear

Ministers and Highest Authorities of Housing and Urban Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean:

I would like to deeply thank you for your confidence in choosing the Chilean Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning to assume the Presidency of Minurvi for the 2021-2022 period, a task that we accept with great humility and enthusiasm. An honor that, in turn, we share with the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing of Ecuador, headed by Minister Darío Herrera, who will act as Vice President of this Forum that brings us together.

Likewise, as decided at its last General Assembly, which held its thirtieth edition on November 22 and 23 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, the Executive Committee, representing the three subregions, will be made up of Cuba, Costa Rica, The Dominican Republic and Uruguay, as well as Colombia, in its capacity as the previous presiding country, along with Ecuador and Chile. Meanwhile, the Technical Secretariat will continue to be in charge of coordinating the valuable contribution made by the Economic Commission for Latin America of the Caribbean (ECLAC) together with the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat).

Since its creation in 1992, Minurvi has been an invaluable instance of multilateral cooperation and exchange of knowledge on human settlements, housing, and urban development. For this period, our commitment is to deepen these ties, contribute to generating useful tools and indicators that allow us to achieve the objectives for which Minurvi was created, and jointly address such important tasks as advancing the resilience of our cities and thus mitigating the effects of the greatest challenge we face as humanity: climate change, which we know will be felt with particular intensity in our region.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the great leadership exercised by the Minister of Housing, City and Territory of Colombia, Jonathan Malagón, at a time when we are experiencing the most difficult health and social crisis of the last century, which made visible - more than ever - the urgent needs in terms of housing and social integration in our urban centers.

For this presidency, we have proposed a motto that will be our guide and roadmap: "Let's go together." Why are we going together? For our communities, to have a positive impact on their quality of life, to reinforce the sense of cooperation that has characterized the history of Minurvi. Let's go together, as one voice, to represent the interests of the 35 nations that make up this Forum before other international bodies, and advance with determination in this great mission that we share for the benefit of our citizens.

Kindest regards,

Felipe Ward Edwards

Chilean Minister of Housing and Urban Planning