The global organization for professional services, education, capacity building and intellectual property

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Chairman Office

مكتب الرئيس

The Role of Technology
Implementing the New Urban Agenda to Achieve Sustainable Development

United Nations Headquarters, New York
Conference Room 2
20 June 2018 / 10 AM to 6 PM

Talking Points
Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh
Chairman, TAGOrg and Hon. Chairman of the CSU Executive Council
(Opening Session)

Mr. Chairman,   Madame Deputy Secretary General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to join in welcoming you all and make a few remarks at the opening session of this important conference at the United Nations on the role of technology in urban development.

I would like to salute and pay tribute to the Secretary General and to Ms Amina Mohammad, our Deputy Secretary General, for their visionary leadership and pioneering effort to pull the entire UN system together and reposition it to meet the great ambition and many challenges of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. We in the business community admire and welcome their efforts and look forward to working in partnership with a renewed United Nations to secure a prosperous and sustainable future for all.

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As a business leader with a lifelong commitment to the United Nations, I take pride in having led the first United Nations multi-stakeholder Task Force on ICT for Development set up by Secretary General Kofi Annan in 2001 to advance the Millennium Development Goals. This high-level Task Force contributed significantly to bringing the IT and the development communities together and succeeded in putting technology in the service of the UN Development Goals.

I welcome the recent initiative of Secretary General Antonio Guterres to set up a Task Force on Artificial Intelligence and the establishment of a Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries. These are important steps in the right direction. Still, much more needs to be done to unlock the full potential of new and emerging technologies to advance the SDGs. TAGOrg would be happy to support any UN effort to mobilize all major stakeholders towards this end.

I would also like to thank and salute UN-HABITAT for joining with TAGOrg, two years ago, in launching Network 11 under the auspices of ECOSOC as a multi-stakeholder platform for harnessing the power of technology to advance sustainable urbanization and the New Urban Agenda. I welcome the commitment of UN-