



Meeting of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat 29 June 2020

Opening statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

- Chair, Madam Executive Director, distinguished colleagues; it is my privilege to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. Serbia and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.
- From the outset, I would like to thank the Chair and the Bureau of the Executive Board as well as the Secretariat for the great effort put into organising this meeting despite the COVID pandemic.
- Indeed, we highly appreciate the resumption of meetings of the Executive Board and consider this is of utmost importance that the membership of UN-Habitat remains in a close contact with the Secretariat while ensuring an adequate oversight in line with the intention of the governance reform accepted by the UN General Assembly and being currently implemented.
- Accordingly, in the light of available information, the EU and its Member States considers that no further cancellation of the Executive Board meetings should be accepted. At the same time we welcome the work of the Working Group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative matters led by the Ambassador of Romania and would like to encourage that the work of this

group continues as key and essential platform for Member States' engagement with UN-Habitat between the Board meetings.

- Distinguished colleagues, we sadly acknowledge the difficult financial situation of UN-Habitat on the part of voluntary contributions and encourage all Member States to step up their support. On the other hand, we would like to acknowledge the increased efforts by the Secretariat in a dedicated outreach and resource mobilisation. We also appreciate the successful technical cooperation portfolio, to which the EU is the largest contributor, and which proves the unique expertise offered by UN-Habitat.
- Mindful of that situation, and turning to the main objective of today's meeting, the EU and its Member States would like to encourage the Executive Board to adopt a focused Work Programme with a realistic Budget for 2021, that would make best use and full alignment of the available resources, notably the technical cooperation, with the objectives of the Strategic Plan and the UN Secretary-General's Call for better recovery.
- We would like to wish you a very efficient and successful session.

I thank you.