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DRAFT RESOLUTION ON BIODIVERCITIES - SECOND SESSION UN-HABITAT ASSEMBLY

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Following Costa Rica and Colombia's joint statement during the Executive Board in November last year, we have worked together in preparing a draft resolution that enables human settlements to recognize, value, prioritize and integrate biodiversity criteria and ecosystem services into urban-regional planning processes, thus maximizing human well-being and fostering positive dynamics between nature and people to improve the quality of life.

We are confident that this draft resolution will restore the urban-rural linkages. Our proposal aims to mainstream biodiversity into the urban fabric. By easing the development of bio-based competitiveness, our proposal seeks to facilitate the identification of solutions and the emergence of innovation, entrepreneurship, businesses, and technologies. We will inspire cities' commitment to the bioeconomy, biomimetics, and circularity.

BiodiverCities promote multilevel governance. Partnerships with local authorities, civil society, and the private sector are intended to promote biodiversity conservation and improve social equity and living standards, contributing to the SDGs' localization.

We want to encourage a shift to a new planning model that promotes a renewed sense of citizenship and cultivates a mindset in which cities are seen as homes for all species, not just humans. This is achieved through educational programs, citizen raise awareness campaigns, and playful, biophilic-urban development.

Finally, we intend to lead the transformative commitments of the New Urban Agenda regarding climate resilience, adaptation, and mitigation; sustainable consumption and production; the related targets agreed upon in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, mainly target 12; and the domains of change of the Habitat Strategic Plan, through reducing spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum; enhancing shared prosperity of cities and regions; strengthening climate action and improved urban environment; as well as with effective urban crisis prevention and response systems.

Mme. Chair, distinguished representatives,

Costa Rica and Colombia, with the support of UN-Habitat, have the confidence to facilitate an informed and participatory process in which all member states can be actively engaged in the preparation of the draft resolution and listen from experts, scientists, local authorities and scholars about the benefits and concerns regarding BiodiverCities, in preparation of the Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

We look forward to sharing the concept note and all the relevant information during the upcoming informal sessions of the CPR and during the First Session of the Executive Board of 2023.

I thank you, Mme. Chair.