

U.S. National Statement
Informal Consultation of the UN-Habitat Committee of Permanent
Representatives (CPR)
Nairobi, Kenya, February 8, 2023

Thank you, Chair. First, I would like to express the United States' deep sadness and condolences for the tragic loss of life and destruction across Türkiye and Syria resulting from the earthquakes that occurred earlier this week. The initial U.S. response in coordination with the Turkish government is already underway, and we are providing humanitarian aid directly to the Syrian people.

Turning to today's agenda, we thank the Secretariat for the useful briefings and documents prepared for this meeting. As we begin to turn our attention to the Second Habitat Assembly, we reserve the right to later comment on the content in the notification document.

We would like to recall the November 2022 UN-Habitat Executive Board decision calling on Member States to lead, with the support of the Secretariat, "orderly and transparent processes" for negotiating resolutions. To implement this recommendation, we propose the:

1. The relevant UN-Habitat bureau, in consultation with the Secretariat, recommend to the CPR an adequate deadline for the submission of resolutions — the mid-April date suggested by the Secretariat seems reasonable.
2. The relevant UN-Habitat bureau recommend to the CPR to request the Secretariat provide draft resolution technical inputs that describe 1) the relationship of the proposed resolution to Habitat's mandate; 2) the extent to which the resolution can be implemented by existing activities; and 3) estimated cost implications for any new activities.
3. The relevant UN-Habitat bureau urge the CPR to negotiate those resolutions that have met the recommended deadline and contain the necessary technical inputs by the Secretariat, while simultaneously urging Member States not to introduce draft resolutions after this deadline unless they address unforeseen or emerging issues.

It is vital that we get the resolution process right, or we run the risk of burdening UN-Habitat with new, unfunded mandates just as it returns to solvency. We have seen this trend in other UN agencies when it comes time to implement resolutions adopted at assemblies.

Finally, we call on regional groups to finalize Executive Board, CPR Bureau, and Habitat Assembly Bureau nominations now in order to avoid getting bogged down on elections at the Assembly.