

General Opening Statement by the Federal Republic of Germany during the 66th regular meeting of the CPR on 27 September 2017

- Thank you Mister Chairman, distinguished delegates, Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and representatives of the UN-Habitat Secretariat, observers, ladies and gentlemen,
- It is my privilege to fully align myself with the statement made by the European Union and its member states and it is my honour to highlight some points on behalf of Germany.
- This 66th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives takes place at a very **crucial point in time** only three weeks after the High-Level Meeting on UN-Habitat in New York where reform proposals for UN-Habitat were discussed. And only a week and a half after the leadership transition of UN Habitat was officially launched. A successful conclusion of both processes until the end of this year is of utmost importance to make UN Habitat fit for purpose to support the implementation of the urban dimensions of the 2030 agenda.
- But **time is short**. In only three weeks, the first draft of the **Habitat resolution** has to be submitted to the second Committee of the General Assembly. This year's resolution will be of great importance to advance on the UN-Habitat reform process. Therefore, we need to work together constructively and use these three weeks to our advantage. We hope to gain some clarity during this CPR meeting on the next steps after the HLM in New York to advance on the UN-Habitat reform. And I look forward to working with all my colleagues in Nairobi and in New York to support this process.
- GER also welcomes the **announcement of the job opening for the position as Executive Director** of UN-Habitat and appreciates the opportunity to **nominate potential candidates** for the position. We welcome Dr. Clos thinking on how to facilitate a smooth transition process and look forward to facilitating this in any way we can.
- GER believes that it is of **paramount importance** to secure the **very best leadership for UN-Habitat that is effective, transparent and accountable**. New leadership should strive for implementing the **UN-Habitat reform successfully and in close dialogue with member states and other stakeholders** and ensure clear and **strong linkages** of the NUA implementation with the 2030 Agenda

for Sustainable Development. Again, I look forward to working with all my colleagues in Nairobi towards this purpose.

- Also, in less than five months, the **World Urban Forum 9** will take place in Kuala Lumpur. We urge the Secretariat to involve the CPR in the final preparations in a more timely and transparent manner, and we look forward to being closely engaged. As indicated in last week's subcommittee, it is our proposal to also use the World Urban Forum 9 as a platform to enable broad stakeholder participation in the drafting process of the **progress report on the New Urban Agenda** and urge the Secretariat to present a draft report as soon as possible. Against that background, we were disappointed that the agenda item discussing the progress report was dropped from the agenda of this meeting. Nevertheless, we'd be interested in an update on the Secretariat's thinking on the timeline for this progress report.
- Furthermore, as we have communicated via email, we request to suspend the WUF 11 bidding and suggest that we take the necessary decisions today. We look forward to the Secretariat's procedural proposal in this regard.
- Lastly, it is our pleasure to inform that the German Government has recently committed 3.5 Mio. EURs from the International Climate Initiative to support UN Habitat's work on "URBAN PATHWAYS – Supporting Low Carbon Plans for Urban Basic Services in the context of the new urban agenda". We welcome that UN Habitat is proposing such projects closely interlinking normative work with a global outreach and concrete implementation on the ground.

Thank you very much!

Agenda Item 4 – Quarterly Report on the Financial Status of UN Habitat

Revenue & Expenditure:

- Comparing Figure 3 (expenditure, total resources USD 75.6 mio. USD) with Figure 1 (revenue, total resources USD 72.5 mio.) at the end of the second quarter 2017 it seems that there is still a general **imbalance between expenditure and revenue** showing higher spending.
 - How do you explain this **gap** (USD 3.1 mio.)? With which resources do you want to **fill it**?
 - Do you expect a same gap for the **next two quarters**?
 - How do you want to **close** this gap?

Fund Balances:

- In **chapter 5** (Fund balances and reserves), the **numbers do not seem to add up**. Please verify and correct the figures.
- GER is still concerned that UN-Habitat has **further exhausted its spendable fund balance** at the end of the second quarter of the year **from a USD 0.6 million deficit to a USD 1.2 million deficit** for the foundation general purpose mandatory reserve.
 - UN-Habitat should make sure to **not decrease** this reserve **further**.
 - GER also requests further information on the **impacts and risks of a potential need to tap the mandatory reserve if forecast contributions from MS do not materialise**.

Agenda Item 5: Thematic/Regional Presentation – Briefing Note on National Urban Policies with focus on Latin America and the Caribbean:

- GER welcomes the briefing of UN-Habitat's work regarding the support of **National Urban Policies** (NUPs) as NUPs represent a **strategic approach** towards implementing the NUA and urban dimension of the SDGs.
- GER congratulates UN-Habitat on its support on the **implementation of NUPs globally, regionally, nationally and at the sub-national level**.
- GER further acknowledges UN-Habitat's consolidation of **normative knowledge** and development of tools that support countries to undertake an a national urban planning process and appreciates that there are **clear linkages between UN-Habitat's normative and operational activities** in this regard.
- In particular, the **NUP database** sounds very interesting. Is this database already available online? If not, when will it be online?
- Regarding **SDG 11, Target 11.a** UN-Habitat and UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) have proposed to **replace the current indicator 11.a.1**. Could you please elaborate **why** this indicator should be changed? What is the further **process** for changing the indicator?

[Current Indicator 11.a.1: "11.a.1 Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city."

Replacement Indicator 11.a.1: "Number of countries that have a National Urban Policy or Regional Development Plans that (a) respond to population dynamics, (b) ensure balanced territorial development, and (c) increase local fiscal space."]

Agenda Item 10 – Any Other Matters:

First progress report on the NUA:

- What will be the **content** and **process** for drafting the first progress report on the New Urban Agenda?
- UN-Habitat should **propose a structure** of the report and set up a **process** according to the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat's proposals should then be distributed to Member States for **comments**.
- **WUF 9** should be used as a **platform to present a draft progress report** to all stakeholders and to enable discussions and commenting on the draft. The inputs of multilateral organizations and stakeholders should thus be reflected in the progress report.