



63rd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat

1 December 2016

Statement on behalf of the EU and its MS

Mister Chairman, distinguished delegates, Executive Director and representatives of UN-Habitat Secretariat, observers, ladies and gentlemen

1. It is my privilege to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.
2. First and the foremost we would like to congratulate Dr Joan Clos, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and the Secretary General of the **Habitat III Conference**, and through him to pass the same to both Secretariats, for the successful facilitation of the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. The unprecedentedly participatory and remarkably substantive preparatory process ended in a successful conference which gave us an international agreement which is setting global standards for sustainable urban development and cooperation between stakeholders including governments, civil society, local authorities the private sector and others.
3. The **New Urban Agenda** is both an award and a challenge for UN-Habitat. Being a recognised centre of excellence for the sustainable urbanisation, it will need to adapt as an organisation to face and satisfy the new expectations. We look forward to a truly independent

and transparent assessment agreed by the Member States in Quito with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of UN-Habitat in light of the New Urban Agenda.

4. At the same time, we would like to urge UN-Habitat Secretariat to conduct its own analysis of the New Urban Agenda and to present to the CPR the implications for the current Subprogrammes, any necessary adjustments for the organisation, as well as the Strategic Plan and the Work Programme. We look forward to discussing it at the earliest convenience and well in advance of the upcoming meeting of the Governing Council.
5. With regard to the **financial situation** of UN-Habitat and the request for the bridging financing, we appreciate the recent Secretariat's engagement with donors. We would have preferred that such a dedicated and broad outreach took place at an earlier stage and even before the critical discovery of this year's deficit. In response to the request, the EU and its Member States have been looking into possibilities of mobilising additional resources. It has to be noted though that for the most of our budgetary authorities, the end of the year is a very challenging moment for financial decisions. We are therefore very grateful for all efforts and hope that a combined action by a large group of Member States will lead to overcome the current crisis. We would like though that preventive measures are undertaken in the future, including through constructing a more realistic Budget. We look forward to a constructive debate in this regard.

I thank you