



## **Meeting of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat 27-29 October 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.
- The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Bureau of the Executive Board and the Secretariat for the thorough preparation of this meeting, including the extensive documentation. We highly appreciate that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board meetings are convened to ensure the business continuity of UN-Habitat as well as to guide its response to the COVID crisis in the context of sustainable urbanisation.
- We are also very grateful to the Working Group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative Issues and its Chair and the co-Chair for the hard work towards a more streamlined and realistic Work Programme and Budget for 2021, which we hope the Board will be ready to adopt during this meeting. And we look forward to a swift commencement of discussions in that Working Group on the draft Work Programme and Budget for the year 2022.
- As regards the financial status of UN-Habitat, the EU and its Member States take note of the resource mobilisation efforts, which yielded considerable

income, especially on Technical Cooperation and Special Purpose Foundation. We would like to thank all the contributors and reassure of the EU and its Member States' commitment to supporting UN-Habitat's normative, operational and coordination role as a focal point in the UN system for sustainable urbanisation and human settlements. While being honoured to be the largest contributor to UN-Habitat's overall budget, we would like to call on all Member States to support the Organisation, mindful of respective capabilities. We also encourage Member States to consider payments to support the implementation of the Work Programme and the Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat.

- The EU and its Member States take note of the ambitious targets for the mobilisation of resources set for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2023. We would like to encourage the Executive Board to ensure a rigorous monitoring and assessment of necessary steps to address possible shortfalls of funding, including due to the COVID-19 crisis, in view of a full implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- Finally, Mr Chair, the EU and its Member States would like to recall the intensive debates about the reform of UN-Habitat governance, concluded by a UN General Assembly resolution that endorsed the new structure, including the creation of the UN Habitat Assembly that should meet in a four-years cycle. In the considerations of an alignment of the UN-Habitat Strategic Planning cycles with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review Instrument, the EU and its Member states, would like to request the Executive Board to observe the agreed principles of the UN-Habitat reform when recommending possible alignment options.
- We would like to wish you a very efficient and successful session.

I thank you.