



1st Session of the UN-Habitat Executive Board in 2021, 7-8 April 2021

Agenda item 4: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Remarks by Patrick Egloff, DPR Switzerland

Mr. Chair

I would like to start by thanking Madame Executive Director for her briefing on financial, budgetary and administrative matters.

It is my honor to inform this Board that the Swiss Government and UN Habitat have recently agreed on a collaboration on the Project “Urban Planning and Infrastructure in Migration Contexts (UPIMC). With a Swiss grant of about US\$ 3 Mio, this project aims at improving access to reliable services and socio-economic opportunities for migrants in urban settlements of supported cities in Egypt, Jordan and Cameroon. It will do so by developing inclusive urban development plans and match necessary infrastructure investments with financing opportunities in those settlements. It will also help to better coordinate short-term humanitarian response with long-term development interventions and also ensure a significant contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and this in supporting the selected cities and neighborhoods to become inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

We are pleased with the strategy and the work of the UN Habitat office in Geneva. We see considerable potential for UN Habitat to promote its work and share its expertise with local authorities’ networks within the Geneva ecosystem. UN-Habitat has a lot to offer to organizations that are seeking to adapt their programs in urban settings and vice versa UN-Habitat benefits from the experience of Geneva based actors. We are glad to see that UN-Habitat is closely cooperating with the Geneva Cities Hub, an informal platform supported by the Swiss authorities that aims to facilitate relations between cities and city networks.

The UN-Habitat office in Geneva and the Geneva Cities Hub are jointly promoting sustainable urban development, enhanced participation of cities in multilateralism, and the sharing of good practices in support of SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda.

The “Geneva Urban Debates” is one result of this co-operation and we are delighted to see that these debates allow to connect experts and practitioners in urban issues from Nairobi, Geneva and many other parts of the world

Mr. Chair

Switzerland notes that contributions to the Foundation non-earmarked fund have not developed the way, we all have been hoping for. Other new factors, most notably the COVID-pandemic, have had an impact on the implementation of the Habitat’s strategy. The CPR meeting in June gives us an opportunity to have a fresh look at the achievements and gaps in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and Habitat Assembly Decisions under these new circumstances.

Switzerland urges members of the CPR Bureau to develop a focused and outcome oriented agenda of this CPR meeting. Overlaps between CPR and this Executive Board should be avoided in the interest of efficient and effective oversight.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.