

**DRAFT – check against delivery**

**Madame Executive Director, Excellencies, distinguished chair, dear colleagues,**

It is my honor to address you today at the first session of the Executive Board in 2022. I would like to start by thanking the Chair, the secretariat and the working groups for their hard and dedicated work.

Chair,

First, among the issues in front of the Executive Board this time, Sweden, as a member of the European Union, has already spoken on the issue of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. I trust everyone heard our opinion.

Secondly, the financial situation of UN-Habitat continues to be **very** concerning as regards the Foundation Non-Earmarked. Noting the austerity measures, Sweden urges the Secretariat to continue to urgently address the recurring negative balance.

However, when studying all streams of incomes, Sweden notes that UN-Habitat is still faring fairly well in the current context. This is good news, as Sweden firmly believes that no matter what kind of funds UN-Habitat receives, all operations by UN-Habitat should serve to implement the strategic plan both in its **normative** and in its **operational** ambitions.

Sweden welcomes the tireless efforts by the Executive Director **to mobilize resources** for UN-Habitat. UN-Habitat needs funding that is predictable, flexible and multi-year.

Sweden encourages the Executive Director to stress these needs in her dialogues with donors.

Sweden urges all Member States and donors to study their funding modalities so as to make **available funding** as **useful** as possible for UN-Habitat. We applaud those countries who are doing so, either in the form of core funding or in provisions of softer earmarked contributions.

The Swedish global support, through Sida, is a softly earmarked support to the implementation of the strategic plan. This is a model that provides UN-Habitat with flexibility to allocate resources where there is an urgent need, including for normative activities.

Whilst unearmarked core support remains the gold standard of donorship, Sweden as a member of the Executive Board, will support UN-Habitat's resource mobilization efforts by continuing to avail itself for discussions with potential donors about the soft earmarking modality when and if needed.

Chair,

The ongoing restructuring is a process of vital importance for the further development of the organization. The overall goal must be to make UN-Habitat **fit for purpose**, emphasizing its core functions and values such as stated in the four domains of change. Over the coming days, Sweden would be interested in hearing more from UN-Habitat about how the restructuring can be adapted and achieved against this goal within the current limited resources, despite the current financial constraints.

Chair,

Sweden continues to believe UN-Habitat fills a vital function in the UN family, with a particular contribution in stretching the normative mandate into practical applicability, with a proven expertise in the triple nexus, ie. the arching of humanitarian – development and peacebuilding interventions and with its focus on the most vulnerable populations in the midst of societies. We look forward to our discussions in the coming days so that we as a board together can help strengthen UN-Habitat's offer and delivery further.

Thank you.