

Germany

1st Executive Board Session in 2022

German statement under agenda item 4

- Thank you, Madame ED, UN Habitat Secretariat and all UN Habitat colleagues, for the briefing and your hard work and especially for the excellent preparations for this Executive Board meeting.
- At the outset I want to reiterate what the EU delegation said already on behalf of the EUMS and hence also on behalf of Germany and 14 other MS. I want to point out that Germany is 100% aligned with the demand presented by the EU that the Russian Federation immediately ceases its military actions, withdraws all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respects Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders. We express our solidarity with the Ukrainian people and government.
- As for financial, budgetary and administrative matters: We **highly welcome the measures UN-Habitat has undertaken in 2021 to address the financial challenges** and to find solutions for **narrowing the difference between expenditures and revenues**.
- Nevertheless, we are still very much **concerned about the steady long-term decline in revenue** and that, despite the implementation of the UN-Habitat 2021 financial austerity plan, current projected expenditures cannot be sustained. The **downward trend of non-earmarked funds** received from USD 10.3 million in 2013 to USD 3 million in 2021 **is alarming**. We thank all MS who are contributing especially by non earmarked and soft earmarked financial means.
- We also appreciate the **efforts of UN-Habitat** to engage in strategic dialogues, leading to more **MS increasing their contribution to UN-Habitat's core and soft-earmarked funding** in 2021. We are strongly **encouraging all Member States to ensure appropriate levels of funding** to UN-Habitat for the fulfillment of its normative work – by non earmarked or if not possible at least by soft earmarked funding.
- At the same time, an **effective implementation of the resource mobilization strategy** is crucial. Strengthening collaboration and partnership and increasing transparency and trust with member states is an imperative to return to more stable and reliable financial situation.
- We also **welcome the efforts made to broaden and diversify the donor base**. GER has two questions in this regard: Can you already give us **projections regarding the announced contributions to the feasibility fund** under the Foundations and Philanthropy Platform and how this will feature in the 2023 budget? We would also appreciate if you could elaborate on the **projections and expectations** regarding the soon to be launched **Sustainable Human Settlement Foundation**. In what way is it different from the other fundraising mechanisms?
- Furthermore, we **welcome the measures taken to improve equitable geographical distribution and particularly gender parity**. We encourage

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UN-Habitat to further pursue the **goal of increasing the number of women in leadership and decision-making positions.**