

**Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**  
**First session of 2022**  
Nairobi, 29–31 March 2022

**Final Statement**

Dear Executive Director, Excellences, Colleagues,

I speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

*Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Israel, Japan, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, align themselves with this statement. I also speak on behalf of Switzerland.*

We thank the Executive Director and UN Habitat Secretariat for their excellent preparations for this Executive Board meeting. We also thank for the substantive report we just received.

The meeting focuses on the programme of work and budget, and the upcoming important events. UN Habitat may be facing a challenging financial situation right now, but its role is more important than ever. We will engage with UN Habitat, to find the best possible solutions, for it to be able to fulfil it.

UN Habitat is mandated to promote sustainable towns and cities, to ensure adequate shelter for all, and to guarantee sound development of human settlements. Given its decades-long experience in crisis-affected countries, we need to bring the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine to the attention of the Executive board.

Since 24 of February, Russian Federation's attacks have struck towns and dwellings, civilian infrastructure, schools and hospitals, causing severe damage in Ukraine and pressuring settlements in neighbouring countries. More than 3 million people have been forced to flee Ukraine. The majority of these are women and children. This is an unprecedented urban crisis in modern Europe, which will have serious ripple effects across the world.

We demand 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 and abide by UN General Assembly resolutions titled "Aggression against Ukraine" and "Humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine" supported by 141 and 140 States respectively,

and adopted at the 11th emergency special session. We further call for immediate stop of the siege of Mariupol and other Ukrainian cities and express our solidarity with the Ukrainian people and government.

Executive Director, Excellencies,

UN Habitat has long-standing experience supporting post-conflict reconstruction all over the world. It has made remarkable achievements helping countries, internally displaced people and host communities. UN Habitat must use this expertise and play their important role within the UN system to address the catastrophic situation in Ukraine, caused by Russia's brutal war.

We urge UN Habitat to contribute to urgent assessment and monitoring of the situation in Ukraine and neighbouring countries and to ensure swift and effective actions be taken within its mandate. We also ask UN Habitat to participate in coordinated efforts by the United Nations, including through Humanitarian and Resident Coordinators, to address the humanitarian crisis and to build sustainable peace.

UN Habitat should prioritize all relevant tools at their disposal, for effective emergency assistance to Ukraine to cope with the impact of the aggression. We invite all UN Member States to support UN Habitat in this endeavour.

We furthermore underscore the need for every effort to support the de-escalation of the situation in Ukraine and in every country under military invasion.

We will continue to provide support to Ukraine and we will use all efforts to help its people to rebuild their cities and homes.

We thank you, Madam Chair.