

GRULAC STATEMENT

SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF 2022

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)

21 – 23 November 2022

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor, and good morning to all distinguished colleagues. It is my pleasure to address the Executive Board as Chair of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, GRULAC, Nairobi chapter.

At the outset, I want to convey the Group's appreciation to you, Mme. ED, and to your team, for the leadership and hard work intending to build trust among member states and bring the Programme back to where it should always be, at the top of the membership priorities.

GRULAC considers it necessary at this junction to support your vision and management, Madame ED. We applaud the positive changes you are leading toward a more efficient and effective administration, one which member states can trust, one to which member states have recourse to receive advice and assistance to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable; and one to which member states contribute with the required resources for the delivery of its mandate.

During this session of the Executive Board, we will listen to some reassuring news about the performance of the Programme and updates on outcomes in financial and budgetary matters. However, there is other alarming information and trends in this regard, for which GRULAC would like to draw the attention of member states.

GRULAC is encouraged by seeing that within the top 10 non-earmarked contributors to UN-Habitat are mainly developing countries, which through their commitment, demonstrates the political will to support the implementation of the UN-Habitat strategic plan and mandated normative and operational work. We appreciate the efforts of those developing countries, in particular the ones of our region, and call on developed countries to contribute to the Programme's non earmarked fund.

On the road ahead of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, GRULAC wants to witness a reinvigorated Programme for a just and sustainable urban future. Without non-earmarked contributions, this ambition won't be possible to achieve. That's why GRULAC welcomes the progress in implementing the resource mobilization strategy, the proposed scalability model for the non-earmarked Foundation budget, and establishing the informal contact group on resource mobilization matters. We welcome all the efforts towards balancing the funding gap, even though soft-earmarked contributions, and finding innovative ways to fund the Programme normative and core operational functions. That's one of the best ways of

translating goals into concrete pathways for bold actions to achieve SDG11 and its targets.

Madame ED, Excellency Chair,

GRULAC has advocated for the Programme new three-tier governance structure. We value the creation of the Executive Board as the body to deal with the functions and competencies set out in Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure. However, it is the CPR, the universal body that enables all member states to provide guidance and oversight to its secretariat, as well as to prepare in the most inclusive, transparent, and participatory way the meetings of the Assembly.

Finally, GRULAC wants to commend the invitation of representatives of local authorities to this meeting. It adds value to our discussions and enriches member states' outlook toward UN-Habitat's work.

I thank you, Excellency Chair.