

## **First session of 2023 of the UN-Habitat Executive Board**

28 – 29 March 2023

*Intervention of Finland under agenda item 5: Briefing on the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.*

Thank you Mr Chair, Madam Executive Director, Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

- Finland would like to join others in expressing our gratitude for the preparations of this Executive Board meeting.
- We have very eventful months ahead of us. In light of the approaching Open-ended meeting of the CPR and the UH Habitat Assembly, we note with appreciation also the efforts by the Secretariat, Chairs of ad hoc working groups, and Member States, in anticipation of the upcoming important meetings.
- The Secretariat's efforts to provide us with information are highly appreciated, both here and at capital level, as there are many important initiatives that need our consideration at the moment.
- Let me mention also that Helsinki appreciates the increased use of hybrid meetings, as this has offered all Member States the possibility to be better informed, including in capitals, regardless of whether delegations are represented in Nairobi, or not.
- We applaud the goal to put together an Assembly that will be rich in substance. We particularly welcome the recommendation to submit draft resolutions for UNHA by mid-April, and are pleased to see that several Member States have been active in this regard – for example, in very important and timely topics such as smart cities, biodiversity, SDG localization, climate change and resilience, and informal settlements, as brought up here by colleagues.

- At the same time, we do hope that all parties do their best to **curb the overall number of resolutions and decisions**. We need to have a manageable workload, and to facilitate meaningful deliberations and outcomes at UNHA. We encourage the Secretariat to also support Member States in this effort, for example through exploring possibilities for merging resolutions, where prudent.
- We thank UN-Habitat for the availability of technical support for the drafting of resolutions.
- Finland looks forward to a successful UN Habitat Assembly this year. Thank you.