

## **Draft Statement of the EU and MS for the Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives**

**29 June 2023**

*To be delivered by Swedish presidency*

Dear Excellencies, Colleagues,

I am honoured to speak on behalf the European Union and its 27 Member States.

As we start the Open Ended CPR meeting, allow me to thank the UN Habitat Secretariat for all the work they put into preparing for this meeting. We also thank the host country Kenya for hosing the UN Habitat.

I also thank all Member States, who actively engaged in the informal consultations on the draft resolutions and decisions, allowing us to get a better understanding of these proposals, and to make some good progress in finding common ground.

I am pleased to recall that the EU and its Member States are strong supporters of sustainable and balanced urbanisation, and we have demonstrated this support through engaging in various UN Habitat programmes and by supporting many countries directly and indirectly in their efforts to improve their urban areas.

It is with this attitude on the readiness to continue our efforts to make urban areas across the world more sustainable in the most efficient manner, we approach the Open Ended CPR and the second UN Habitat Assembly.

The week of the OECPR is the time where we need to come together and collaborate towards broadly supported resolutions, so we can come out of it with maximum convergence and agreement.

It is our responsibility to ensure during negotiations that we deliver substantive resolutions, which are realistic, implementable and add value, by building on existing work of UN Habitat and which are supported by realistic financial resources or pledges.

Working on resolutions, let us remember, that we operate within the UN system and with respect of the fundamental and universal UN documents such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We reiterate the call for the proponents to collaborate and work together to focus and even reduce the number of resolutions by combining them, where they fit with each other, and help streamlining our work. The success of this Assembly is not determined by the number of resolutions, but by the impact they can generate.

We emphasise the need for the resolutions to remain within the mandate of UN Habitat to allow the organisation to remain focused on its priorities laid out in the Strategic Plan, and to continue its effective implementation.

We furthermore hope that this meeting can make a start to provide guidance for the development of the next Strategic Plan by the Executive Director. The outcomes of the meeting

should provide clear direction on the 3 main priority areas that should be central in the new plan. In addition, we should use the opportunity of initiating the development of the new Strategic Plan to mainstream climate and biodiversity throughout the program. It is our expectation that a more focused strategic plan will help the organization to strengthen its narrative, including for the purpose of resource mobilization, which will enhance its impact on the ground.

We have a long way to go. I would like to reassure all colleagues here that the EU and its Member States will work actively in good faith with all of you to come to the most successful outcome at the end of this week.

I thank you.