

**Statement to be delivered by the State of Palestine on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group at the OECPR of UN-Habitat Assembly.**

I am honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group.

**Dear Madam Chair,**

The Asia-Pacific Group (APG) emphasizes the importance of providing full support to UN-Habitat by Member States, recognizing its crucial role in helping the world achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us the valuable lesson that the healthy and livable cities are necessarily the more resilient and better prepared in times of crises.

**Madam Chair,**

We express our gratitude to Kenya for its leadership and for hosting this significant organization. We congratulate UN-Habitat, led by Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif, for its remarkable efforts in improving its financial stability, overall effectiveness, and emerging from challenging circumstances. This positions UN-Habitat to better address the needs of Member States.

**Madam Chair,**

Acknowledging the importance of aligning the planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) process, the APG fully supports the extension of the current UN-Habitat Strategic Plan until 2025.

**Madam Chair,**

We regret that the implications of the QCPR alignment on the governing bodies' cycles were not brought to light earlier, resulting in considerable time spent discussing the matter during the CPR sessions. We hope that Member States will find a constructive way forward to assist UN-Habitat in fulfilling its mandate.

**Madam Chair,**

The APG expresses appreciation to Member States that have proposed significant draft resolutions aimed at promoting inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements. The APG will actively engage in their consideration to ensure they are presented to the Assembly.

**Madam Chair,**

As we continue our discussions on the preparations for the Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly throughout this OECP, the Asia-Pacific Group, in collaboration with other Member States, will work diligently to ensure smooth and successful planning of the Assembly. The group hopes that Member States will find common ground and strive towards a focused approach to achieve the goals of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

**Thank you, Madam Chair**