

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

“A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises”

5-9 June 2023, Nairobi, Kenya

### National Statement

#### GREECE

*Excellencies, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen*

We welcome the thematic focus of the second UN Habitat Assembly.

In our interdependent world, effective multilateralism and international cooperation are essential in order to address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice.

Being strongly committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, especially SDG 11, as well as to the Paris Agreement and EU Green Deal, Greece has promoted a series of actions, programmes and funding for:

- the completion and modernisation of the country's spatial planning framework,
- the completion of urban planning with the preparation of local urban plans for at least 700 municipal units and special urban plans for areas of particular importance and specific needs, and
- urban regeneration through an integrated urban renewal programme with a bioclimatic approach for 79 municipalities in the country.

Moreover, the Ministry of Environment and Energy:

(a) supported Greek cities to participate in the European Mission "100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030" (resulting in 6 Greek cities being selected), while at the same time created a green cities network (made up of 90 Greek cities), to speed up cities' transition to climate neutrality.

(b) promoted actions to enrich architectural policy in the context of the new European Bauhaus initiative.

In addition, our national framework is being enriched both at the level of National Strategies (e.g. for cycling, walking, accessibility) and at the level of legislation on broader urban policy issues (e.g. promotion of electromobility, redesign of public space, updating of building regulations, etc.).

At the same time, specialised pilot and flagship studies and urban regeneration projects have been financed (for example: Regeneration of the Athenian Riviera).

Finally, specific programmes for the renovation of the residential building stock were promoted.

This concerted effort is expected to bring enormous benefits for the sustainable development of the country and urban areas, as well as for the well-being of citizens.

It will:

stimulate investment and bring about significant changes to improve the country's urban areas (increasing urban greenery, reducing pollutants and improving the microclimate, improving specific building infrastructure, creating higher quality neighbourhoods),

increase the value of real estate,

strengthen commercial and tourism activity and

improve accessibility (sustainable mobility) and daily life for citizens and visitors.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

Many urban centers are located along coasts. Coastal cities are strongly connected to the Ocean and seas since they are on the frontline of climate and environmental impacts and they play a vital role in the Blue Economy.

The 9th Our Ocean Conference that will be held in Greece, in 2024, would be an excellent opportunity for coastal cities, along with many other stakeholders, to contribute substantially to the global efforts to address the threats to our oceans and seas and to promote positive action towards the sustainability of the oceans.

Thank you.