

INTERVENTION BY SOUTH AFRICA:
**3rd SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME,**
28-30 NOVEMBER 2023

Thank you, chair, for giving me the platform for intervention on behalf of South Africa in this important occasion.

Since it is the first time to speak, my delegation would like to begin by appreciating the efforts of the UN-Habitat for organising the 3rd Session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the year 2023.

Mr Chair, allow me to state upfront that South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered by Malaysia on behalf of the Group of 77 plus China, the statement delivered by the Ambassador of Sudan on behalf of the Africa Group, and many other member states who applauded the Executive Director for the job well done during her term of office. It is unfortunate, as alluded by the G77 and China, that the groups are yet to receive a response from the United Nations Secretary General regarding its request to consider the formal calls made by three regional groups and BRICS countries.

In her letter to the Secretary General, South Africa's Minister of Human Settlement confirmed that the Executive Director has done much to heal inherited rifts in the Organisation, despite very limited resources, as well as support inclusive, resilient, safe, and sustainable development.

The confirmation by the Minister is consistent with the African Group position and BRICS position, which is cognizant of the concerted efforts by Member States and other stakeholders to implement a raft of positive changes that have contributed to the strengthening of UN-Habitat and making it fit for purpose in implementing its key mandate as the UN focal point on matters of human settlements and sustainable urbanisation.

Mr Chair, South Africa would like to thank you, the Executive Director and the Secretariat for the working documents that were presented well in advance to enable member states to participate fully in this meeting

Mr chair, there is no doubt that the 2nd Session of the UN-Habitat assembly held in this room in June 2023, was a success. The now adjourned session of the assembly as correctly acknowledged by the Africa group, culminated in the adoption of key outcomes including the ministerial declaration and 10 resolutions that aim to strengthen UN Habitat and member states in addressing the challenges of urbanization and human settlements.

We thank all member states for the support given to South Africa during the negotiations and adoption of the resolution on ***Accelerating the Transformation of Informal Settlement and Slums*** initiated by South Africa. In this regard, South Africa welcomes the proposed draft terms of reference of the urban action funding window towards the

need to achieve the implementation of United Nations Habitat Assembly resolutions in a balanced manner.

THANK YOU CHAIR