

**Statement**  
**by the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt**  
**before 3<sup>rd</sup> Session, 2023**  
**of the UN-Habitat Executive Board**

Nairobi, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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Mr. Chair,

Madame Executive Director,

Egypt associates itself with the statements of the African Group and G77 and China. Egypt commends Mrs. Maimunah Sharif for her exquisite leadership of this programme over the past 6 years. Not only has the Executive Director contributed to staving off the insolvent financial status, but she has also proven to be a capable leader gaining the trust of Member States and reinforcing the programme's position as the leading United Nations Organ in dealing with all matters related to Urbanization. Egypt supported the extension of her mandate, enabling her to serve a full Second term. We are still unclear about the justifications for denying her and us this rightful request.

Egypt believes that the efficient reorganization of work within the programme over the past years has led to a successful Second United Nations Habitat Assembly. Egypt calls for its continuity through the equal implementation of the resolutions adopted and the consideration of the developing countries urbanization priorities when devising the Next Strategic Plan.

Egypt welcomes the report on Geographical Distribution and Gender Parity within staff, and is yet keen on the representation of developing countries' among senior positions, and further reiterates the need for additional capacity-building programmes to make developing countries better able to implement the New Urban Agenda, ensuring the compliance of their national urban policies and enhancing their reporting capacities. Moreover, Egypt welcomes the call for the reactivation of the UN-Habitat Emergency Fund, and encourages the Secretariat to elaborate on possible actions necessary, particularly in cases of urban crises.

Egypt also welcomes the appointment of Mr. Oumar Sylla as the Regional Director of Africa. We are looking forward to strengthening the mandate of the Programme in Africa and reinforcing the coordination between its regional offices. On another note, UN-Habitat has always been one of Egypt's strong partners in implementing national urban development projects all over the country, which is estimated to have 69% of its population living in urban cities by 2041.

Mr. Chairperson,

It gives me pleasure to welcome Member States and all stakeholders in the historical megacity, Cairo, from 4 to 8 November 2023, for the 12<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum, to discuss pathways to the localization of Sustainable Development Goals. WUF12 is a reflection of the continuation of the successful cooperation between Egypt and the Programme. Egypt pledges to deliver an inclusive and accessible WUF, hopeful that all participants will get the chance to explore our beautiful Cairo. My delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate Ethiopia for hosting the First African Urban Forum, and is hopeful that it will serve to formulate a comprehensive African contribution for WUF12.

Finally, my delegation looks forward to a successful session, one last time under your able leadership Mr. Chair, and reiterates its call for all delegations to refrain from politicizing the work of the Executive Board. We also look forward to the upcoming African chairmanship of the Executive Board for the first time, starting next year, according to the regular annual cycle.

I thank you.

