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Agenda Item 7

Thank you to the Secretariat for the report and support documents for Agenda item 7 on Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on its programmatic activities in 2023 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities.

With regards to the report and presentation on the "Inclusive Communities, Thriving Cities" flagship programme and the video showcased, we can perceive particular examples on the benefits and concrete impacts of urban regeneration in different countries in improving urban areas. We welcome the efforts for urban regeneration's implementation in Colombia.

We commend the Secretariat for highlighting the importance of operationalizing the SURGe Initiative, as outlined in Resolution 2/5 of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. The emphasis placed on accelerating multilevel climate action through partnerships and collaborative efforts resonates deeply with Colombia's commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

Furthermore, we appreciate the Secretariat's efforts in outlining the achievements and roadmap of the SURGe Initiative since its inception. The milestones achieved, such as the recognition of SURGe in Resolution 2/5 and its active participation in global climate events like COP28, underscore the initiative's growing impact on urban climate resilience.

As we reflect on the options presented for operationalizing SURGe, we are particularly interested in how the operationalization of surge will be implemented from a global to a regional perspective and we are eager to explore how Colombia can contribute to and benefit from the SURGe initiative, leveraging our expertise and experience in sustainable urban development to advance climate action at the local, national, and global levels.

With regards to the report on Gaza, we welcome this preliminary report and encourage the secretariat to continue developing this work. As we can see in the report, the challenges remain in this territory. We look forward to receiving the final report on the status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip on December.