

Your Excellency Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellency Madam Executive Director,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Madam Executive Director,

First of all, we would like to wish you every success in your critical mission. We are confident that your professionalism, vision and dedication will uplift the activities of UN Habitat to a new level and your efforts bring profound positive change to millions across the Globe.

In this context we would like to express our gratitude for your efforts aimed at supporting reconstruction of human settlements affected by conflict and disasters.

However, in the interest of ensuring the credibility, neutrality and operational alignment of UN-Habitat, it is necessary to critically assess certain aspects of the report on Ukraine which was briefly presented.

The repeated use of terms such as "war" and "invasion" in this document raises concerns about maintaining the political neutrality essential to UN-Habitat's role. It deviates from the UN-Habitat's standard practice of employing neutral language like "conflict".

Such language creates the impression of being politically charged. Thus, it politicizes the UN-Habitat's activities and damages its credibility as an impartial actor.

The report's extensive demographic, economic, and macro-level assessments stretches the boundaries of UN-Habitat's urban-focused mandate. By diving deeply into areas such as national GDP losses, demographic shifts and macroeconomic challenges, the report risks encroaching on the responsibilities of other UN entities, potentially diluting UN-Habitat's expertise and credibility in urban recovery. This overreach appears to be an attempt to support broader political narrative rather than

adhering to the technical and operational urban recovery mandate of UN-Habitat.

The current emphasis on damage assessments risks overshadowing the prioritization of long-term urban resilience and sustainability goals.

Furthermore, the report does not clarify all the sources or methodologies used to derive these figures. If the sources are incomplete, biased, the reliability of the data is questionable.

Finally, the report's presentation on the day of the meeting raises procedural questions. Such timeline has limited Member States' ability to thoroughly review its content and prepare feedback, potentially undermining the inclusive and deliberative principles of UN-Habitat. We view the timing of the report's presentation as a deliberate attempt to mobilize support without allowing adequate scrutiny by Member States. This could be perceived as undermining the procedural transparency expected of the UN agencies.

In conclusion. We perceive the current report as politically motivated, partial and non-objective. UN-Habitat should demonstrate in such situations neutrality and a long-term vision in the face of extraordinary challenges and global changes.

Thank you for your attention.