

Agenda item 8

Mr. Chair,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Egypt wishes to extend its appreciation to the Executive Director for the report on the outcomes of the Twelfth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12) and the Africa Urban Forum. Egypt finds the link drawn between both fora very relevant. WUF 12 has been rightly described as the most impactful World Urban Forum to-date, returning to the African Continent, where the first Forum was initiated 22 years ago.

According to the report, 69% of the WUF12 participants were from Africa, with an overall 85% coming from developing countries, a remarkable turnout that proves how urbanization issues are enshrined in the developing countries' priorities.

Not only was WUF12 a success in terms of numbers, but most importantly, it upheld a high benchmark for accessibility.

Mr. chair.

Not only had WUF12 provided a platform to discuss a wide range of topics, but it also had shed light on the need to mind the finance gap for the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, globally and locally. A topic that is of great relevance to the Programme, given its financial status, which Egypt calls for capitalizing on, through expanding UN-Habitat coalitions and partnerships with other UN agencies, funds and programmes, as well as financial institutions, Member States, and local governments to enhance the implementation of SDG11 locally, regionally and globally.

With the developing countries having the highest rates of urbanization in the world, and being the most affected by the mandate of the Programme, Cairo's Call to Action, came out successfully underscoring the common priorities of the developing countries, namely the call for addressing the housing crisis, localization of actions, unlocking finance for cities and communities, and building sustainable ones.

Further, Egypt calls for the early finalization of the WUF report, which we hope that it would provide more detailed policy analysis to identify key issues and recommendations that emerged for the sessions.

Mr. Chair,

WUF12 was vibrant, inclusive and very rich. It offered a unique opportunity to showcase different experiences, and came as a reminder for Member States of how important urbanization matters are for future generations, and how impactful this Programme can be.

While being cognizant of the fact that the World Urban Forum is non-legislative, and that the outcomes were not negotiated, Egypt calls upon Member States to incorporate the priorities reflected in the document into the draft Strategic Plan, where Member States can then have deeper discussions on their relevance.

Finally, Egypt welcomes the hosting of the upcoming WUF by the Government of Azerbaijan, and remains ready to share WUF12 experience, and wishes Baku a successful WUF 13.