

Statement  
by the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
before 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, 2024  
of the UN-Habitat Executive Board.

Nairobi, 4 December 2024.

Check against delivery

Mr. Chairperson, Honourable Ahmed Musa Dangiwa,

Madame Executive Director,

Excellencies,

Allow me to begin with extending Egypt's best wishes, to you Madame ED in your mission leading the Programme.

Since it is your first Executive Board Session, Egypt's delegation would like to welcome the difference that this Programme is able to make in our country, the African continent, and many of the developing countries.

Egypt expects, under your leadership Madame ED, that the work of the Programme will be fortified, especially in the developing countries, and that its financial position will be strengthened. Egypt supports you to this end.

Mr. Chair,

Egypt aligns itself with the statements of G77 and China and the African and Arab Groups.

Egypt appreciates the leadership of H.E. Pedro Leon Ruiz, the Permanent Representative of Colombia, of the Ad-hoc working group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative matters, and takes note of his briefing on the work of the group.

Egypt takes note as well of the briefing by the delegation of Portugal on the Ad-hoc working group on the development of stakeholders'

engagement policy, and calls for the continuation of its work, in an inclusive manner and with full respect to the different views presented by Member States.

Mr. Chair,

Egypt calls for stepping up operational activities to increase the visibility and impact of the Programme, while continuing with improved normative activities. We take note of the budget proposal, urges Member States to increase their financial contributions to the non-earmarked foundation to achieve the targeted revenue of 5.9 million USD.

Moreover, Egypt stresses the need to further consolidate the Secretariat with more experts in the fields of housing, slums transformation and financing, in order to help enhancing its functioning. We reaffirm the call for better capacity-building for developing countries, including on reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Egypt takes note of the report on the development of the Strategic Plan for the period 2026-2029, and welcomes the consultative process in place. We invite Member States to integrate the priorities reflected in the WUF12 outcome document in the Plan, since it reflects areas of interests for most of the developing countries.

Egypt further commends Member States for the wide representation in WUF 12. We appreciate the report by the Executive Director WUF12

outcomes and those of the inaugural AUF. Egypt strongly recognizes the significant efforts the Secretariat has exerted in preparing for the Forum, in particular the WUF team, the Regional Office for Arab States and Egypt's office.

Egypt further calls for regular updates on the implementation of the AUF 1 Declaration and how its priorities are reflected in the work of the Programme, given its importance to the African countries.

Egypt takes note of the report of the Executive Director on normative and operational activities, and welcomes the updates on the work of the Programme in Nepal and Jordan.

Egypt notes the different levels of progress made in the implementation of UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions and reaffirms the need for their implementation on an equal footing.

Further, we take note of the report on the preparations for the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, and agree that Member States should coordinate to limit its outcomes to the unfinished business of 2023 session.

Egypt underscores the importance of the assessments concluded on the Programme, including the 2022 JIU report and the MOPAN assessment. We welcome the progress on the implementation of many of the recommendations therein and look forward to their full implementation.

Mr. Chair

Egypt appreciates the work of the Programme in countries, territories and areas affected by Urban Crises, where the work of the Programme is direly needed to provide guidance and better urban recovery. The role of the Programme in Urban Crises reminds all Member States of the need to refrain from politicizing its work.

Egypt undoubtedly recognizes the attempts by the Secretariat to update the preliminary report on the status of the human settlements in Gaza, and stresses the need to present a comprehensive report to fulfill the mandate established by the decisions of this Board.

Egypt calls for better coordination between the Regional Offices of Arab States and Africa, to improve the response to Urban Crises in the countries affected, including Sudan and Somalia.

In light of the above, Egypt reaffirms that the work of the Programme in Urban Crises should include the newly affected ones, and underscores the necessity to re-activate the UN-Habitat emergency fund

I thank you.