

Statement
by the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt
on behalf of the Group 77 and China
before 2nd Session, 2024
of the UN-Habitat Executive Board

Nairobi, 4 December 2024.

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Mr. Chair,

Madame Executive Director of UN–Habitat;

Excellencies,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

At the outset, the Group welcomes Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, the new Executive Director of the Programme at her first Executive Board session, and assures her of our full support. The Group is looking forward to Ms. Rossbach’s leadership to strengthen the work of the Programme in an effective way, and to keep developing countries’ priorities at its core.

Mr. Chair,

The Group takes note of the briefing by the Permanent Representative of Colombia in his capacity as Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative Matters, and appreciates the efforts exerted by the Chair, Member States and the Secretariat in preparing the working documents for this session.

The Group further takes note of the briefing by the Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Development of a Stakeholders’ Engagement Policy, and highlights the importance of keeping in line with the United Nations rules of procedure, paying full respect to the intergovernmental nature of the Programme.

The Group takes note of the annual report for 2023 on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020–2025, and of the Report of the Executive Director on the Development of the Strategic Plan for the Period 2026–2029. The Group invites Member States to duly take into consideration the urbanisation priorities reflected in the outcome document of the Twelfth World Urban Forum (WUF12), titled “Cairo Call to Action”.

In this regard, the Group further requests that the New Strategic Plan prioritises the important element of capacity building, especially as regards policy development, as well as on reporting on its implementation within the broader context of reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The Group reaffirms the need for the New Strategic Plan to take into account different regional and national priorities, in particular those of the developing countries, and to envisage a monitoring and an evaluation mechanism as well as indicators to measure its performance and effective implementation.

The Group stresses the impact of the National and Regional Urban Fora on urbanisation efforts, and congratulates the Government of Ethiopia on the successful conclusion of the inaugural Africa Urban Forum that sets forth the urbanisation priorities and needs of the African Continent.

Further, the Group commends the efforts of the Government of Egypt and the Secretariat for successfully convening WUF 12, and the Global Observance of the World Cities Day 2024. The Group considers that WUF 12 enriched the global urban agenda through contributions from over 182 countries, and views its outcome document as an invaluable source for Member States to further shape the priorities of the New Strategic Plan for the period 2026–2029.

Mr. Chair,

The Group notes the different levels of implementation of the UN–Habitat Assembly resolutions, and reaffirms the need for the implementation of all resolutions and decisions, on equal footing and in a balanced manner.

The Group takes note of the updates on the implementation of the normative and operational activities of the Programme, including its engagement in countries, territories and areas in urban crises, and stresses the need for the Executive Board to continue

monitoring UN–Habitat programmes and activities to ensure their adherence to its core mandate, especially in the execution of normative activities.

The Group recognizes the progress made by the Programme in collaboration with the Quality of Life Centre of Saudi Arabia in advancing the Quality of Life Initiative, which aims at improving living standards in cities and human settlements.

The Group also takes note of the update on the report of the Executive Director on the “Status of the Development of the Efforts to Reconstruct the Human Settlements in the Gaza Strip”, and stresses the need to present a comprehensive report on the matter.

Mr. Chair,

The Group takes note of the preliminary findings of the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) assessment of the Programme, which sheds light on its increasingly significant role in sustainable housing, urbanisation and urban–rural development, and re–informs of the chronic lack of financial and human resources constraining the ability of the Programme from fulfilling its mandate.

The Group appreciates the progress made by UN–Habitat in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the findings of its review of the management and administration of the Programme, and calls for the full implementation of the outstanding ones.

Finally, the Group of 77 and China urges Member States to increase their non–earmarked contributions, in order to improve the Programme’s activities in compliance with the recommendations of the JIU report.

Thank you.