

**Statements by experts on the development of the draft international guidelines on people centred smart cities at the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters on 17 February 2025**

Statement from Mr. Juraj Hošťák (SLOVAKIA)

- provided insight on outcome of the two-day regional consultation on the international guidelines on people centred smart cities in Slovakia in January 2025 and highlighted UN-Habitat's critical role in helping to address the changing nature of urbanization, demographic change and the impact technologies may have both positive and negative on the development of cities and regions.
- explained that all the stakeholders who participated globally in drafting the international guidelines on people centred smart cities were already very conversant with its development, creating an opportunity to leverage on each other's experiences.
- introduced that the meeting that took place in Bratislava confirmed alignment in the approaches brought forward to address the challenges faced, consequently leading to the consideration of solutions already identified and, in some cases, already being implemented with an opportunity to replicate on a global scale. The meeting also focused on the implementation of the key priority actions to be taken within the international guidelines.
- shared that Slovakia have had great success implementing similar action plan on a smaller scale and offered his Delegation's support to UN-Habitat other Members States as they work to implement the international guidelines on people centred smart cities.

Statement from Mr. Francois Osama (CAMEROON)

- shared that the timing of UN-Habitat's implementation of the international guidelines on people centred smart cities coincided with Cameroon's National plan as well as other African countries and could be used to support the localization of the SDG11, particularly inclusivity.
- appreciated the consensus among the expert working group to develop realistic guidelines and noted that the guidelines effectively address challenges identified in African countries for example, digital infrastructure and capacity building and development.
- recognized that the international guidelines can be used as a reference to complement national plans and appreciated UN-Habitat's support and looked forward to its technical support as African countries work to implement smart city solutions.

Statement from Mrs. Rini Rachmawati (INDONESIA)

- thanked Member states and UN-Habitat for their efforts in formulating the international guidelines for people centred smart cities and noted that the guidelines would help countries successfully implement smart cities.
- observed that initially countries had tried to implement the guidelines singularly with little success due to lack of technical expertise and welcomed the global consultation with member states and urban experts whose recommendations would ensure effective implementation of smart cities and consequently, a significant improvement to urban conditions in all countries.