

**EU and its Member States statement at the third OECPR  
26 May 2025**

Madame Executive Director, Honorable Chair,

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is my privilege to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.
- At the start, I would like to congratulate the Executive Director of UN Habitat and her whole team for a thorough preparation for this meeting of the Open Ended CPR and for the resumed second UN Habitat Assembly.
- You have worked tirelessly to prepare the resumed session. You walked this road together with your Member States, keeping us engaged throughout the journey. We appreciate that.
- I also extend my thanks to the Bureaus of UN Habitat Assembly and the CPR for their efforts to deliver this week's events.
- For the very few days ahead of us we have a number of important tasks.
- **The first one** is to adopt the Strategic Plan for 2026 – 2029.
- We worked on the draft Strategic Plan for many months. Today, we have in front of us a draft that is focused, that has clear priorities, and that is grounded in the core values of the United Nations system.
- By adopting this document as it is, we will lay the foundation for UN Habitat's work of the next four years, essential for resource mobilization and successful delivery of its mandate.
- The EU and its Member States have come a long way and offered significant flexibility and compromised on a number of progressive elements of the Strategic Plan, acknowledging its vital importance. I call upon all delegations to show the same spirit of compromise, as this Strategy must reflect priorities of all Members States.

- **The second task** we have is to adopt the International Guidelines for People-centered Smart Cities.
- Honorable Chair, Excellencies, the Guidelines for People Centered Smart Cities have been prepared by qualified experts, nominated by Member States from all UN regions, and after wide consultation with stakeholders.
- The result is the non-binding guidelines, which will facilitate the delivery of digitalization to urban areas, to increase their sustainability and to fuel prosperity for communities and individuals, preserving their fundamental human rights.
- These guidelines are a prime example of the added value of the normative work of UN Habitat, which can have the widest possible reach to the whole UN Habitat Membership. We urge the Assembly to adopt this document as delivered by experts.
- By adopting these key deliverables, we will reconfirm our unwavering support to core UN values of inclusion, human rights and gender equality.
- **The third task** is to elect, during this week, the new Executive Board, and the new members of all Bureaus.
- Allow me to thank the members of the current Executive Board, as well as all members of the current Bureaus, for their commitment, engagement and delivery throughout the exceptionally long tenure.
- We also thank those Member States that indicated their readiness to serve in the Executive Board and fill the seats of the Bureaus and we look forward to the smooth elections.
- The EU and its Member States regret that the Executive Board was not able to agree on a draft Stakeholder Engagement Policy, which could have added even more strength to UN Habitat.

Madame Executive Director, Honorable Chair, Excellencies and colleagues,

- This resumed session of the UN Habitat Assembly comes at a crucial time for the United Nations and for multilateralism.

- UN Habitat demonstrates its value through its efforts to bring sustainable urbanisation high on international and national agendas, mainly through its normative work.
- Thanks to the leadership of UN Habitat and thanks to Member States' commitment and funding, the organization is in a stable financial situation.
- This resumed session of the Assembly is our window of opportunity to reconfirm UN Habitat's crucial role within the UN System and to ensure it continues to deliver a better urban future for all.
- On behalf of the EU and its Member States I wish everyone a successful meeting.