

## **Statement on behalf of Hungary**

### **UN-Habitat Assembly – Resumed second session**

#### ***High-Level Dialogue on Adequate Housing for All: A focus on the next strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2026–2029***

**29 May 2025**

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

I am honoured to speak on behalf of Hungary and contribute to the dialogue on the nexus of adequate housing, and sustainable urban development.

In this context, allow me to emphasize that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals – of which ensuring adequate housing is an integral part – is vital for the well-being of our planet and its people. We welcome the adoption of the Pact for the Future, which aims to eradicate poverty, pursue access to safe and affordable housing, and support developing countries to establish resilient and sustainable cities.

Hungary implements its international development cooperation, international humanitarian assistance and stability-building activities primarily through the Hungary Helps Program, which aims to integrate and coordinate Hungary's international development cooperation, international humanitarian assistance and stability-building activities for vulnerable communities.

Through our development activities, we support people to stay in their homeland, and work to ensure living conditions that do not force anyone to leave their homeland. To ensure this, Hungary has implemented several housing projects, including the renovation of homes for families who have fled from Homs in Syria and are now willing to return to their homes in a dignified manner; the creation of a shelter for Yazidi women and their children in Iraq; and the relief of victims of the Beirut explosion of 4 August 2020 through the repair and reconstruction of damaged buildings.

In 2019, Hungary provided support for the reconstruction of Qaraqosh, Iraq, financing the full reconstruction of 32 housing units, preceded by professional demining, demolition and full rubble clearance. The project has helped around 500 people to return home.

In 2021, the Government of Hungary supported the rural repatriation and integration of families living in the isolated slums of the big cities of Nairobi and Mombasa, where they have lived for decades. The 12-month program directly reduced extreme poverty and forced migration.

Excellencies,

As the world evolves — with new and emerging challenges and shifting power dynamics — so too must the institutions meant to serve it. Preparing the United Nations for the future is essential to ensure its long-term sustainability. Hungary believes that the UN80 initiative includes the same goals, therefore, we support all initiatives aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the UN system, and the UN-Habitat as its integral part.

Besides these reforms, we should also put more emphasis on the improvement of people's lives. In order to address challenges such as the global housing crisis and forced displacement, we

need to focus on strategic planning to prevent urbanization from exacerbating existing inequalities.

The new UN-Habitat Strategic Plan for the period 2026-2029 will be able to contribute on different levels on responding the most pressing challenges in line with the New Urban Agenda. Therefore, Hungary is looking forward to the adoption of the prior mentioned document.

I thank you.