

Written comments by the Netherlands on Resource Mobilization Strategy

With regard to the document presented, we welcome the structured and forward-looking approach to stabilizing and diversifying funding for the organization's work. However, regarding the paragraphs on the balance between earmarked and non-earmarked funding; this seems to remain a structural challenge, as also became clear from last week's presentation on the funding situation. Could the Secretariat clarify how this new strategy concretely differs from previous approaches in restoring that balance and increasing core contributions, what will it do fundamentally different compared to past practices? And how does this strategy build on lessons learned from 2020–2025?

Then, the strategy rightly highlights UN-Habitat's normative leadership role. However, funding for normative work is often more difficult to secure than for operational activities. How does the Secretariat intend to mobilize sustainable resources specifically for normative functions?

Furthermore, on diversification and innovation. We support the ambition to engage new partner segments to diversify the donor base, including looking into opportunities to collaborate with private sector actors. However, could the Secretariat elaborate what is substantively new in this diversification approach compared to earlier efforts? Furthermore, as the strategy acknowledges the need for strong in-house technical capacity to access complex financing mechanisms, does UN-Habitat currently have sufficient capacity in this regard? If not, how will this be strengthened in light of staff reductions and budget constraints?

Also, regarding the paragraphs on stimulating multi-year commitments; how – in the current resource-constrained environment – does UNH intend to nudge partners into committing to multi-year contribution agreements? How will these intentions be operationalized? And are the actions and instruments mentioned different or new than what's currently being done?

Lastly, we would welcome clarification on implementation. What is the timeline and phasing for rolling out the five strategic actions laid out in the strategy, and how will progress be tracked and measured?

Then, we promised to share the questions regarding last week's discussion; we would welcome an overview of staff vs. non-staff posts per division, as well as an overview of the total number of open vacancies per division, including an assessment by the secretariat regarding whether it expects those posts to be filled, and – based on their assessment – what that means for implementation capacity per division.