

# **Egyptian Remarks and Interventions for the First UN-Habitat Executive Board Meeting**

**21-22 April 2026**

**Mr. Chair,**

**Madame Executive Director,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**Egypt aligns itself with the statement delivered by Sierra Leon on behalf of the African Group and Palestine on behalf of the Arab Group.**

## **Agenda Item 4 – Financial, Budgetary and Administrative Matters**

- 1. Egypt appreciates the efforts of the Executive Director for the briefings and the presentations provided under this agenda item. We underscore the importance of ensuring predictable, adequate and sustainable financing for UN-Habitat to enable the effective delivery of its mandated activities. In this regard, we stress the need to strengthen core, unearmarked contributions, while avoiding excessive reliance on earmarked funding that may affect balanced implementation of agreed priorities.**
- 2. Egypt also emphasizes the importance of transparency, sound financial management, and equitable geographical representation in staffing, while preserving the**

**intergovernmental oversight role of Member States over budgetary and administrative matters.**

**I thank you.**

## **Agenda Item 5 – Strategic Plan 2026–2029**

- 1. Egypt would like to express appreciation for the presentations provided by the Secretariat under this agenda item. However, Egypt takes note with concern of the Update on the structure and the division of responsibilities for the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029. Egypt expresses its concern regarding the elimination of “Subprogramme 5: Technical cooperation and resource mobilization” from the work of the Office of the Executive Director.**
- 2. For developing countries, this pillar has long represented a critical component of UN-Habitat’s normative and operational support, particularly in strengthening national capacities, facilitating access to technical assistance and mobilizing resources to support the implementation of sustainable urban development priorities. Its elimination raises important questions regarding its impacts and how these essential functions will be sustained and delivered going forward. In this regard, Egypt would appreciate receiving clarification from the Secretariat on the rationale behind this decision, as well as on UN-Habitat’s plans to retrieve, preserve or reintegrate the work under this pillar to ensure that support to developing countries is not diminished.**

- 3. Egypt welcomes the presentation of the draft resource mobilization strategy for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for 2026–2029 and recognizes the importance of strengthening UN-Habitat’s funding base to support the effective delivery of both the normative and operational dimensions of its mandate.**
  
- 4. Egypt stresses that resources mobilization should be anchored in predictability, transparency and balance with particular emphasis on increasing flexible and non-earmarked contributions while avoiding overreliance on tightly earmarked funding that may deviate programmatic priorities.**
  
- 5. Egypt underscores that the strategy should respond to the needs and the priorities of the developing countries, strengthen support for technical cooperation and capacity building and ensure equitable allocation of resources across regions. In this regard, Egypt would appreciate further clarification on how the strategy intends to broaden the donor base, address persistent funding gaps and safeguard adequate resources for normative and operational activities, including restoring confidence in core funding and ensuring alignment with agreed mandates.**

**I thank you.**

## **Agenda Item 6 – Draft Work Programme and Budget for 2027**

- 1. Egypt attaches particular importance to ensuring that the draft work programme and budget for 2027 fully reflect agreed intergovernmental mandates and prioritize delivery at the country and regional levels, particularly in support of developing countries.**
- 2. Egypt stresses the need for transparency in resource allocation, balanced prioritization between programmatic delivery and administrative expenditures, and adequate resources to support implementation of mandated activities, including in Africa.**

**I thank you**

## **Agenda item 7:**

- 1. Egypt welcomes the efforts undertaken by UN-Habitat and stresses the importance of adequate resources, strengthened international cooperation and full support for Palestinian ownership and leadership in defining recovery and reconstruction priorities. Egypt further emphasizes that reconstruction cannot be delinked from addressing the root causes of the crisis and advancing a political horizon that enables lasting peace and the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.**
- 2. Egypt expresses deep concern regarding the inability of UN-Habitat to produce comprehensive report on the status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip, owing to the continued denial of access to the Strip by Israel. This obstruction undermines the organization's ability to fulfil its mandated reporting functions, impedes transparent assessment of conditions on the ground and hinders informed decision making by Member States.**
- 3. Egypt stresses that restrictions on access not only affect the credibility and completeness of reporting, but also have serious implications for monitoring reconstruction needs, supporting recovery efforts, and advancing the implementation of UN-Habitat's mandate in a context of**

**immense humanitarian and developmental urgency. Egypt calls for ensuring safe, sustained and unimpeded access for the United Nations and relevant actors to enable accurate reporting and support effective reconstruction efforts in Gaza.**

- 4. Egypt highlights its longstanding role in supporting reconstruction efforts in Gaza, including through the outcomes of the Cairo Conference on Palestine and the ongoing efforts undertaken by Egypt, in coordination with regional and international partners, to facilitate humanitarian access, support recovery planning and advance practical pathways for reconstruction. Egypt aligns itself with support for intensifying international efforts aimed at the recovery and reconstruction of human settlements in Gaza Strip, in light of the unprecedented scale of destruction to housing, infrastructure and essential urban services.**

**I thank you.**

## **Agenda Item 9 – High-Level Meeting to Review Progress in Implementation of the New Urban Agenda**

- 1. Egypt welcomes the briefing provided by the Secretariat and views the midterm review as an important opportunity to assess progress in implementing the New Urban Agenda, identify gaps and renew political commitment to sustainable urban development.**
- 2. Egypt stresses that the review should provide a balanced assessment that reflects the challenges facing developing countries, particularly financing gaps, rapid urbanization and the impacts of crises and conflict. Egypt also underscores the importance of preserving the Member State-led nature of this process.**
- 3. Egypt emphasized that means of implementation, including financing, capacity building, technology transfer and international cooperation should remain central to the review and its outcomes.**
- 4. Egypt further stresses that the quadrennial report should reflect regional experiences and national realities, including lessons from the Global South and build on relevant outcomes and commitments, including the “Cairo Call to Action” adopted at WUF12 in Cairo.**
- 5. Finally, Egypt supports meaningful and action-oriented high-level meeting that accelerates implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthens the role of UN-Habitat in supporting Member States.**

**I thank you**

## **Agenda Item 10 – Preparations for WUF13**

- 1. Egypt welcomes the ongoing preparations for WUF13 and expresses support for the Azerbaijani Presidency in its efforts, while thanking the Secretariat for its support in advancing preparations for this important forum.**
- 2. Egypt commends the efforts of Azerbaijan in preparing for the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF13), despite the current international circumstances, and affirms its full support for the Azerbaijani Presidency in ensuring the success of this important international forum.**
- 3. Egypt also expresses its sincere appreciation to the Secretariat for its ongoing cooperation and support in facilitating these preparations, reflecting the growing importance of sustainable urban development issues on the international agenda.**
- 4. In this context, Egypt stresses the importance of ensuring continuity between WUF12 hosted by Cairo and WUF13, including by building on the “Cairo Call to Action” with its priorities and practical recommendations that accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, support the achievement of inclusive and sustainable urban development, and promote the exchange of experiences and best practices among countries, as an important contribution to advancing action-oriented and implementation-focused outcomes at WUF13.**

**5. Finally, Egypt looks forward to an inclusive and impactful forum that advances global dialogue and practical cooperation on sustainable urbanization.**