

**The EU and its MS Statement for the first meeting of 2026 of the Executive Board meeting of UN Habitat**

**21 April 2026**

**Dear Madam Executive Director, Honourable Chair, Excellences**

I am pleased to address the first Executive Board meeting of UN Habitat of 2026, on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

Allow me to share our strong appreciation to the Executive Director, her staff, as well as to the Bureau of the Executive Board, for preparing this first meeting of the year. As we have agreed to conduct our work in two days, we look forward to an efficient meeting, which can set a standard for future shorter but impactful Executive Board meetings.

Before we enter in more substantive discussions under dedicated agenda items, allow me to share the EU and MS views on several core issues.

As we prepare to debate the preparation of the programme of Work and Budget for 2027, we note the unsatisfactory situation of 2025, where UN Habitat ended the year with a net operational deficit. This calls for a more cautious approach in developing the PoW and Budget for 2027, which should be based in particular on realistic assessment and projection of revenues.

Linked to this, Madam Executive Director, we sincerely appreciate your efforts to provide us a report on the draft Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the implementation of the new Strategic Plan. We welcome the report and look forward to the adoption of the Strategy which will enable UN Habitat to embark on its implementation, delivering an upward trend for revenues of the Programme.

Moving on to the UN 80 Initiative, we appreciate the report on the implications of the Initiative on UN Habitat, its budget and structure. We would appreciate to hear the assessment of the Executive Director on how this UN reform can help UN Habitat to strengthen its position within UN, to mainstream your work and elevate urban matters higher on international and national agendas?

Perhaps the last point to be addressed at this moment is the results monitoring framework. We appreciate your team's hard work to populate the framework with new baselines and realistic targets. We look forward to discussing it later today, but allow me to emphasise that the finalisation of the framework is only halfway to the success. UN Habitat will need to ensure sufficient human resources to

ensure adequate data collection and analysis, to track the progress on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, and we will appreciate to hear how this is assured under new structure of the Programme.

Allow me to join Madam Executive Director in welcoming to Nairobi the Representatives of Malawi and Poland who travelled from NY. We look forward to engaging with them on the High Level Meeting on New Urban agenda, propitiously organised back to back with the HLPF which will review SDG 11.

I will conclude this intervention by congratulating all Member States for the successful conduct of the second session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All in October last year under the leadership of France and Kenya, and wishing a fruitful continuation of its work under the leadership of newly elected co-chairs: Azerbaijan and Somalia. And finally, wishing most of success to Azerbaijan and UN Habitat for the upcoming World Urban forum 13.

Thank you.