



#### Portugal Intervention – Agenda Item 4 - EB

Portugal welcomes the continuous efforts made by the Executive Director in order to pursue the reforms needed to instigate confidence among donors and partners and would like to underline the need of having these efforts accompanied by oversight by Member States. Ambition and reality should stand together on our path forward, to build strong foundations to assure that UN-HABITAT complies with its mandate.

Portugal is committed, as a Member of the EB, to work with all MS, the Executive Director, and all the Secretariat in order to continue strengthening this agency, as shown by our return to the list of contributing MS, a return that we wish, within our national circumstances, to maintain on the upcoming years in order to comply with the need of having predictable and constant funding. We urge other MS to analyze the possibility of also contributing to UN-HABITAT.

Portugal welcomes the efforts made by the Secretariat, under the leadership of Madame Executive Director, understanding that the needed austerity measures impeded the expected progress regarding the defined objectives to reach gender parity and geographically equitable distribution. We undoubtedly expect that the positive progress registered under the finance and budget matters can, in a near future, be accompanied by improvements in these two fundamental areas.

Under this agenda item, one of the reference documents is the report from the Board of Auditors, where, under human resources matters, it is referred the need to improve control over non-staff personnel. Our delegation would like to learn more about how is UN-HABITAT following this recommendation.