

## Second session of 2022 of the UN-Habitat Executive Board

21 – 23 November 2022

### *Intervention of Finland under agenda item 7: Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat*

Mr Chair, Madam Executive Director, Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

- Thank you for giving me the floor. I have the pleasure to make this statement on behalf of Finland. Congratulations Mr Chair for your leadership of the meeting. I would like to join others in thanking the Secretariat for all the preparations in advance of the meeting, and thank you for these enlightening presentations.
- Finland aligns itself with the statement made by the EU and its member states earlier during this meeting.
- With regard to the report of *UN-Habitat in urban crisis situations*, my delegation would like to highlight the importance of UN-Habitat's work in countries newly affected by conflict and war. The reconstruction of crisis-ridden areas through the engagement of built environment professionals is crucial, as is UN-wide cooperation in this field. We would be interested in hearing more on UN-wide collaboration, for example UN-Habitat's work together with UNEP on this topic.
- Finland would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Government of Poland, the City of Katowice, and UN-Habitat for convening an excellent World Urban Forum last June. We would especially like to underline the importance of *the Katowice Declared Actions* – specifically the actions related to urban crises, such as climate and biodiversity emergencies, pandemics and conflicts.
- Lastly, we are pleased to report that the Finland – UN-Habitat Strategic Partnership focusing on the localization of the SDGs, which started in the beginning of this year, has already achieved its goals for the first year. African countries are valued partners for Finland. In this context, we look forward to continuing this partnership on Voluntary Local Reviews with UN-Habitat, and other partners, in 2023.
- Thank you.