

**U.S. National Statement  
UN-Habitat  
Nairobi, Kenya, November 21, 2022**

Thank you, Chair. Executive Director Sharif, members of the Executive Board, and distinguished delegates,

As we gather today, the United States remains committed to working with all our partners and allies to advance a free, prosperous, and secure world. We face tremendous challenges and opportunities to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

That's especially true for our efforts to advance SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities. COVID-19, conflict, and the climate crisis have set back progress towards attaining sustainable urban development that provides safe, healthy, democratic spaces for all – and continue to have an impact on future plans and resources for UN Habitat and its Member States.

Collaboration among nations will be critical in confronting these transnational challenges. While no single approach to housing issues will be effective throughout a country, let alone across different countries, sharing best practices and innovative solutions will drive improvement for cities everywhere.

How we design, finance, and build cities – and how we encourage public use of space – represent opportunities to increase the supply of safe, affordable housing; curb air pollution and global warming; and direct more public and private finance to local governments, communities, and businesses for locally-led climate action.

We also must be clear that Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine undermines the foundations of the UN Charter and the critical work of this organization. We continue to witness Russia's inhumane and unjustified attacks causing widespread damage to Ukraine's critical infrastructure. We call on Russia to end its brutal war; withdraw all its forces and reach a just peace needed for communities to rebuild and recover.

The United States will continue to stand for the values enshrined in the UN Charter and act to help vulnerable families attain stable housing of sufficient quality worldwide. In September, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia Fudge joined G7 counterparts in Germany in reaffirming our commitment to the New Urban Agenda through the Sustainable Urban Development Communiqué. In addition, last month the U.S. Department of State announced the arrival of the first Special Representative for Subnational Diplomacy, Ambassador Nina Hachigian, who will be working with mayors, governors, and other local leaders to expand subnational relations and boost innovative collaboration within the United States and internationally to address key issues, such as making urbanization and housing sustainable, increasing energy efficiency, and reducing pollution.

The United States takes this opportunity to express our appreciation for the openness of the Secretariat to work with the Executive Board to strengthen oversight and accountability, including to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. We welcome more

information from the Secretariat on its efforts to take a survivor-center approach, especially to ensure strong reporting mechanisms and provision of assistance to survivors. Such efforts are essential to the performance of the organization in implementing our collective goals to build sustainable, safe, and inclusive communities.

The United States welcomes the reforms that UN Habitat has begun to implement under the leadership of the Executive Director in close coordination with the Executive Board. We encourage UN Habitat to continue its commendable efforts to achieve gender parity at the P5 level and higher. We look forward to seeing continued progress in reforms to ensure the organization's governance and oversight functions are strong, transparent, and effective. We will have additional comments on the budget under later agenda items.

In closing, the United States stands with you in supporting the important work of UN Habitat in accelerating sustainable urban development around the world.

Thank you.