



**67th meeting of
the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat
14 December 2017**

Statement on behalf of the EU and its MS

(delivered under Agenda Item 4: Executive Director's Briefing)

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, Executive Director and representatives of UN-Habitat Secretariat, observers, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my privilege to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

First of all we would like to **express our gratitude to Dr Joan Clos** for his tenure as the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and the Secretary-General of the historic Habitat III Conference. The New Urban Agenda, adopted under your charismatic leadership, which will guide this organisation and ourselves for many years to come, will bear your legacy and remind us of your remarkable contribution to this accomplishment.

Let us also thank cordially the members of the **outgoing Bureau** of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for their dedication and guidance over the last two years and welcome the new Bureau members which we will hopefully elect today.

Looking at the agenda of this CPR meeting, we are very glad to see a number of important discussion points.

Concerning the **Finance** of UN-Habitat, we recognise the dire situation of the Foundation General purpose and the challenges it raises for the steering of the Organisation. At the same time, we would like to congratulate the management of UN-Habitat for their efforts and successes in the fund-raising on the earmarked side of the budget which demonstrates that the figures are progressively on track. We hope that the trend for the Member States to choose more non-earmarked contributions will be on a rise in the near future and we look forward to the upcoming **open-ended Working Group** to examine options for strengthening the member States' oversight of UN-Habitat, as mandated by the General Assembly, to be a promising step in this regard. We are pleased to note that the EU and its Member States contributed over 26 million USD to UN-Habitat during the reporting period January-September 2017.

We appreciate the briefing on UN-Habitat's contribution to the **Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus**. The 26th Governing Council emphasized the weaknesses of the international community in terms of response to situations of conflict. We bear in mind the urban pillar in addressing the sustainable development challenges and peace-building, including increasing the resilience, reducing vulnerability, and ensuring economic recovery.

Concerning the **9th World Urban Forum**, which will be the first session to focus on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda after its adoption, we would like to reiterate the importance the EU and its Member States attach to that meeting and we are happy to inform that the EU delegation to WUF-9 will be headed by the Commissioner for

Regional and Urban Policy. We would like to hear further details on how the WUF will contribute to the first report on the implementation of NUA and what will be its relation to the reporting on SDG 11 that will take place at the High Level Political Forum in July 2018.

It is also very welcome that we start discussing the **implementation of the New Urban Agenda** and the **Stakeholder Engagement Policy**. We look forward to these issues to be thoroughly discussed in the CPR subcommittee as initiated in yesterday's session.

Concerning the Progress Report on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, we would like to emphasize that it should be a key priority in UN-Habitat's work. The Progress Report can only fulfil its function if it is credible and comprehensive in its stocktaking with a buy-in from Member States. We are therefore asking UN-Habitat to closely involve Member States in the establishment of the report.

Finally, we would like to thank Romania as the outgoing chair of the **Working Group on Programme and Budget** and to congratulate Brazil, who will take over, on behalf of GRULAC. We would like to wish you all successes for this important endeavour.

I thank you