

**EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN
SETTELMENTS PROGRAMME**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC
OF COSTA RICA**

Monday November 15th, 2021

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor. At the outset, considering this is my first intervention, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your chairmanship and express our appreciation to Madame ED for her presentation, to UNON and to our Host Country, for the practical arrangements for this hybrid meeting. We are indeed encouraged by the resumption of intergovernmental meetings in the compound.

Costa Rica reiterates its firm support to the important work undertaken by UN-Habitat in supporting sustainable urbanization and in assisting Member States to implement the New Urban Agenda. Costa Rica recognizes the unique role of UN-Habitat in the UN system as a forum for reflection and action on the urban dimension of Agenda 2030.

On this specific point of the agenda, our delegation wishes to refer to the intervention made by Dr. Eduardo Moreno on the “recalibration” of the strategic plan, and the adoption of the “three lenses”: In this regard, we congratulate UN Habitat on the work being developed to achieve this plan which focuses on: first, looking at new vulnerabilities in cities; second, creating new ecological and sustainable neighborhoods; and, third, adopting new economic resilience programs.

We also wish to recognize the importance of the Report of cities and pandemics, and the global data base, which included the data for 1700 cities and was the base for UN Habitat's recommendation of this new approach proposed in the recalibration.

In this regard, Costa Rica is very interested in the new ecological and sustainable neighborhoods approach, which strongly resonates with our national policies in particular the National Plan for Decarbonization 2018-2050 as well as our National Urban Environmental Agenda.

It is in this framework, that Costa Rica welcomes the pilot project drafted between UN-Habitat and our delegation as part of the efforts to recalibrate the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020-2023 with the objective of realigning the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat under the approach of the three lenses proposed by the Member States for the implementation of a more focused work program for 2022.

In this context, Costa Rica has identified one municipality which is preparing to implement an ambitious investment portfolio, with a focus on nature-based solutions, changing the design paradigms of road infrastructure, rainwater, and green spaces, to bring them closer to the natural cycles of the planet. The project will ensure reducing and responding to vulnerabilities and risks in cities, addressing adaptation, mitigation, and resilience to climate change, support a long-term socioeconomic urban recovery that helps to overcome spatial inequality and addresses the climate emergency.

This strategy aims to face environmental and social threats, produced by disconnecting social development from nature

conservation, and by having disconnected economic performance from ecosystem services and well-being.

The delegation of Costa Rica also takes this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for facilitating the framework of the Rural and Urban Development Week of EXPO 2020 Dubai, in which Mrs. Andrea Fernández, Minister of Housing *a.i.*, participated in the panel “Inclusive cities: delivery of the last mile in slums and informal settlements”.

Furthermore, Costa Rica considers it of great importance to continue exploring ways in which cities can cope with pandemics and how to address informal settlements in the context of COVID 19, specially to ensure cities are sustainable. In this sense, we congratulate madam Executive Director and UN Habitat staff for their formidable work currently being carried out.

Finally, Costa Rica is working towards honoring its long-standing commitment with human rights, which should be at the center of every action towards the improvement of quality of life and sustainable development of all human settlements in line with the recent adoption of the resolution from the Human Rights Council recognizing the right to a healthy environment for every human being.

Costa Rica looks forward to continuing working with UN-Habitat and welcomes the approval the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.