

**U.S. National Statement  
UN-Habitat  
Nairobi, Kenya, March 29-31, 2022**

**Executive Director Sharif, members of the Executive Board, and distinguished delegates.**

**It is an honor to speak with you today. This meeting is occurring at a pivotal time in history. As we work together to build back better from the global COVID pandemic and to address the common challenges of climate change, sustainable settlement development, and adequate shelter for all, we now face a new and unwelcome crisis.**

**Russia's unprovoked, unjustified, and unconscionable war against Ukraine is driving an extraordinary humanitarian crisis and the utter destruction of urban areas.**

**While this war is a crisis for the people of Ukraine, it is also a crisis for the world, one that poses a direct challenge to achieving UN-Habitat's mandate.**

**Russia's war on Ukraine has displaced more than 10 million people— most of them women and children. Russia has destroyed buildings, infrastructure, and entire cities. The Food and Agriculture Organization**

**projects an additional 8 to 13 million people will face malnutrition or famine worldwide as a result of the conflict.**

**The United States thanks the member states on this Executive Board that have stood with the people of Ukraine, condemning this unjustified war, and affirming the centrality of peace as a foundational requirement for sustainable development.**

**As we seek to address the Russia-caused humanitarian crisis in and around Ukraine, recovery from the pandemic, and climate change, we are reminded that meeting these challenges requires a common purpose and commitment to work together as members of the international community to advance sustainable development.**

**The United States affirms our steadfast commitment to support the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. We commend UN Habitat's role in supporting sustainable cities and communities – SDG 11 —and the recognition that the 17 goals are vitally linked to the health and future of our cities and communities.**

**As this Executive Board prepares for the next World Urban Forum, we look forward to productive**

**discussions on advancing sustainable development in urban contexts. We must work together on the urgent needs of this moment – supporting refugees from Ukraine and elsewhere, addressing critical shortages of shelter, improving food security, and enhancing employment – while also pressing forward to achieve balanced gender representation and full gender equality, identifying and ending sexual exploitation and abuse, and addressing climate change.**

**The challenges before us are great, but our resolve to overcome them is greater. The United States stands with you in supporting the important work of UN Habitat in accelerating sustainable urban development around the world.**

**Thank you.**