

FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
PROGRAMME: STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA
Nairobi, 29–31 March 2022

Dear Madam Executive Director, Excellencies, Colleagues,

CRI's delegation thanks the Executive Director and Secretariat for their excellent preparations for this first session of the Executive Board.

Despite the challenging financial situation UN-Habitat is currently facing, its mandate is more important than ever. We will continue to engage, to find the best possible solutions for it to fulfil it as we recognize the critical importance of Habitat and the expertise of its mandate.

Costa Rica has been efficiently working with Mr Elkin Velásquez, Director of the regional office of UN-Habitat, on the project called "Sustainable Neighbourhoods".

This project aims to develop concrete actions on sustainable and ecological neighbourhoods, that due to their historical construction conditions, bring together communities in defined spaces and where public goods can be generated, including organization, health, education, communication, environment, and others. This global initiative proposes implementing a pilot project in three strategic neighbourhoods globally, the first being in Costa Rica.

In this regard, Costa Rica wishes to reiterate the importance of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as paramount for the enjoyment of human rights, as was adopted by the Human Rights Council resolution 48/13, intrinsically related to the people-centered approach embedded in the New Urban Agenda and put into concrete actions by UN-Habitat's work.

As stipulated in the New Urban Agenda, Costa Rica envisions cities and human settlements that fulfill their social function, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to decent and adequate housing as a component of the right to an appropriate standard of living, without discrimination.

On the other hand, Costa Rica recognizes that UN-Habitat has the mandate to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities as demonstrated through its decades-long experience in crisis-affected countries.

Therefore, we invite the ED to support the reconstruction efforts of the settlements in countries affected by new and ongoing conflicts and man-made disasters through a comprehensive whole-of-system response by actively assessing and monitoring the impact of such conflicts and the resulting displacement of people in cities.

We kindly request Madam ED to activate and use all relevant tools at her disposal to provide emergency assistance to Ukraine and other post-conflict countries urban profiling to assess the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of urban areas, and establishment of urban recovery frameworks.

Furthermore, looking forward to achieving peace, reconstruction as well as to stopping the human suffering and humanitarian violations of those nations living at war, Costa Rica calls for disarmament, a ceasefire, and the negotiation of a permanent solution.

We also take this opportunity to reiterate our absolute rejection of nuclear weapons.

The very suggestion of their use represents a threat to international security which would have catastrophic humanitarian and environmental effects and unimaginable consequences. Costa Rica calls all countries that possess nuclear weapons to develop a new security paradigm, that does not put the very existence of humanity at risk, that does not waste precious resources needed to achieve the SDGs, by using them to create more suffering.

Finally, we underscore the need for every effort to support the de-escalation of the situation in Ukraine and every nation under military invasion.

We thank you, Madam Executive Director.