

**Statement**  
**By the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt**  
**before 1<sup>st</sup> Session, 2023**  
**of the UN-Habitat Executive Board**

**Nairobi, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Check against delivery**

Mr Chairman,  
Board Members and Excellencies,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements of the African Group and G77+China.

Egypt commends the work of UN-Habitat under the leadership of the Executive Director, who successfully managed to turn the budget deficit under the management of her predecessor into a surplus, and would like to see her serving a full second turn to enable her to continue this remarkable progress.

Egypt welcomes the adoption of a supplementary budget that would allow for further capacity-building and technical support for developing countries within the framework of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Meanwhile, the Executive Director is urged to step up her efforts towards achieving geographical balance within the Secretariat,

Egypt also welcomes the briefing on the financial reserve and the updated scalability model for the non-earmarked foundation budget, and wishes to see funds available from the conversion of posts allocated to regional offices in developing countries and to increase country programmes.

Extending the mandate of the Stakeholders' Engagement Policy Working Group is a much-welcomed step, as it would allow for more discussions on how to ensure the intergovernmental nature of the programme and full respect of the ECOSOC mechanism for the accreditation of non-governmental organisations.

Having taken note of the findings of the risk analysis report on the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation, Egypt encourages the application of the risk mitigation recommendations therein.

Mr. Chairman,

The Egyptian Government is closely working with UN-Habitat on various projects, notably in implementing the Presidential Decent Life Initiative, aiming to enhance the quality of life of 58% of the population, living in informal and unsafe settlements, as well as rural and remote communities spanning more than 4500 villages, with a budget of around USD 35 bn.

Following Nairobi's footsteps, Cairo is looking forward to becoming the second African city to host the World Urban Forum in 2024. The upcoming WUF12 should be reflective of the priorities of Developing countries and their growing urban needs, in line with the 2030 SDGs, particularly Goal 11, and the outcomes of the first ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change, convened as part of COP27. The Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation Initiative (SURGe), launched in Sharm El Sheikh, is garnering wide support, and is hoped to contribute to achieving sustainable and resilient urban systems through strengthening the implementation of the climate agenda in and with cities, hence ensuring the implementation of New Urban Agenda.

Egypt is also looking forward to hosting the Tenth Session of Africities in 2025, welcoming participants from all over the world, to evaluate the implementation of cooperation policies and decentralization processes in Africa.

Egypt, Mr. Chairman, is a fast-growing country that is estimated to have 69% of its population living in urban cities by 2041. Therefore, Egypt is committed to the UN-Habitat Agenda, to developing smart solutions for urban challenges and to transiting to a better urban future as envisaged in Katowice.

Thank you.