

Third Meeting of 2023 of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat
Statement by GRULAC

Thank you Mr. Chair.

As we convene for the third session of 2023 of the UN-Habitat Executive Board, I would deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries.

UN-Habitat's role in acting upon the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda is key to the GRULAC region. Its commitment to the three pillars of sustainability places it at the forefront of implementing the New Urban Agenda.

In that regard, GRULAC would like to start by expressing its gratitude to Executive Director, Maimunah Moh Sharif. Ms. Sharif and her team have worked hard and determinedly since the beginning of her mandate. As a result, the Program is now seen by Member States, donors, and stakeholders as not only viable from an administrative and fiscal point of view but, most importantly, as indispensable in the efforts undertaken by States to promote sustainable urban development and provide adequate housing for all.

Turning to this meeting of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat, GRULAC highlights the relevance of this body, as it directly influences policy decisions and resource allocation within the Program. By engaging in the Board's strategic planning, budgetary oversight, and programmatic evaluations, GRULAC will seek to ensure that the unique challenges and priorities of Latin America and the Caribbean are integrated into the global urban agenda of the Program.

Regarding the agenda of this meeting, the region would like to make four comments.

Firstly, GRULAC recognizes the progress made in the fully-costed scalability model for the non-earmarked Foundation budget, expecting it to effectively guide future budget preparations and ensure program sustainability.

Secondly, the region wishes to highlight that the balanced implementation of all UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions, as per their respective action plans and roadmaps, remains a priority for GRULAC. All these resolutions are fundamental in shaping our approach towards urban development and housing needs.

Thirdly, the effective implementation of UNHA resolutions hinges on sufficient human resources. GRULAC therefore welcomes the inclusion of new staff positions in the 2024 budget, ensuring that the New Urban Agenda receives the attention it deserves.

Fourthly, the region welcomes the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy and highlights that the efforts to address geographical and gender imbalances in UN-Habitat's staff composition are of great importance.

In conclusion, GRULAC reaffirms its commitment to continue strengthening UN-Habitat and looks forward to productive discussions and actionable outcomes from this session.

Thank you.