

Statement of the Kingdom of Morocco on Agenda item 6

Report of the Executive Director on the Development of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029

Thank you Mr Chair,

- The Kingdom of Morocco is giving the highest importance to the development of the Strategic Plan for the period 2026-2029, and is actively participating in the consultative process launched by the secretariat, since January. Morocco will continue engaging constructively throughout the different stages of the roadmap;
- Morocco has shared previously its views on the principles that should be guiding the development of the next strategic plan, and had underlined the importance of having a responsive, focused and an effective, implementable, strategic plan that will be able to respond to the priorities of countries;
- In this regard Morocco considers it critical, to anchor the new Strategic Plan in the New Urban Agenda, and build on the lessons learned from the current strategic plan 2020-2025, with a focus on its strongest points;
- In this respect, the preliminary results of the evaluation published by the Internal Oversight Services, are important and should guide our work in the development of the new Strategic Plan 2026-2029. Such a strategic plan needs to be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the New Urban Agenda. Most importantly, the New strategic plan, with its agreed upon priorities and objectives, will need an implementation plan with sufficient foreseeable financial resources.
- Limitations to the implementation of the current strategic plan, 2020-2025, caused by financial constraints, **are impeding delivery on the ground**. Lessons learned from the current Strategic Plan should serve a better **conceptualisation and operationalization** of the future Strategic Plan.
- While we will be discussing the priorities for the next Strategic Plan, in the upcoming months, we need to keep in mind that adequate financial resources have to be projected, and then mobilized to enable implementation on the ground in the most efficient way.
- For the Kingdom of Morocco the future strategic plan should be focused on the following priorities, **resilience** to natural disasters and to Climate Change, **localisation** and

sustainability. Indeed Morocco who is in the process of reviewing its Urban Policy has articulated the latter on 4 principled pillars:

- First: a balanced territorial and economic development, where the role of metropolises and their potentialities are affirmed as economic engines, and where infrastructure is being strengthened in addition to the promotion of interdependencies between urban and rural areas;
- > Second: inclusion where access to quality public services, to affordable and adequate housing, to employment opportunities and to vulnerable populations are guaranteed,
- ➤ Third: sustainability of housing, urban transportation, ecological tourism, circular economy approaches in cities and greening of spaces, and;
- Fourth, resilience of buildings, infrastructure, integration of risk management in urban planning and climate adaptation in urban development strategies.
- Last but not least, and in order to provide conditions for its success, the future Strategic Plan needs to contextualize the regional perspectives and to be based on tangible effective financing, inclusivity and engagement of relevant stakeholders throughout the processes of its implementation.
- I thank you.