



**68th meeting of
the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat
21 March 2018**

Statement on behalf of the EU and its MS

(delivered under Agenda Item 5: Executive Director's Briefing)

Mister Chairman, distinguished delegates, Madam Executive Director and representatives of UN-Habitat Secretariat, observers, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my privilege to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. Serbia and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

We would like to **welcome the new Executive Director, Madame Maimunah** and wish her all successes in leading UN-Habitat and strengthening the organisation to deliver on its mandate and as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements. We have been privileged to engage with you already on numerous occasions during the two months of your service in Nairobi. This has been highly appreciated. We also thank for sharing with us your first impressions and the indication of your vision, principles and commitments. We look forward to the strategic document spelling out these elements, as mentioned in your briefing, and we are eager to discuss them with you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year is marked as a critical year for UN-Habitat. The UN General Assembly entrusted the Chair of the CPR to present findings and recommendations for **strengthening Member States' oversight** of UN-Habitat, including any necessary adjustments to existing UN-Habitat governance and administration. We would like to reiterate our commitment to support this endeavour and we are fully engaging in the Working Group established for this purpose.

Another remarkable challenge of this year will be the preparation of **UN-Habitat's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan**. We encourage the Executive Director to engage thoroughly with the Member States and stakeholders in the development of this fundamental document, which will be the first Strategic Plan prepared under her leadership and will also contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

We recognise the efforts by the Secretariat in developing the **Stakeholders Engagement Policy** which was requested by the Governing Council last year. We hope that it will be based on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and that it will promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society. We are pleased that the consultation of the first draft has started but we would like this work to expedite in order to contribute to the new governance of UN-Habitat.

Concerning the **Finance**, we recognise a significant total revenue of nearly 180 million US Dollars, of which one-third was contributed by the European Union and its Member States (54 million US Dollars). We remain concerned about the structure of the financing of UN-Habitat and

we look forward to the outcome of the discussion of the open-ended Working Group in this regard.

Let me finish, Mr Chairman, by congratulating the Secretariat of UN-Habitat under the leadership of the previous Executive Director and recently of Madame Maimunah as well as the government of Malaysia for the skilful preparation and successful conduct of the **9th World Urban Forum** held last month in Kuala Lumpur.

I thank you