



Resumed 1st meeting of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat 19-20 November 2019

Opening statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Chair, distinguished members of the Board, Madam Executive Director and the representatives of the Secretariat, observers, ladies and gentlemen it is my privilege to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

First of all, we would like to congratulate you Chair and the Bureau on the excellent guiding of the preparations of the meeting. We also thank the Secretariat for the hard work put into preparing the documents, including the recommendations for the actions to be taken by the Executive Board.

We see the need for this meeting to result in a relevant guidance and decisions to support UN-Habitat to take further steps required to successfully and effectively re-orientate and restructure the organisation, in line with the directions given by the UN Habitat Assembly and in order to make the necessary preparations to start implementing the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan.

In particular, we hope that the Executive Board will be in a position, after obtaining all necessary information, to agree on a budget for the Work Programme for year 2020 that does take due notice of the financial situation of UN-Habitat, while finding the right balance with the aspirations set out in the Strategic Plan.

At the same time, we wish the meeting will provide further guidance to the Secretariat in order – for future meetings – to continue to improve the documentation, in particular with regards to administrative and financial information, as well as on the continuing process to improve internal procedures and policies with the aim to enhance transparency, accountability and credibility of the organisation. This will in our view contribute to re-instating the trust required to benefit from the restructuring that has been initiated.

Finally, Chair, the European Union and its Member States, wish to assure of our full support to making this meeting and indeed the governance reform of UN-Habitat successful. We recommend that that the deliberations of the Executive Board lead to concrete decisions and actions and that the progress on those activities is duly documented and reported on in the subsequent meeting of the Board.

I thank you.