

Statement by Switzerland

Switzerland commends the Executive Director and UN-Habitat's Management Team on its commitment to restructuring UN-Habitat, making it a stronger and more efficient organization, and for the results achieved so far.

Switzerland commends UN-Habitat for its swift reaction to the COVID-19 crisis both in terms of the duty of care towards its own staff and its contribution to the overall UN response through policy contribution and its project work in marginalized urban settings.

My delegation joins other delegations in expressing its concern about the challenging financial situation of UN-Habitat, which asks for a realistic budgeting for 2021 and a revision of its programme of work.

Switzerland, through its different programs, enjoys a fruitful co-operation with UN-Habitat in many countries such as Afghanistan, Egypt, Somalia, Vietnam and others. Switzerland is also successfully collaborating with UN-Habitat in key international migration-related frameworks with the goal of empowering and leveraging the voice of cities and their access to migration policies and development platforms.

Switzerland support the Geneva Cities Hub, which has been created in March 2020 and aims to facilitate relations between cities and city networks around the world and the various actors in International Geneva. The Hub has successfully cooperated with the UN Habitat Office in Geneva and we see a lot of potential in a strengthened co-operation between the UN-Habitat Office and the Geneva Cities Hub.