

WEOG Statement MTR of the CPR – 29/6-1/7 2021

Thank you your excellency Chair, Your Excellency, Mr President of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly, Madam Director General, Madame Executive Director, Mr Deputy Executive Director, Madame President of the Habitat Assembly, Madam Cabinet Secretary, Excellencies and distinguished colleagues

Chair,

The Western European and Others Group (WEOG) takes this opportunity to welcome the Midterm Review and reaffirm our support for the mandate of UN-Habitat to “*build a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world*”. We commend the efforts of UN-Habitat in the structural re-organisation of UN Habitat’s headquarters and its successful acquisition and implementation of projects. We recognise UN-Habitat’s commitment to the UN Development Systems Reform, including by aligning itself to the overall UN planning cycle and by contributing to Common Country Analyses / UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and to the UN’s efforts to help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. To that end, we would welcome reflections of the UN Secretariat in New York on UN-Habitat’s role in the broader UN system, at a future Executive Board meeting.

The Mid-term Review is an important milestone that allows us to evaluate progress in implementing the Strategic Plan and UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions. We expect that this meeting will inform guidance to the Secretariat on the remaining two years of the Strategic Plan. That guidance would come in the form of recommendations that will be further considered, and potentially endorsed, by the Executive Board which is entrusted with reviewing and approving the annual work programme and budgets as well as guiding the finance of UN-Habitat’s work.

A meaningful discussion around implementation results would be enhanced by the preparation of an external evaluation prior to the Midterm Review. WEOG encourages UN-Habitat to have an external review conducted prior to future Mid-term Reviews. WEOG understands that an external evaluation of the current strategic plan implementation is envisioned for 2022. We request that that evaluation be shared with the Executive Board at the appropriate time in 2022.

As expressed through the Bureau, WEOG would have preferred a working-level evaluation of progress to-date. WEOG would have preferred that this MTR be focused on the Review element of this meeting. Many agenda items may be better addressed in the context of the Executive Board. That said, WEOG is committed to supporting positive outcomes from this meeting and we call on the Secretariat to make sure presentations are succinct and structured to provide sufficient time for MS to engage in fruitful and substantive dialogue.

Thank you very much Chair.