

The EU statement for the second Executive Board meeting of 2022

UN Habitat, 21 – 23 November 2022

Mr. Chair,

Your Excellency, Executive Director of UN Habitat,

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to start with sincere thanks to the Secretariat for their work to prepare for the second session of the Executive Board meeting of 2022.
- I would like to use this moment at the start of the meeting to share a couple of messages on behalf of the European Union – they relate to several agenda items.
- I would like to stress the role of UN Habitat in the context of global challenges be it the climate adaptation or urban conflicts. UN Habitat has to be in a position to play a key role in finding solutions, in coordination with other UN bodies to find solutions and deliver added value.
- Some months ago we received the report from the UN Joint Inspection Unit, which reviewed management and administration of UN Habitat, and concluded that “UN Habitat is in a critical situation”. All our deliberations at this meeting should be regarded through the prism of this report. The implementation of the recommendations of the report should be made a priority.
- After the JIU briefing on the report, we would like to hear from the Executive Director about the steps already taken towards the implementation of those recommendations. UN Habitat is close to adoption of the realistic budget for 2023 – an important step the right

direction. The EU will be looking forward to regular UN Habitat reporting on the progress of implementation of all of them.

- The JIU report asks UN Habitat to focus on its core mandate and set clear priorities in the programme of work for the next year and in the longer term. It should focus on limited number of areas. In this regard, the EU appreciates the role and expertise of UN-Habitat within the UN system on sustainable urbanisation and on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
- The EU also appreciates the UN Habitat support to Ukraine. This important work has to continue in cooperation with other UN bodies, to help Ukraine to recover from the severe damage and destruction Ukraine experiences during the invasion of the Russian Federation.
- The EU recalls the General Assembly resolution ES-11/1 on aggression against Ukraine, deploring in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which violates international law and the Charter of the United Nations, undermines international security and stability, and has had a devastating effect on human lives, natural and urban environment. We insist on the fact that peace is the prerequisite for international cooperation.
- Finally, I also would like to mention the preparations for the second Assembly of the UN Habitat. On behalf of the EU, I express appreciation for UN Habitat efforts to inform the Member States on the preparations for the Assembly, and I invite the Secretariat, and the Bureaus of the Governing Bodies to find an efficient way to involve Member States in these preparations.
- They should result in a substantive programme for the Assembly, which should deliver forward-looking outcomes in a form of selected quality resolutions, and necessary decisions.
- I thank you, Mister Chair for a possibility to share key messages on behalf of the EU and I wish everyone successful and fruitful discussions.