

First session of 2023 of the UN-Habitat Executive Board

28 – 29 March 2023

Intervention of Finland under agenda item 8: Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2022 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities.

Thank you Mr Chair, good morning excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

- Thank you for giving me the floor. First of all, let me state Finland's alignment with the statement made by the European Union.
- Finland would like to thank the Secretariat and other contributors for these interesting and useful updates and testimonies.
- Finland believes that UN-Habitat's engagement with local governments is crucial for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- We would like to reiterate **our thanks to UN-Habitat for the ongoing excellent cooperation in the context of the Finland – UN-Habitat SDG partnership**. We look forward to the continuance of activities within this partnership.
- With regard to the report on the development of the SDG Cities certification, we do see potential merit in such a certification in order to make city governments more aware of, as well as be inspired to further develop, the implementation of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. A viable model, both from the economic and organizational perspectives, is of course key, if we are to succeed with this initiative. Ideas heard from colleagues to link different processes sound worth looking into, as well.
- Echoing the joint statement delivered yesterday during this meeting [by the United States] on the behalf of several Member States, Finland would like to reiterate, in the context of normative and operational activities, the

importance of governance and oversight within the UN system. We would like to further emphasize that risk management structures are and should be a key function of UN organizations.

- To conclude, allow me to join others in expressing our solidarity with countries affected by the consequences of tropical cyclone Freddy.
- Many thanks, once again, for this exchange. Thank you.