

Statement by Germany

Agenda item 5

Germany is looking forward to the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and welcomes the preparations undertaken by UN-Habitat and the Bureaux so far. We hear that some draft resolutions are already quite advanced and we hope further Draft Resolutions will be presented as timely as proposed.

- The so-called SDG super year gives UN-Habitat an important opportunity to position itself and increase its visibility as capable focal point for sustainable urban development in the UN system. It is therefore important to effectively link this year's Assembly to the HLPF and the SDG summit, where progress on the implementation of SDG11 will be reviewed. Looking at the provisional agenda, we are not yet sure if this link is as strong as it could be. Could you please elaborate on how you plan to have the events build upon another and thus make use of this so important SDG super year for UN Habitat?
- Germany very much welcomes the envisaged dialogue on the special theme of the second UN-Habitat assembly with subnational governments and other relevant stakeholders. Do you have more detailed information on the dialogue in terms of envisaged outcomes or output for example?
- As already emphasized in previous meetings, Germany supports the alignment of UN-Habitat's strategic planning cycle with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) and thus the extension of the current Strategic Plan by two years. We want to advocate for a most efficient and cost-saving way of managing this alignment.
- It is not yet clear to us, which implications the alignment of the strategic planning cycle to the QCPR entails for the governing bodies of UN-Habitat and related decision-making processes. Assuming the UNHA in June this year agrees to extend the strategic plan until 2025, the adoption of a new strategic plan would require another Assembly in the same year.
- We do not consider it appropriate to host yet another full-scale Assembly in 2025 "only" to adopt the new strategic plan, given UN-Habitat's financial and staffing situation. Thus, we would like to hear if there are any updates on recommendations that may be prepared for consideration by the Assembly.