

**Joint Statement on Oversight Matters
UN-Habitat Executive Board
First Regular Session
March 28-29, 2023
Nairobi, Kenya**

I have the pleasure of delivering this statement on behalf of Canada, the European Union and its Member States, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and my country, the United States.

There has never been a more critical moment to ensure that the UN system's governance and oversight functions are strong, transparent, effective, and based on the most robust international best practices. In a world struggling to manage multiple crises with ever limited public resources, we cannot afford to waste a single resource committed to improving the livelihood of the most vulnerable and to leave no one behind.

Among the central roles of a governing body is to help ensure effective oversight of an organization and its performance.

Strong oversight directly supports trust and partnership and can provide the right incentives for increased support, as appropriate. Increased funding requests demand robust oversight mechanisms and the will to administer the funds responsibly to maintain that trust and partnership.

We believe this is an opportune moment to discuss and critically examine whether we are sufficiently executing our oversight responsibilities and functions.

We believe oversight must be an ongoing two-way conversation – between UN-Habitat, and its governing bodies. We commit to strengthening this conversation in the following ways:

- By engaging with UN-Habitat’s management and internal oversight functions on what more can be done to strengthen oversight, accountability, and transparency at every level of the organization and throughout the chain of program delivery;
- By executing our oversight function in a more proactive and thorough manner, to ensure UN-Habitat finds the Executive Board a reliable and diligent partner in risk management;
- By taking steps to assure that the Executive Board serves the best interests and expectations of program beneficiaries, agency staff, and taxpayers;
- By ensuring that the annual calendar regularly includes robust and appropriate discussion on oversight matters;

To close, we look forward to thinking more creatively, proactively, and systematically about what we can do together to strengthen internal controls and oversight. We appreciate recent efforts to improve transparency. We now expect UN-Habitat to support the Executive Board in making any further adjustments deemed appropriate and welcome updates from UN-Habitat’s leadership in this regard.

Together, we hope our work will help ensure that UN-Habitat’s partnerships, including with the Executive Board, are grounded in the trust and transparency required to deliver timely, effective, credible, and sustainable results at all levels.

Thank you, Chair.