



Ministry of Infrastructure and Rural Affairs

National Statement

National statement by the Swedish delegation to the second session of UN-Habitat Assembly, to be delivered by Ambassador Caroline Vicini, Permanent Representative to UN-Habitat.

- Madame Executive Director, Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,
- I would like to express our appreciation to the Executive Director, the secretariat and the governing bodies for all their work in preparing the second UN Habitat Assembly.
- Indeed, this Assembly is convened in an important point in time. The confluence of multiple global crises is challenging our common efforts, testing our abilities in multilateral cooperation. We must not lose sight of our commitments, moving towards the efficient implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Ahead of the High Level Political Forum and the SDG Summit, we have the opportunity to show leadership and to reaffirm our determination to deliver in advancing sustainable urban development, for which UN-Habitat may provide the tools. I would like to reassure you, excellencies, the full support from Sweden in this regard.
- Sweden took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union at a time when war is raging in Europe. Supporting Ukraine and

increasing pressure on Russia to end its aggression is a top priority for Sweden's EU Presidency.

- In addition to the countless loss of innocent lives and irreparable injuries, Russia's aggression has led to incomprehensible destruction and environmental damage. The destruction of the Kakhovka dam takes this to a new level.
- Sweden condemns Russia's illegal war of aggression and its contempt for civilian lives and infrastructure. Our commitment to Ukraine is unwavering and our support will continue for as long as it takes.
- It is undeniably so that we are all affected by the built environment around us, and urban issues are at the forefront when it comes to the challenges facing the world. .
- It is just as obvious that the way we plan, construct and design our cities, communities and places has a large effect on our achievements, our health, and our general well-being.
- As member of the Executive Board, Sweden will continue to engage in the further development of the UN Habitat. Sweden reiterates that UN-Habitat needs funding that is predictable, flexible and multi-year.
- Sweden urges all Member States and donors to study their funding modalities to make available funding as useful as possible for UN-Habitat, preferably with non-earmarked or soft earmarked support.
- Finally, we emphasize especially the ambition to create an organization that is both effective and transparent. Trust is a determining factor as we now continue to build upon this structure.
- I Thank you.