

UN-Habitat Assembly, 5-9 June 2023

Statement by Switzerland

Mr. Chair,
Madame Executive Director,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me start by commending the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, her management team and UN-Habitat's staff for having achieved a financial turn-around and regained the trust of donors. UN-Habitat is today on a better, yet still fragile, footing than four years ago.

Since the first Habitat Assembly, Switzerland and UN-Habitat have engaged in a wide range of project co-operation with a volume of more than US\$10 mio:

- On improving access to reliable services and socio-economic opportunities for migrants in urban settlements in Egypt, Jordania and Cameroon.
- On improving the living conditions of vulnerable populations in urban settlements in Central America and Cuba.
- On strengthening inclusive land governance and promoting land access rights for the most vulnerable people through the Global Land Tool Network.
- Through the Cities Alliance and its Global Action Plan Switzerland supports UN-Habitat in transforming informal settlements and slums.

The cooperation between Switzerland and UN-Habitat goes beyond the national government. We very much welcome city-to-city cooperation as it is the case between the city of Zurich and the city of Tyre in Lebanon with UN-Habitat as implementation partner.

Switzerland welcomes UN-Habitat's engagement with Geneva based actors through the new liaison office. The collaboration with the Geneva Cities Hub and UNECE, the organizer of the Forum of Mayors, has strengthened the links between local, national and international action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The engagement with WHO, OHCHR and with humanitarian actors through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee has shown concrete results.

My delegation regrets that the work on a new stakeholder engagement policy has not been concluded. We encourage stakeholders to remain committed to UN-Habitat's work. Likewise, we call on UN-Habitat to engage stakeholders in its governing bodies and at project level. Local authorities, experts and civil society provide true added value to UN-Habitat. In this sense, my delegation is already looking forward to The World Urban Forum, which will take place in Cairo in 2024. This will be unique opportunity for all stakeholders to renew their commitment to the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you, Mrs. Chair.