



## STATEMENT OF SERBIA AT THE SECOND UN HABITAT ASSEMBLY

Mr Chairman

Executive director

Distinguished delegates

The first UN Habitat Assembly took place four years ago in May 2019 here in Nairobi. No one at that time could have predicted that in less than a year humanity would be confronted with a devastating global health pandemic that produced lockdowns, changed the way of life and caused massive loss of life. The ensuing war in Ukraine that instigated a new global economic supply chain crisis and unprecedented rise in the cost of living worldwide has together with the pandemic put into serious question the realization of the sustainable development goals that is so vital for the future of coming generations. All those problems have in a concentrated manner been reflected particularly in our cities and settlements where generally our present civilization functions.

It is imperative that at this Second Assembly we pool our resources and work together on the basis of positive multilateralism to reverse the dire negative trends that are threatening our joint future.

For its part Republic of Serbia is dedicated to cooperation with UN Habitat, implementation of the New Urban Agenda and entire Agenda 2030 process. In order to foster implementation of SDG 11 in Serbia the New Urban Agenda was translated into the Serbian language, as well as International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning adopted by Resolution of UN Habitat at Governing Council in 2015.

We commend the efforts of the Executive Director to strengthen UN Habitat during her mandate and the improvement in the financial situation of the organization. We are particularly pleased that the Executive director visited Serbia in September 2021 and that cooperation with Serbia is expanding and developing.

In line with activities of national urban policy of UN Habitat the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted in 2019 the Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2030 which is currently being implemented. In 2021 the Government of Serbia adopted the first Action Plan for implementation of the national urban development strategy. The Strategy and its Action Plan triggered a series of urban development projects to support sustainable, inclusive, resilient and safe cities.

As a country with a tradition in spatial and urban planning, Serbia is ready to exchange its experiences and to extend its cooperation with all member countries of the United Nations on topics of sustainable development and urban development and housing in particular, which are in the mandate of UN Habitat. Serbia is actively participating in global events of UN Habitat such as World Urban Forums and Habitat Assembly, being part of the Executive Board since 2019 with permanent representation in the headquarters in Nairobi. As a South Eastern European country, Serbia is supportive to the intensification of UN Habitat activities in the entire sub-region of South Eastern Europe, which is facing its specific challenges and at the same time embracing its specific internal diversity.

Serbia is dedicated to strengthening its cooperation with UN Habitat in the spirit of multilateralism, based on principles which appear in Agenda 2030, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Sendai Framework and New Urban Agenda. The UN country team in Serbia has since December 2022 in-country presence of one UN Habitat Urban Advisor with the task of developing activities in Serbia. Three projects have already started with the topics related to nature-based solutions for improvement of air quality, urban mobility and localization of SDGs through the first Voluntary Local Review for the City of Niš in Southern Serbia.