

Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco
Nairobi



سفارة المملكة المغربية
نيروبي

28/11/2023

Statement of Ms Siham Mourabit, Deputy Ambassador and Deputy
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to UNHABITAT
Before the Third Session of the Executive Board 2023

On Agenda item 5: Draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2024.

The Kingdom of Morocco would like to express its support to the draft program of work for 2024, as presented by the secretariat;

Morocco welcomes particularly its 4 main areas of work which reflect the main aim of the organisation to continue its work on promoting urbanization as a positive transformative force for people and communities, reducing inequality, discrimination and poverty, and the strengthening of climate action.

Morocco would like also to appreciate that UN-Habitat will continue to enhance the role of local and regional governments in achieving access to **adequate housing, localization of the SDGs, climate action and urban crisis prevention and response as key priorities.**

Morocco also appreciates that UN-Habitat, in line with its capacity-building strategy for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, will continue meeting Member States needs, **by identifying and addressing gaps in capacity, and through the strengthening of capacity-building initiatives, digitization of tools and virtual e-learning programmes.**

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**On Agenda item 6: Morocco: On Due Diligence Assessment of Sustainable
Human Settlements Foundations:**

I would like to thank the secretariat for the two pages report of Mme ED and the presentation made on the Due diligence assessment of the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation.

Morocco recognises that the proposed contribution agreement between the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and UN-Habitat, will definitely help the organisation benefit from investments that will help achieve its mandate.

The proposition that the contribution agreement will have an initial duration of one year, subject to extension, with all the “garde -fous” that were put in the proposition, could be a good way forward to try this new innovative instrument, and address possible risks and concerns, as raised by some countries.

However, and in the view of the previous discussions we had on this issue, My delegation sees it necessary that the duration could be longer than one year to encourage investors engaging with UN-Habitat in a period that can provide them with more stability .

It is, therefore, critical that observations presented today by members of the Executive be given due consideration such as the proposition made by Germany and supported by France and Portugal.

I thank you.

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**On Agenda Item 7: On the Report of the Executive Director on the
analysis of the principal obstacles to the implementation of the New
Urban Agenda by Member States:**

Many thanks to Mme ED and her team for the report on the analysis of obstacles to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and Thanks to Ms Edlem for the excellent presentation which really has summarized the main challenges towards the implementation of NUA.

Without reflecting on the obstacles reflected in the report, **my delegation would like to ask one fundamental question: How can UNHABITAT help countries in addressing those challenges?**

My delegation concurs that Effective reporting, with the use of well-established indicators, will help track and analyse progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda by Member States, but how Un-Habitat is assisting countries to better use those indicators in their reporting exercise?

On the issue of submission of the national reports on the implementation of NUA, my delegation would have liked **to see the secretariat present the methodology and proceeding used in handling these reports including on how they evaluate them?**

My delegation has also a question on the follow up actions following the reporting. **What are the actions taken by UN-Habitat towards the countries whose reports lack key information or do not use the established indicators?**

My delegation would also be interested to hear from the secretariat **some clarifications on the frequency of interaction it is having with interested countries to improve their reporting.**

At this stage of the discussion, my delegation would be also keen in getting some information **on the state of Affairs of the creation of two posts (P3 and G7) at the secretariat which have resulted from tough negotiation of the relevant decision by the executive board ?**

It is to be recalled that African countries members of this Executive board, had called initially for the creation of 4 posts because of the need to address assistance to African member states who experienced challenges in the development of their national reports.

The report presented clearly shows how crucial are the need of capacity building and of technical assistance to address this issue of reporting and in fine of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Finally, and despite the fact that the report and presentation were both focused on analysis of obstacles, my delegation would have liked to see the report more forward looking with propositions on possible solutions.

I thank you