

Contribution
by
the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt
before 3rd Session, 2023
of the UN-Habitat Executive Board

on Agenda Item 11

Nairobi, 29 December 2023

Check against delivery

Mr. Chair,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to update the Executive Board on SUGRe initiative.

We stand at a crossroads, a moment pivotal in defining our cities' role in battling and resolving the Climate Crisis. Yet, current national pledges fall short in curbing harmful emissions and achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement. Local governments often lack the technical and financial resources to drive local climate action. Collaboration is our hope – across local, national and global levels to raise ambition and provide solutions on the ground that help achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement.

Last year marked a turning point as the COP27 Presidency launched the SURGe initiative, in partnership with UN-Habitat and facilitated by ICLEI. This initiative unites governments, international bodies, city networks, private sectors, academia, and non-party stakeholders, hence fostering ambitious climate action across multiple levels while nurturing the sustainability and resilience of cities.

Egypt is looking forward to working with partners to connect the dots and create synergies with ongoing work, in order to further develop the SURGe Initiative to present options for operationalization by the first Executive Board meeting of 2024, in accordance to UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/5.

As you may recall, SURGe was launched at the first ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP27 last year. The second Ministerial Meeting is to be held on 6 December at COP28, which is hoped to serve usher in Multilevel Action, Urbanization, Built Environment and Transport Day of COP28, and to highlight the importance of multilevel climate action, as well as the need to accelerate climate finance.

On the national level, the Government of Egypt has taken steps to implement the initiative. In fact, Egypt has already started years before launching the initiative, aspiring to enhance the sustainability of cities. SURGe came to better articulate this goal in a comprehensive way on the global level. Two main projects are currently underway in Egypt, with international funding for green building and urban mobility. Both projects aim to make new cities healthy, sustainable, inclusive, by lowering emissions and introducing resilient urban systems for a better future for all. In addition, an atlas titled the “Atlas of Egyptian Cities; Sustainability

Status and Climate Change effects” was also launched as a base for assessment, and to allow the necessary actions in cities, leading to efficient SDGs localization. However, national efforts and the global ones spearheaded by the UN-Habitat cannot succeed without the engagement and collaboration of all relevant stakeholders.

Indeed, developing countries need predictable financial resources to limit the negative effects of climate change on cities. Egypt therefore urges donors to fulfill their pledges and commitments, and invites all States and stakeholders to engage actively in SURGe, COP28 and the journey ahead. Together, we can build more sustainable and resilient cities for all, benefiting us all.

Thank you.