



UN-Habitat Executive Board, 29-31 March 2022

On agenda item 6: Draft annual work programme and budget 2023

As it is the first time that I'm taking the floor in my national capacity, allow me to congratulate Madame Executive Director for her re-election. Madame Executive Director, please count on the full support of my country in the implementation of your ambitious agenda.

We note with concern, that the overall financial situation of UN-Habitat remains critical. We very much appreciate the sincere, detailed and transparent presentation by the Secretariat and the convincing arguments. We welcome the generous contribution announced by Mexico today as well as the tireless efforts of the Executive Director to broaden the donor base. We also welcome with appreciation that the Executive Office of the UN Secretary General is committed to support an increase of the contribution from the regular UN budget to UN-Habitat provided that UN-Habitat presents a realistic budget for 2023.

Switzerland has been advocating for realistic budgeting for some time and notes with appreciation the big effort undertaken by the Secretariat in this regard in the preparation of UN-Habitat's budget for 2023. Switzerland supports the budget proposal by the Secretariat, including the budgeted USD 3 mio. core contributions. Switzerland intends to support the proposal by Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to increase the contribution from the regular budget of the UN in the discussions of the 5th committee of the GA in New York this fall.

On agenda item 7: reporting on programmatic activities in 2021

Switzerland recognizes the centrality of UN-Habitat's mandate in supporting urban populations: Urban populations are disproportionately affected by global challenges such as climate change and pandemics. The Swiss Government and UN-Habitat therefore agreed last year on a cooperation on the Program "Inclusive Urbanisation". With the first Swiss Soft Earmarking grant of US\$ 3,8 mio, the program contributes to inclusive urbanization in Central America with the aim to improve the living conditions of vulnerable populations in urban settlements.

Last year, Switzerland also supported the project "Urban Planning and Infrastructure in Migration Contexts (UPIMC) with a multi-year contribution of US\$ 3 mio. This project

aims at improving access to reliable services and socio-economic opportunities for migrants in urban settlements of supported cities in Egypt, Jordan and Cameroon.

Switzerland also supports the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) hosted by the UN-Habitat with a core contribution. The current project phase covers the period 2018-2023 and the Swiss contribution amounts to a total of USD 3,5 mio. The GLTN is a dynamic and multi-sectoral alliance of international partners committed to increasing access to land and tenure security for all, with a particular focus on the poor, women and youth. In 2021, Switzerland commissioned a Sustainability Study of the network, which confirmed the good performance in terms of structure, organization, governance and most importantly of results.

Mr. Chair

The UN Secretary General's report 'Our Common Agenda' puts an emphasis on the strengthened co-operation with sub-national authorities. Geneva has much to offer to support this goal in a systematic manner as Geneva based actors work either with local and regional governments or on urban issues.

In this context, we commend UN-Habitat for its engagement with WHO. In general terms we encourage UN Habitat to scale up its policy work and we believe that it would notably gain by working closer with OHCHR on the link between sustainable urban development and human rights, which is part of its mandate.

We encourage UN Habitat to continue to inject its unique expertise into the Geneva based discussions and to benefit from synergies with all stakeholders. Its collaboration with the Geneva Cities Hub and the UN regional commission UNECE as organizer of the Forum of Mayors has raised the attention on the interlinkages between local, national and international action to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

UN-Habitat, by its nature, benefits from a broad range of expertise from professionals, experts and civil society in its inter-governmental deliberations and in the implementation of its programs. This is why Switzerland pays special attention to the development of the new stakeholder engagement policy.

Thank you, Mr Chair.