

Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

High-Level Dialogue of the Special Theme on the United Nations Habitat Assembly

Panel 4 “Key Takeaways and Directions for the Summit of the Future”

Wednesday, 7 June 2023

3pm to 4pm Nairobi (8am to 9am New York)

**Live Video Remarks by Hon. Lachezara Stoeva, Permanent Representative of the Romania to
the United Nations and President of the Economic and Social Council**

Distinguished Delegates,
Fellow Panelists,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to join the Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly via video link, and specifically its High-Level Dialogue.

Let me begin by thanking the President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat for their efforts in organizing this Second Session. The governing body is new, and it is very encouraging to see the active participation of over 130 Member States, including at Head of State, Ministerial and Deputy Ministerial level.

I am particularly encouraged to see that the High-Level Dialogue on the Special Theme focuses on housing, climate, crisis, localization, and financing, and that this week Member States are deliberating on draft resolutions on these areas of action.

In April 2022, my colleagues and I in New York took the extraordinary step of organizing two meetings to elevate the New Urban Agenda and identify ways to accelerate its implementation.

First, we convened a special meeting of ECOSOC on Sustainable Urbanization. The meeting gave Member States the opportunity to review the Quadrennial Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Second, we convened a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. 83 Member States confirmed their commitments to accelerate the implementation of the Agenda.

In December 2022, the General Assembly in its resolution on UN-Habitat, 77/173, took note of efforts by Member States to elevate the New Urban Agenda, and encouraged greater focus on actions to accelerate its implementation, including on housing, climate, crisis, localization, and financing.

We are encouraged to see that the United Nations Habitat Assembly has taken forward this work of the General Assembly. The draft resolutions tabled by Member States at the Second Session appear well aligned with the five areas of action highlighted by the General Assembly in 2022. The resolutions being adopted at this Assembly offer countries policy guidance on how to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Distinguished Delegates,

Looking ahead, my colleagues and I are preparing for several meetings this year that will provide opportunities for Member States to advance the outcomes of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.

In July ECOSOC will convene the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development that will feature in-depth reviews of 5 SDGs, including SDG11 on Cities and Communities. I wish to emphasize that HLPF 2023 will double as a preparatory event for the SDG Summit.

The SDG Summit will take place on 18-19 September 2023, to review progress on the implementation of Agenda 2030 and make commitments to ensure the world delivers on the SDGs. Having the New Urban Agenda as a roadmap for sustainable development, the United Nations Habitat Assembly has been building on that by providing policy direction on housing, climate, crisis, localization, and financing that should be highlighted at the SDG Summit as pathways for attaining the 2030 Agenda.

On 20 September 2023, Member States will convene a Ministerial Preparatory Meeting for the Summit of the Future, to agree on the modalities for the Summit which will take place in September 2024. The Preparatory Meeting and the Summit will consider ways to strengthen the architecture of multilateralism, drawing upon the recommendations of the Report on Our Common Agenda.

The special theme of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, as well as the outcomes of your deliberations this week, will provide direction for the Summit of the Future and inputs for the Pact for the Future. Among these is the action area on localization and the proposed new institutional mechanisms to engage local and regional governments in intergovernmental processes. Also important will be the Summit of the Future action area on urban crisis and the

proposed new institutional mechanisms for global emergency response, the emergency platform.

Given that present and future generations live in an urban world, it will be critical to consider our common urban future in the Pact for the Future expected as an outcome of the Summit of the Future.

To conclude, I wish to thank you for your efforts to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as a road map for the 2030 Agenda and contributor for inclusive, effective multilateralism.

Thank you.