Mister Chairman, distinguished delegates, Madam Deputy Executive Director and representatives of UN-Habitat Secretariat, observers, ladies/ gentlemen

1. It is my privilege to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

2. We would like to thank the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director for the oral and written update on the recent activities of UN-Habitat, including the very valuable information on the preparations for the Habitat III conference. We look forward to a detailed briefing on this issue under Agenda Item 5 and encourage the ED to provide the CPR through its Subcommittee with the quality updates on Habitat III preparations in a timely and frequent manner. It would be also helpful to learn in more details about the inter-agency work on the UN system input to the New Urban Agenda, for which UN Habitat led the preparations. In this context, we would welcome, at the earliest convenience, a dedicated briefing to the CPR
as well as sharing of the document approved by the UN Chief Executives Board for Cooperation.

3. Concerning the report on the missions we highly appreciate the ED's attendance to the EU Ministerial meeting in Amsterdam on 30 May which adopted the "Pact of Amsterdam" setting the principles of the Urban Agenda for the EU which identifies 12 urban challenges, such as housing, air quality, urban poverty, inclusion of migrants, among others. At the heart of the EU Urban Agenda are partnerships allowing cities, Member States, EU Institutions and stakeholders, such as NGOs and business partners, to work together on an equal basis to find common ways to improve urban areas in the European Union.

4. With regard to the financial status of UN-Habitat, as of 31 March 2016 the picture - in particular for the non-earmarked contributions (with only USD 190 thousands received against USD 5,7 million planned for the first quarter of 2016) - is very worrying. We would appreciate a clarification if the picture has changed significantly to date. In view of the upcoming discussions on the Budget for the 2018-19 biennium, we will request the Secretariat to prepare realistic projections corresponding to actual levels of contributions received, in particular those non-earmarked. It is also of concern that the reporting through Umoja continuously poses challenges and we appreciate all efforts to overcome them.

5. Concerning the Working Group on Programme and Budget, we would like to express our satisfaction with the finalisation of the report from its March meeting and request its immediate distribution to the CPR. We continue appreciating the cooperative spirit of this important oversight structure and the considerable involvement of the Member States and the Secretariat in its works.