62nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat
14 September 2016

Statement on behalf of the EU and its MS

*Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, Executive Director and representatives of UN-Habitat Secretariat, observers, ladies and 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 Dr Joan Clos for his update on the activities of UN-Habitat and preparations for the Habitat III conference.

3. Concerning **Habitat III**, we would like to thank and congratulate the Habitat III Secretariat, the Bureau, the Co-facilitators, the Members States and all involved in the preparations, including of the background documentation, and the negotiations of the "Zero draft" outcome document. We are very pleased to note that the consensus has been reached in Surabaya on the most of the New Urban Agenda and recently, in New York, on the outstanding elements, including the process - under the auspices of the UN General Assembly - of positioning of UN-Habitat in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. We look forward to a successful conference and a prompt implementation of its outcome.
4. We thank the Executive Director for mentioning the UN Task Team experts meetings concerning the UN system input to the draft New Urban Agenda. We would like to repeat our request for a briefing to the CPR and sharing the document approved by the UN Chief Executives Board for Cooperation on this issue.

5. With regard to the **financial status** of UN-Habitat as of 30th June 2016, we would like to thank all contributors who have provided resources. We observe a very positive level of the total revenue compared with the budget. However, we remain concerned about the financial situation of the organisation and request the ED to step up his effort to mobilise the un-earmarked contributions to cover the core expenditures.

6. Concerning the **Working Group** on Programme and Budget, we would like to thank the African Group as the outgoing chair and welcome the chairmanship by the Asia and Pacific Group. We would like to stress that this important structure has been established following a resolution of the Governing Council on the governance reform of UN-Habitat and as a result of great expectations to strengthen the oversight by the GC and the CPR. The Governing Council, at its 26th meeting, is expected to review the work of the Group and decide on its continuation. In this respect we would like to appeal to the Chair and the members of the Working Group to agree on a calendar consisting of an increased number of formal meetings ahead of the GC-26 and setting the agendas for the meetings adherent to the Working Group's mandate with a focus on the progress in the implementation of the programme of work and budget of UN-Habitat, including the alignment of country programme documents and annual implementation plans; reviewing the implementation of recommendations by oversight bodies; as well as the resource
mobilization and the communication strategies. We look forward to a continuous cooperation through the Working Group and preparing a report to the Governing Council.

I thank you