64th meeting of  
the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat  
20 March 2017

Statement on behalf of the EU and its MS

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

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

We would like to thank the Executive Director, Joan Clos for his briefing to the CPR, and welcome the inclusion of the new section on the Key portfolio developments.

Concerning the Post-Habitat III process, we would like, first of all, to welcome the adoption of the New Urban Agenda by the UN General Assembly, and relevant implementing resolutions by its Second and Fifth Committees. The New Urban Agenda reaffirms UN-Habitat's role and expertise as a focal point for sustainable urbanisation and human settlements and entrusts it with the coordination of the preparation of the quadrennial reports on its implementation – in coordination with other UN system entities. Indeed, in other to do so, UN-Habitat's effectiveness, efficiency accountability and oversight need to be enhanced. We look
forward to the independent assessment of UN-Habitat and its recommendations in this regard. We would like to request that the CPR is being duly informed about this process, for instance by updates provided by the Secretariat on the basis on information available from the Secretariat General.

The 26th meeting of the Governing Council will be the first meeting of this body after the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, as well as the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The EU and its Member States believe that it would be of paramount importance that the Council reflects on these fundamental agreements, as well as other relevant agreements such as the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, or the Paris Agreement and their implications for UN-Habitat's work. The EU and its Member States urged UN-Habitat Secretariat, during the last CPR meeting, to conduct its own analysis in this regard. We would appreciate receiving and discussing them at the earliest convenience in a view of the upcoming GC meeting.

As long as the **practical preparations of the GC-26** are concerned, we would like to thank all who contributed to the agreement of the dates and the theme of the GC meeting. The process has not been easy and it took long to arrive at the final conclusions. We would therefore like to urge all and in particular the Secretariat to ensure the best quality preparations within the scarce time that remains.

In this regard we welcome the progress on the preparation of the Work Programme and Budget and the Strategic Framework 2018-19 and the revision of the Strategic Plan 2014-19. We look forward to working equally efficiently on the preparation of draft GC resolutions and we
suggest that a meeting of the CPR subcommittee is held as soon as possible to discuss the process for the resolutions.

Let us finish by making a reference to the **Working Group on Programme and Budget**, which will be discussed today under a separate agenda point but is of relevance in the context of the GC-26 preparations. The EU and its Member States welcome the two years of its performance. Despite numerous shortfalls and the room for improvements, the Group brought about an enhanced oversight of UN-Habitat and increased the quality of the reporting by the Secretariat as well as improved the interactions between the Member States and the Secretariat. The Working Group will write its report on the activities to the Governing Council who will have to decide about the Group's mandate. We call upon all the Member States to reflect on this and contribute to the preparation of the report through their respective representatives.

I thank you