65\textsuperscript{th} meeting of
the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat
29 June 2017

Statement on behalf of the EU and its MS

(to be delivered under Agenda Item 3: Executive Director's Briefing)

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.

This is the first time the Committee of Permanent Representatives meets after the Governing Council meeting, which agreed to an important package of resolutions that will guide the Secretariat of UN-Habitat on their work in the next biennium, notably in response to the New Urban Agenda.

The 26\textsuperscript{th} meeting of Governing Council, being the first one after the landmark Habitat III conference and the adoption of NUA, rightly focused on its implementation and the role of UN-Habitat in this regard.
It is of paramount importance that the CPR is kept up to date on the Secretariat's activities on the NUA implementation, reported against respective mandates. We welcome the relevant agenda point of the meeting today, which touches upon this issue. We would like, however, to conduct an in-depth discussion, preferably in a Sub-committee or Working Group format to discuss the best way for such reporting. We would also like to obtain more clarity on the division of work in the UN system, for instance, on the respective mandates of the Habitat III UN Task Team and the Habitat III Secretariat, both referred to in the Report for this meeting.

Another very important outcome of the last Governing Council was the prolonging the mandate of the Working Group on Programme and Budget in order to continue strengthening the oversight of UN-Habitat. We welcome the strong engagement of the Member States in the Working Group and the steadily improving operations and interaction with the Secretariat, which is paving the way for necessary governance recommendations to be formulated by the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel to Assess and Enhance Effectiveness of UN-Habitat.

Concerning the High-level Panel, we appreciated the opportunity to provide our inputs during the Governing Council meeting, despite some organisational difficulties. The EU and its Member States highlighted elements related to the state of UN-Habitat, its mandate, governance, structure and management. We would like to encourage Member States to seize the opportunity and provide their inputs to the Panel in a timely manner to ensure the most inclusive and informed Assessment. In this context we would like to obtain as soon as possible a clarification from the Secretariat about the announced next interaction of the Panel with Member States in Nairobi and the respective date.
The Governing Council also agreed to improve the engagement of UN-Habitat with stakeholders by extending the accreditation to Habitat III stakeholders and to develop a new Stakeholders Engagement Policy. We would like this work to commence without delay and look forward to the Secretariat initiating necessary steps.

Furthermore, we welcome progress made regarding the organization of the ninth World Urban Forum, which will take place in Malaysia in February 2018. We welcome recent briefings on the preparations and suggest to also include this as a standing agenda item for the upcoming CPR meetings in order to comply with the WUF resolution agreed at the 26th meeting of the Governing Council.

Mister Chair, I would like to finish by extending our congratulations to all who contributed to the organisation and outcomes of the very successful meeting of the Governing Council.

I thank you
Mister Chairman, on behalf of the EU and its Member States, I would like to thank the Secretariat for the useful and informative report on the Financial Situation of UN-Habitat.

However, we are concerned about the figures for the first quarter of the year. Comparing the first quarter's revenue (figure 1) and the expenditure (figure 3), it seems that the expenditure from core funds surpassed the revenue by USD 3 million. We would appreciate an explanation about this gap as well as the efforts done so far to reverse this trend.

I thank you