Mister Chairman, distinguished delegates, Madam Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director, 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. Serbia and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

First and foremost, we would like to recognise with a great satisfaction the agreement obtained at the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly with regard to the governance reform of UN-Habitat. It is a major achieving that culminates years of intensive discussions in Nairobi and New York and provides a good basis for the big task that was given to UN-Habitat in relation to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals and as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to this success, notably the Chair of the CPR, Mr Fernando Coimbra who led us through the negotiations in Nairobi that resulted in an architecture of governing
bodies that eventually was accepted without changes by Member States in New York. This fact also reaffirms the coherence between the decisions being taken respectively in New York and Nairobi and importantly contributes to the strengthening of the latter.

On this occasion we would like to thank the Executive Director, Madame Maimunah, and the Secretariat for all support provided throughout the process. Subject to n approval of the reform by the General Assembly, we look forward to the intensive preparations for the inaugural meeting of the UN Habitat Assembly as well as the first meeting of the Executive Board that should follow swiftly.

The EU and its Member States find it very fortunate that the reform of the governance coincides with the preparations of the Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 and the Work Programme and Budget for 2020. It will be of very high political significance if the newly created organs will be in a position to approve the above policy planning documents in their respective first sessions. This said, we are very satisfied with the progress and the inclusive process on the Strategic Plan and look forward to promptly engage in the preparations of the Work Programme and Budget which should be consistent with the Strategic Plan.

Therefore, and as a matter of urgency we would like to ask the Secretariat to present for consultation amongst the Member States a detailed and consistent plan of work for the preparation of the Strategic Plan the Work programme and Budget and the preparations for the meetings of the Habitat Assembly and the Executive board, including the organisational and procedural issues.

I thank you.