In my capacity of Chair of G-77 and China - Chapter Nairobi, I would like, on behalf of the group, to congratulate members of the Bureau for their election and wish them all the best in their undertakings;

I also wish to express, in the first Governing Council attended by Mr. Joan Clos as UN-Habitat’s Executive Director, our full support to a fruitful fulfillment of his mandate, as well as his priority areas, namely: new urban planning, local institutions and governance and urban economy and finance;

We take this opportunity to reiterate our satisfaction with the outcomes of the Fifth World Urban Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2010, which provided valuable advancements regarding the promotion of the right to the city;

We would like to express our appreciation for the activities carried out by UN-Habitat in developing countries and to urge UN-Habitat to keep on with these endeavors. G-77 and China underscores the importance of strengthening the Regional Offices and encouraging South-South, triangular and city-to-city cooperation. It is our view that UN-Habitat has a very relevant role to perform in promoting capacity building, facilitating the exchange of experiences among developing countries and encouraging technology transfer;

We welcome initiatives at the regional level, such as the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban
Development, the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean. The G77 and China recognize the work carried out by these forums as valuable contributions to further promote urban sustainable development and call upon UN-Habitat to work closely with them and to provide necessary support to these bodies.

- We welcome the conclusion of phase 3 of the governance review process and the adoption, by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, of short, medium and long term measures which will improve UN-Habitat's transparency, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency, as well as rebrand it as an organization that is able to deliver on results. In this regard, we would also like and to express our appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the Governance Review Implementation Team, recognizing, in particular, the engagement and contribution of Ambassador Daniel Chuburu, then Permanent Representative of Argentina.

- We take note of the report of the Executive Director on the United Nations Conference on Housing and hope to have the chance to engage, in a future session of the Governing Council, in a constructive debate about the agenda of Habitat III, which shall provide an opportunity to discuss new challenges to the well-being of city-dwellers and to devise new solutions to persisting problems;

- We call upon Governments, in particular the development partner countries, to continue their financial support to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary contributions. The G77
and China welcomes all efforts to increase funding predictability and the shift to non-earmarked contributions to support UN-Habitat's MTSIP.

- We invite UN-Habitat and Habitat Agenda Partners to actively participate in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), in 2012, bearing in mind that sustainable development cannot be accomplished without the promotion of sustainable urban development. To that effect, the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development may be addressed as an integrated triple helix, with approaches that have already been established, fully discussed and whose concepts and principles are recognized as bearing the acceptance and consensus from all Member States. We believe that the concept of "green economy", notably, has yet to reach this consensual threshold.

- Finally, we affirm our willingness to contribute to the debates about the theme of this session of the Governing Council, by sharing our countries experiences and identifying the challenges still to be faced in ensuring urban sustainable development through equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure.

- Thank you.