

Thank you Mr. President.

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement presented on behalf of the EU and we fully support the work of the Council and the Bureau during this year's session. ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies play a key role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and we are convinced that the upcoming session as well as all meetings organized under the auspices of ECOSOC will invigorate the action of member states, local authorities and the civil society in order to achieve our common sustainable development goals.

I would like to put a special emphasis on the upcoming High-Level Meeting on the New Urban Agenda, which is being prepared in close cooperation with ECOSOC. I have the honour to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee to the President of the General Assembly on Sustainable Urbanization and work closely with the Office of the PGA, UN-Habitat, UN Regional Commissions, UN Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, UN Member States and of course ECOSOC on the preparation of this historic meeting. I firmly believe that the HLM will put cities right in the centre of our discussions on sustainable development and mobilize the implementation of the New Urban Agenda on a global level.

Although cities occupy only 2% of the surface of the planet, they produce 70% of global GDP, consume over 60% of energy, produce 70% of greenhouse gas emissions and generate 70% of global waste. It is therefore paramount that ECOSOC dedicates adequate attention to cities and their place in the 2030 Agenda. The focus on cities should reach far beyond SDG11- they are the frontiers between a scenario of breakthrough and a scenario of breakdown. The New Urban Agenda, adopted in October 2016 at the HABITAT III Conference in Quito, provides a roadmap on how to build a desirable future. The pandemic has only highlighted the unique role of cities and the urgent need to address sustainable urbanization.

Mr. President,

ECOSOC plays an invaluable role as the coordinator of our efforts to achieve sustainable development in all its three dimensions. I look forward to our cooperation on such timely issues as cities and urbanization, but also in all other pertinent issues. We support the inclusivity of ECOSOC, its revitalization and alignment with the 2030 Agenda. I am pleased to emphasize Slovakia's candidature to ECOSOC in the upcoming elections and I look forward to the outcomes of 2022 session.

Thank you.