

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished participants,

Good morning!

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and brief you on the current state of Ukraine's housing policy in the context of the war.

The full-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine continues. This leads to extremely grave consequences for many Ukrainian families and the nation. Ukraine is suffering enormous losses of human life, destruction of housing and infrastructure, and a decline in the country's and its citizens' economic situation.

Hundreds Ukrainian towns and villages have already been razed to the ground by Russian soldiers, millions of my fellow citizens left their homes, thousands of schools, hospitals as well as critical and civilian infrastructure facilities have been damaged or completely destroyed. Only this night insane Kremlin Regime has launched 35 cruise attack missiles with only one purpose: to kill as much Ukrainians as they can. While we are discussing draft resolutions and Ministerial Declaration, Russians terrorists have destroyed Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant. This dam was 30 meters tall and 3.2 km long. Destroying the dam would mean a large-scale disaster. The Government of Ukraine has already started the evacuation of around 19 thousand of civilians, who are expected to be affected. It is expected that half of Kherson city will be flooded, many cities on the contrary will be left without drinking water. We call upon all Members States of UN-Habitat to condemn this barbaric attack on the civil population of Ukraine.

Despite all the challenges, my country has a vision and understanding of its life after the war. Several plans and measures have been developed and are being implemented to recover and rebuild our nation.

There are several mechanisms for addressing the housing issue of IDPs in Ukraine, namely, providing temporary housing, facilitating the purchase of housing to be owned, and accommodating IDPs by other citizens in their housing.

Our government is taking steps to restore the housing rights of citizens affected by the war. In particular, we are talking about the Law of Ukraine, which aims to regulate the compensation mechanisms for damaged and destroyed housing.

Developed on the initiative of the President Zelenskyy, and presented last year in Lugano, the National Recovery Plan of Ukraine envisions modernizing the state housing policy and is consistent with SDGs.

As I have already mentioned, the recovery of our country is only possible by modernizing the housing policy. In this regard, the Government of Ukraine is developing several housing legislation amendments that require expertise from international organizations, such as UN-Habitat.

I want to emphasize Ukraine's interest in bolstering cooperation with UN-Habitat, including the launch of the UN-Habitat Program in Ukraine. The experience, knowledge and potential of UN-Habitat would be a valuable help to us in our efforts to reform the country's housing policy.

I look forward to further strengthening of our cooperation!

Thank you for your attention!