

STATEMENT TO THE GC26 OF UNHABITAT

MADE BY
GABRIEL RUGALEMA, FAO REPRESENTATIVE IN KENYA

9 May 2017

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Director General, of the Food and Agriculture of the United Nations (FAO)
Director General

Mr. President,
Let me congratulate you and you colleagues on your election, to steer the Governing Council of the UN Habitat for the next two years.

Mr. President,
FAO has been keenly monitoring the pace and the trend of urbanization. We are that in the near future, many people will live in urban areas than the rural areas.

Mr. President,
Urbanization comes with opportunities and challenges. Life styles in urban areas are characterized by unhealthy dietary patterns which result in a complex web of malnutrition problems ranging from severe under nourishment to an increasing incidents of obesity

Also,
Mr. President,
Urban areas are characterized by an increased risk of food-borne diseases often associated with poor sanitation and the consumption of street food often prepared in a safe environment. Moreover inadequate housing, poor income, unsafe environment in many urban areas create unhealthy environments which are a high risk for food poor nutrition and food insecurity.

Mr. President,
Urban areas constitute an opportunity to economies of aggregation offer opportunities for the provision of essential services such health, water, sanitation, social protection schemes, all of which contribute to better nutrition and food security. Because of aggregation and closeness to market of urban agriculture can be profitable

FAO congratulates UN Habitat for its leadership in the formulation, negotiation and advocacy of the New Urban Agenda. We look forward to be story partners in the implementation of the New Urban Agriculture.

FAO is will continue to be an active and reliable partner in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, particularly in the following areas;

1. Incorporating mechanisms for making nutrition foods more accessible to the urban poor.
2. Improving the functionality of food markets and distribution through partial planning of activities and territories.
3. Improving connectivity between urban and rural areas for the better flow of Agriculture goods and services.
4. Ensuring that urban food system are part and parcel of urban planning.
5. Improving urban and territorial ecology and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through more efficient food transport and better management of natural resources.

Mr. President,

FAO is currently developing its New Urban Agenda focusing on efficient and sustainable urban food systems. We are currently working with the cities of Nairobi, Dhaka and Lima in the domestication of the urban Food Systems programme.

Allow me to close my intervention by reiterating FAO's commitment on supporting the New Urban Agenda and on keenness to partner with UN Habitat and others- state and none state partners to support the development of livable , food secure, sustainable and resilient urban areas.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you very much.