



Federal Government of Nigeria

Statement by

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Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I bring warm greetings from the Government and people of Nigeria, and congratulate you and members of the Bureau on your election to guide the proceedings of this 26th Session of the Governing Council. Allow me to appreciate the good work done by UN-Habitat under the able leadership of Dr. Joan Clos, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director UN-Habitat which culminated in the successful adoption of the New Habitat Agenda at the Habitat III Conference held in October, 2016. We equally appreciate the warm hospitality extended to our delegation by the people and Government of Kenya since our arrival.

Mr. President,

Nigeria aligns itself with the statement of the distinguished representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of G77 + China and the African Group. The adoption of the New Urban Agenda by the global community at the Habitat III Conference in Quito in September 2016 signaled a turning point in our quest for sustainable urbanization. It in fact represents the key to our future progress, security and well-being as a people as we committed to several key agreements covering a broad spectrum of issues which are relevant to achieving sustainable urbanization in this 21st Century. This calls for the stepping up of collective and individual actions at various levels, with relevant stakeholders, to realize its laudable objectives, and ensure a better urban future for all.

The Government of Nigeria is honoured and privileged to have played an active role in preparing for the Habitat III Conference, particularly at the African regional level. Our believe in the positive opportunities provided by transformative and sustainable urban development informed our initiation and funding of the **New African Urban Agenda Project** in April 2013, and the hosting of the **African Regional Meeting on Habitat III** in Abuja, Nigeria in February, 2016. The processes culminated in the adoption of the **Common African Position on Habitat III (CAPH3)** with its seven (7) point action plan, which are in conformity with the African Union 2063 vision for Africa's future development. Allow me to appreciate the spirit of unity and cooperation demonstrated

by all African States in the process, and for the technical support from UN-Habitat, the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Shelter-Afrique and other regional and international development institutions, and friends of Africa.

Building on the momentum of Habitat III and adoption of the New Urban Agenda, the Government of Nigeria has continued to make tremendous strides in its sustainable development efforts. The New Urban Agenda reflects many of Nigeria's priorities for sustainable housing and urban development, and we are committed to mainstreaming it into our urban development policies and initiatives to promote sustained and inclusive urban growth nationwide.

Our next steps in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda involves revitalization of the broad-based multi-stakeholder **National Habitat Committee** which was set up to coordinate Nigeria's preparations for the Habitat III Conference. The body will take-up the role of sensitizing, popularizing and domesticating the New Urban Agenda nationwide, from National levels down to States, Local Governments and community levels. We will take action to align the implementation of the New Urban Agenda with the human settlements components of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the African Union Agenda 2036, the Paris Climate Change Agreement and other internationally agreed instruments on sustainable urbanization in building cities and human settlements that are environmentally, socially and economically viable. Means are also being developed to involve all levels of governments and all stakeholders in the implementation and decision making processes.

In the area of adequate housing provision, steady progress is being made with the implementation of the sustainable National Housing Programme embarked upon by the Government recently. The Programme is considered as the bedrock for aggressively reducing the housing deficit in Nigeria, and is designed to deliver 10,000 housing units nationwide in the first phase. It features housing designs responsive to our cultural and climatic diversities, and will create jobs for our teeming youth population and our

indigenous artisans and craftsmen. In supportive measure, the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) has recently been recapitalized to provide increased mortgage facilities to enable more people own homes.

Other priority interventions to address the complexities of urbanization in Nigeria include the development of an **Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP)** which is a medium term plan covering 2017-2020 to restore economic growth, increase social inclusion, create jobs and improve the human capital base of the economy and the overall welfare of Nigerians. This is in addition to the 30-year **National Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan** spanning 2013-2043 and the on-going development of a **National Physical Development Plan** for more integrated physical and economic development. Other on-going initiatives include increased investments in modern road infrastructure and efficient transport networks, increased slum upgrading and water and sanitation projects, as well as development of strategic development plans for several cities.

A National Land Policy is also under preparation to ensure the most efficient utilization, coordination and management of our scarce land resources, while stronger public-private partnerships for agriculture and power are being developed to meet our overall national vision of promoting rapid growth, creating more jobs and generating increased wealth. By adopting this type of comprehensive and holistic approach, we are confident of eventually mainstreaming the New Urban Agenda into overall national economic, social and spatial planning processes to guarantee long-term sustainability of our human settlements.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

In concluding, I wish to emphasize that the long-term impact of the commitments made in Quito at Habitat III will depend largely on coordinated, harmonized and systematic implementation of the New Urban Agenda at all levels. The synergies and linkages between the New Urban Agenda and the urbanization components of other relevant

global instruments will need to be clearly defined and well understood by all governments and stakeholders. Advocacy, capacity-building and information-sharing are equally essential to ensure that the New Urban Agenda is fully understood, internalized and supported by all stakeholders. Likewise, a comprehensive action-oriented road-map for implementation is required, as is the need to develop effective assessment and monitoring mechanisms to track the progress of implementation.

UN-Habitat has been mandated by the global community to lead this process based on its role and expertise as the focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements development. It must therefore be strengthened, adequately funded and supported to deliver on this crucial mandate.

I thank you for your attention.