



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT

BY HON. DR. CHRIS BARYOMUNSI
**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DE-
VELOPMENT (HOUSING).**

**AT THE
TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UN-
HABITAT**

**HELD AT THE UN-HABITAT HEADQUARTERS IN NAIROBI-
KENYA**

8TH TO 12TH MAY 2017.

Mr. President,
Hon Ministers and heads of delegations
The Executive Director of UN-HABITAT
Excellences the Ambassadors and High Commissioners
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr. President

On behalf of the Government of Uganda and indeed on my own behalf, permit me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau upon your election to lead the Governing Council for the next two years. I want to assure you that you can count on Uganda's full support as you discharge your responsibilities. I wish also to thank the UN-HABITAT Secretariat for organising the **Twenty-sixth Session of the Governing Council (GC26)** – the first GC meeting after the Habitat III Conference; and the adoption of the New Urban Agenda.

In the same vein, let me take this opportunity to congratulate all member states upon a successful Habitat III conference held in Ecuador in October 2016, and for adopting the New Urban Agenda. Uganda welcomes this opportunity presented at this august meeting, being the first one after the Habitat III conference, to discuss how the New Urban Agenda will be effectively implemented, as a vehicle for the next twenty years, to adequately address the existing urban challenges and emerging ones and take advantage of the opportunities of urbanization as an engine of ensuring socio-economic transformation and sustainable development.

We wish also to thank the Government of Kenya for the excellent role Kenya is playing as a host country to the UN-Habitat

Mr. President

Uganda associates herself with and supports the statements of the G-77 and China and that of the African Group.

Mr. President

As a country, Uganda shares the vision of the New Urban Agenda which aims at addressing the ways cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed, and managed. If well implemented; the New Urban Agenda will help Member States achieve increased access to decent shelter, reduce inequalities, promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, achieve gender equality, improve human health and well-being, as well as foster resilience and protect the environment.

In this regard we welcome the theme of this conference which focuses on **“Opportunities for the Effective Implementation of the New Urban Agenda”** together with the 3 Sub themes:

- ✓ Towards inclusive, sustainable and adequate housing for a better future
- ✓ Integrated human settlements planning for sustainable urbanization
- ✓ Synergies and financing for sustainable urbanization

The selection of the theme and the thematic areas is indeed timely and well thought-out to suit the time when most countries including Uganda are putting into place strategies and action plans for localising the New Urban Agenda.

Mr. President

Uganda has embarked on a process of localizing the New Urban Agenda. Our strategy has been to embed New Urban Agenda in the on - going activities within our Ministry and activities of other relevant stakeholders such as local authorities, Civil Society Organisations etc. Specific action plans to holistically implement the New Urban Agenda have been identified and put in place. **Policies** and legislations have been reviewed to provide modalities for effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the areas of; planned urban development, Housing development, Human settlements planning, Infrastructure, Environment conservation, Investment, employment, Safety and above all governance that will enhance effective urban management and participation at all levels.

Examples include the National Physical Planning Act, 2010 which aims at ensuring that, the entire country of Uganda becomes a planning area;

the National Housing Policy that carries the theme of providing adequate housing for all and the National Urban Policy. Uganda is also localizing the New Urban Agenda through **strengthening mechanisms for financial mobilization: including promoting and strengthening local revenue generation as well as fostering public private partnerships.**

Mr. President

Uganda recognizes the unique and key role that UN-HABITAT plays in the pursuit of Sustainable Development especially in developing countries where Urbanization is taking place at an unprecedented scale and pace. Today 80% of the World's fastest urbanizing countries are in the developing world. Therefore it is imperative that in order to successfully implement the new Urban Agenda Member States should capitalize UN-HABITAT. We urge Member States, development partners and financial institutions to continue supporting the UN-HABITAT by providing funding for implementation of its work programme.

MR. President

Last but not least, Uganda supports the adoption of the resolutions before the General Council especially the African Group sponsored resolution on "Promoting effective implementation, follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda". Indeed it is only through effective implementation, follow up and review that we shall be able to achieve our noble aspirations enshrined in the New Urban Agenda. The whole world is looking at us with anxiety and grandiose expectations.

Mr. President

Finally as an elaborate strategy, my government has recommitted itself to ensuring that, the presence of UN-Habitat in Uganda is felt more than even before. In this regard, I wish to invite all member states, Development Agencies and International Financial agencies and Civil Society agencies to the launch of the UN-Habitat, Uganda Country Programme. My government in partnership with UN-Habitat have developed a project document for Uganda aimed at achieving Sustainable Urban Develop-

ment. This programme will be implemented in partnership with many stakeholders such as the ones attending this session of the 26 UN-Habitat GC. . The launch will take place as a side event in room 9 on Thursday May 11, 2017 from 1.00pm to 1.45 pm. You are all invited and you are most welcome.

Uganda would like to thank the outgoing Executive Director of UN HABITAT for the good work done. We would like to inform all the delegates that Uganda will be sponsoring a candidate for the same position. We shall be approaching all of you for support and we count on you.

I thank you for your kind attention accorded to me.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY