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STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
TO THE UN-HABITAT

For the

**77th Session of the UN General Assembly
Second Committee General Discussion on:**

**Item 19: Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban
Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

Friday, October 14, 2022
United Nations, New York
Conference Room 2

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Thank you, Madame Chair,

1. I take this opportunity to congratulate you and the bureau members on your able assignment during this 77th Session of the UN General Assembly. On behalf of my delegation, I will deliver a few remarks in tandem with the African group and the Group of 77 and China.
2. Kenya acknowledges with appreciation the recommendations of the 2022 report of the Secretary-General on the progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
3. Recent developments and statistics from the report point to the pertinence of coordinated and concerted action on urbanization.
4. The Covid-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, and ongoing impacts of climate change are disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable across and within member states.
5. Through the lens of acute economic effects arising from increased commodity prices, rising energy costs, and general inflation, the populace flock to metropolises seeking better opportunities and livelihoods.

Madame Chair,

6. 1.6 billion people globally live in inadequate housing conditions or slums, 84 million people are displaced because of conflict in the first half of 2021, and there is an expected housing deficit of around 440 million homes by 2025.



7. These are deeply worrying statistics. In this context, Kenya urgently supports a call for action that matches the scale of the challenge we are facing in order to secure basic necessities of life for all.

Madame Chair,

8. Allow me to highlight a few key areas in need of augmented action:
9. Firstly, the **implementation of the New Urban Agenda** will only be realized through:
 - i. The enhancement of endogenous resources;
 - ii. Building the capacities of Governments and relevant institutions to collect data;
 - iii. Grass roots led planning processes- which is the bottom-up approach;
 - iv. Continuous exchange of information and learning amongst peers; and
 - v. The submission of timely reports on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda
10. Secondly, further concerted action is needed to increase accessibility of **quality, affordable and sustainable housing**.
11. As the report of the SG indicates, the number of slums and eviction of the poor and marginalized is ever increasing contributing to the expected deficit in housing.
12. Third, **localizing the SDGs** is pertinent. Kenya continues to strengthen the capacities of subnational governments through local SDGs coordination frameworks that provide training and creation awareness in SDG planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting.



13. While it is gratifying to note that local and regional Governments from 34 countries have produced 121 Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) since 2017, more remains to be done.
14. Knowledge sharing, cooperation and capacity support amongst cities and municipalities will serve to fast track implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
15. Fourth, we acknowledge that cities account for nearly 70% of the global greenhouse gas emissions. We must all work together for **climate mitigation and adaptation**, in line with common but differentiated responsibilities.
16. UN Habitat should continue its good work in collaboration with Member States and all relevant stakeholders in accelerating its climate change proposals across all programmes. Particularly, construction, transport, energy and water in order to build the resilience of urban infrastructure and support the most vulnerable in communities.
17. Lastly, we note that **UN-Habitat** cannot credibly continue to execute its mandate with insufficient resources and inadequate staffing.
18. Indeed, annual non-earmarked voluntary contributions, critical to the organizations' approved programme of work, have gradually been decreasing. A phenomenon visible across the development system.

19. Urgent mobilization of adequate, predictable, and sufficient financing is needed. Concurrently, UN-Habitat should be proactive in devising innovative partnerships aimed at broadening and diversifying its donor base.

As I conclude Madame Chair,

20. The New Urban Agenda is an indispensable part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As we deliberate on the critical issues before us, I am hopeful that we shall adopt decisions that will result in the transformation of lives and livelihoods.

21. We look forward to hosting you all for the second session of the Habitat Assembly in 2023.

I THANK YOU

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