

STATEMENT BY AMB. JEAN KIMANI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC KENYA TO UN-HABITAT ON THE OBSERVANCE OF WORLD CITIES DAY 2022.

Kenya joins the world in marking World Cities Day 2022 in Shanghai China, under the theme 'Act Local to Go Global'. We laud UN-Habitat and the Government of the people's Republic of China for the preparations towards this highly significant event. This year's celebration bears great significance as it recognizes the critical role Urban areas play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 11 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'. Kenya hosted the event in 2020 in Nakuru County, now Nakuru City, under the theme 'Valuing our Communities and Cities' with key highlights including the launch of World Cities Report 2020.

Kenya fully supports the localization of Sustainable Development Goals and the role UN-Habitat plays as the custodian of the New Urban Agenda alongside its continuous advocacy in the localization of SDGs since the endorsement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. On this, we believe this year's theme 'Act Local to Go Global' is not only apt but also relevant as Kenya was among the first countries to domesticate the New Urban Agenda and has continuously worked hand in hand with local and global partners to realize its aspirations.

H.E President William Ruto's Government prioritizes the provision of affordable housing for Kenyans including low-cost social housing. These aim at providing 200,000 units each year across the country. Further efforts are also directed at implementing slum Upgrade programmes. These partnerships with the Sub National Governments aim at providing employment opportunities and lifting living standards of Kenyans across the 47 Counties.

The launch of 2022 Shanghai Manual during the occasion will go a long way in highlighting case studies and best local practices for replication and upscale across the globe. This is noteworthy especially as we embrace a new era of building back better post Covid 19 and re-invigorating relations among Member States to consolidate efforts around providing solutions to global Urban Challenges.

Kenya Permanent Mission to UN-Habitat, October 2022
