



**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING,  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND PUBLIC WORKS  
State Department for Housing and Urban Development**

**REMARKS BY MR. CHARLES M. HINGA, CBS, PRINCIPAL  
SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR HOUSING AND URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT, DURING THE 9<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE AFRICITIES  
SUMMIT SESSION AT THE MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE, FRIDAY,  
20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022.**

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BUILDING BACK BETTER IN AFRICA: ROLE OF SECONDARY AND INTERMEDIATES CITIES. SPO4| ROOM 1 | 1430HRS – 18.00HRS

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good Afternoon,**

Let me start by thanking you on behalf of the Government of Kenya for attending the Africities Summit in Kisumu and in particular this ministerial dialogue session and for your engagement in different sessions over this week.

I take note of the importance of the role of secondary and intermediary cities for the attainment of the SDGs and the Africa 2063 agenda amidst a rapid trend of urbanization in Africa. Secondary cities are meant to play an increasingly critical role in a country's development. I further note that as large and megacities continue to attract people, secondary cities will become more manageable given their size with less congested areas and lower densities. This will ease the mobility of people and goods, reduce the cost of land, as well as create better access to housing and services. As such, secondary cities could boost African national economies if well integrated into national development strategies as accelerators of regional development.

As we are aware secondary cities in Africa face a number of challenges. These include a lack of physical planning leading to urban sprawl, a deficit of basic services such as water, housing & energy, and bulk infrastructural services, limited financial resources and a lack of technical capacity to deliver the required services.

In order to overcome the challenges faced by intermediary cities adoption, of a multilevel governance system will enhance their economic development and further foster citizens' participation in the governance of cities. I note that there has been slow progress on the establishment of the institutional environment to allow the smooth relationship between cities/subnational government and central governments in Africa. I further note that according to the study jointly carried out by UCLGA and Cities Alliances there has

been a slight increase in the number of countries where the institutional environment created by the State is favorable to subnational governments. However, the general trend is that in most African countries the institutional environment is generally unfavorable to subnational government action.

This Summit, therefore, offers an opportunity to review the relationship between central and subnational governments, with a view to fostering collaboration, synergy and solidarity.

I, therefore, call upon you to reflect on these issues as a key component of the expected outcomes of Africities Summit bearing in mind that the main objective of this session is to agree amongst us on key commitments and questions to be raised during the tripartite dialogue on the 21st of May between Ministers, Local Governments

and Development Partners towards more a conducive institutional framework for the governance of secondary cities in Africa.

I take this opportunity to welcome you for an open and interactive session where we can review practical experiences on how to improve the interaction between national and sub-national governments for the benefit of the citizens.

I thank you