

BY AMB.RAYCHELLE OMAMO, SC, EGH CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

It is with great pleasure that Kenya joins the rest of the world in observing the World Habitat Day 2021 being marked today as per the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 40/2020A of December 17, 1985. The theme “**accelerating urban action for a carbon free world,**” is appropriate as cities consume over two thirds of the world’s energy and account for more than 70 percent of carbon emissions, with transport, energy and waste management accounting for the bulk of this emissions.

We amplify the race to zero global campaign and encourage local governments to develop actionable zero carbon plans in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021.

Kenya is proud to host the headquarters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, an organization whose mandate is promoting sustainable human settlements development and achievement of adequate shelter for all. The presence of the United Nations Offices in Nairobi (UNON) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-Habitat clearly symbolizes Kenya’s commitment to multilateralism. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Executive Director of UN-Habitat **Ms.Maimuna Sharif** for her leadership in creating international awareness on the significance of this very important day.

As we reflect on the state of our habitat and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter, it is a reminder of the power and responsibility that we have to shape our future and create sustainable, carbon neutral, inclusive cities and towns.

Kenya has been one of the countries taking leadership role in addressing climate change. We made ambitious commitments and I am pleased to state that Kenya has increased her Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) from 30 percent to 32 percent.

I am convinced that global support in terms of climate financing is paramount for Kenya to achieve her targets by the year 2025. Kenya has a “**Green Economy Strategy and**

Implementation Plan (2016-2030),” which will enable us achieve a higher economic growth and support a low carbon development path.

This October, Kenya will be pre-siding over the Affairs of the United Nations Security Council at a critical time. Among the priority objectives during our Presidency include Climate and Security. We look forward to creating greater engagements and galvanizing consensus towards sustainable global peace.

BY AMB. JEAN KIMANI, KENYA’S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UN-HABITAT

This year’s Global Observance of World Habitat Day will be in Yaounde, Cameroon, under the theme: **“Accelerating Urban Action for a Carbon Free World.** “This is a call to action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which has been singled out as the main cause of climate change currently facing the world.

We at the Kenya Permanent Mission to UN-Habitat are committed to be the link between UN-Habitat and the Government of Kenya in the promotion of sustainable urbanization and human settlements.

We take this opportunity to congratulate the Executive Director, Ms. Maimuna Mohd Sharif, and the secretariat, for working hard towards a carbon free world through initiatives such as Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI), the Agency’s flagship activity that supports cities to respond to the negative impacts of climate change and put in place appropriate mitigation measures. We confirm our commitment to work together to ensure its success as we aim to have a carbon-free world.

The UN-Habitat has been a reliable partner in the achievement of Kenya’s Big Four Agenda and Vision 2030. The signing of an MoU between the Nairobi Metropolitan Services and UN-Habitat on the Nairobi River Regeneration Initiative, will go a long way in supporting bio-diversity.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) also endeavors to promote multilateral engagement by fostering collaborative action towards more inclusive, resilient and safer cities as exemplified in the programmes and activities for this Urban October month, starting with the commemoration of World Habitat Day.



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