

**STATEMENT BY AMB. JEAN KIMANI, MBS, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, KENYA
PERMANENT MISSION TO UN-HABITAT DURING THE NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF THE
WORLD HABITAT DAY CELEBRATIONS AT OLKARIA GEOTHERMAL SPA IN NAIVASHA ON
MONDAY 4TH OCTOBER, 2021.**

**The Guest of Honour, Hon. James W. Macharia, EGH, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Transport,
Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works**

Amb (Dr.) Monica Juma, EGH, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Energy

Hon. Keriako Tobiko, CBS, SC, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry

H.E Lee Kinyajui, Governor of Nakuru County

**Mr. Charles M. Hinga, CBS, Principal Secretary, State Department of Housing and Urban
Development**

Representatives of UN-Habitat

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Chief Executive Officer, KENGEN

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentleman

1. It's a great pleasure to join you today to mark World Habitat Day, 2021 one of key events of Urban October. This Day accords the International Community an opportunity to reflect on the state of human settlements and the right to adequate shelter for all. I wish to congratulate the National Habitat Committee for successfully organizing the World Habitat Day.

2. This year's theme, "Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world," is relevant and timely given that the rapid trends of urbanization have contributed to equally significant proportion of greenhouse. Cities consume over two thirds of the world's energy and account for more than 70% of carbon emissions with transport, energy and, waste management accounting for the bulk of these emissions. The huge carbon footprint created by our cities is further exacerbated by poor planning.

3. The accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has been a cause of extreme weather patterns leading to droughts, floods, heat waves, rising sea levels and shifting seasons. These impacts on climate change threatens to cause irreversible consequences as seen across the globe and more projected in the future.

4. Kenya is committed to reducing the impact of Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions by 32 percent by 2030, in line with its commitments under the Paris Agreement to keep global

temperature rise well below 2°C. Kenya has submitted an updated National Determined Contribution (NDC) plan that aims to lower greenhouse gas emissions by 32% by 2030.

5. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Executive Director of UN-Habitat Ms. Maimunah Sharif and the Secretariat for its work towards a carbon free world through initiatives such as Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI), the Agency's flagship initiative that supports cities to respond to the negative impacts of climate change and put in place appropriate mitigation measures.

6. I wish to congratulate UN-Habitat for the recent signing of memorandum of understanding with Nairobi Metropolitan Services on Nairobi River Regeneration Initiative, a joint flagship programme to support biodiversity and reconnect the city to her people. We also wish to thank UN-Habitat and UNEP who in partnership with six coastal counties launched the Go-Blue initiative, a four year plan aimed at protecting Kenya's coastal ecosystem while creating environmentally friendly jobs. Other projects by UN-Habitat include waste management project in Kiambu and Kisii and Energy Climate Resilience Development for Poverty Reduction in Narok and Nairobi counties.

7. We at the Permanent Mission of the Republic Of Kenya to the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT) will endeavor to promote multilateral engagement by fostering collaborative actions towards sustainable, carbon neutral and inclusive cities as exemplified in the programmes and activities for this Urban October month starting with the commemoration of World Habitat Day.

I thank you.