

Draft Statement of the African Group on Part B of the zero draft of Habitat III
outcome document – Effective Implementation

Distinguished Co-chairs,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group, which once again associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Thailand to the United Nations on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Right at this outset, the African Group welcomes the emphasis given to the effectiveness of implementation in achieving the proposed commitments. Indeed, the objectives of the new agenda can be realized not only through the coherence and viability of implementation modality, but more significantly by the robustness and effectiveness of the measures identified for their realization. The African Group attach a major importance to this part of the outcome draft, particularly to the quest for effectiveness.

The African Group agrees with the generic categories identified in the draft, those being: supportive institutional framework, planning and management systems, as well as finance and those that are referred to in the draft as other implementation tools. Owing to the importance, we also attach to this part of the draft document, we shall endeavour to contribute substantially towards aligning the content with a view to ensuring that the dynamism of urban development is enhanced and harnessed beyond the technical connotations the main titles of the categories may imply. Perhaps, by the time this preparatory exercise is being finalized, we may be able to frame the actual rallying call of the new agenda from the key categories of this section.

The key emphasis of the African Group will be to ensure the strengthening of institutions and systems as well as improvement of planning systems is directed at promoting transformative change in cities and human settlements. In other words, planning and institutional development and the attendant interventions needs to go beyond the re-ordering of urban form and the increase of efficacy. All have to be directed at promoting transformative change. It is also our view that the broader scope advocated in the new agenda entails a more integrated consideration of the urban agenda, beyond its sectoral dimension. The Group will underscore that urban development needs to be strategically mainstreamed into national development planning.

The Group considers that some adjustments to the structure of the finance section of this draft needed to be done and will bring further some proposals, with a view to ensuring a more orderly

presentation. On this part, we shall be also guided by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We will contribute towards highlighting and rationalizing the different components of financing and seek to situate the role of partnerships, international cooperation as well as science and technology in a proper context.

Distinguished Co-chairs,

May I take this opportunity, once again, to pledge the cooperation of the African Group in deliberating on this item of the agenda.

I thank you.