

**STATEMENT BY DR. SELESSIE DAVID MAYUNGA, DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF LANDS, HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DEVELOPMENT OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE SECOND PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF
HABITAT III CONFERENCE
14-16 APRIL, 2015, NAIROBI KENYA**

**Madam Co-chair,
Secretary General of UN-Habitat,
Honourable Ministers, Heads of Delegation,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by Egypt on behalf of the G77 and China.

Madam Chair

I take this opportunity to commend you, the Habitat III Preparatory Committee and Mr. Joan Clos, UN-Habitat Secretary General, for the good organization of this important event. We also express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Kenya, for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to my delegation since our arrival.

Madam Chair

In 1976, when the United Nations convened **Habitat I** conference in Vancouver, the world's population was primarily rural. Since then, the world has witnessed rapid urbanization, fueled mainly by rural to urban migration. An important feature of this change is the historic milestone reached in 2007 when more than half of the global population was living in cities and towns. Urban centres are now the dominant and permanent habitat for humankind. This demographic transformation has had tremendous implications in economic, social and environmental spheres of life on planet earth.

Madam Chair

Today, the main challenges confronting cities and towns in Tanzania and all over the world include unemployment; social and economic inequalities; unsustainable energy consumption patterns; urban sprawl; increasing high percentages of people living in slums; high levels of vulnerability to natural disasters; inadequate urban housing and basic services, especially water, sanitation and energy; poor mobility systems and increasing emissions of greenhouse gases.

Tanzania considers the twin objectives of the Habitat Agenda, "shelter for all" and "sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world" to remain important to the new Habitat Agenda.

Madam Chair

We welcome the outcome document of United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The Future We Want", which commits to the promotion of an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable urban development. The document emphasizes on the need to strengthen mechanisms to ensure implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Equally important, is the stand-alone goal 11 of the Open Working Group outcome document, which provides an opportunity towards a successful Habitat III Agenda.

Madam Chair

Tanzania is optimistic that the New Habitat Agenda will place people at the center of sustainable development and promote Sustainable Urbanization and will be inclusive.

Tanzania as one of the developing countries, would also like to see issues of poverty eradication, rural-Urban linkages and developmental aspects of human settlements feature prominently in the new Habitat Agenda.

With respect to the implementation of the Habitat II Agenda, Tanzania has undertaken several initiatives. Among others, she has formulated new policies, enacted new laws and issued guidelines on human settlements development that promote equitable access to land. These include, the National Land Policy of 1995; the National Environment Policy of 1997; and the National Human Settlements Development Policy of 2000; Land Legislation of 1999; Unit Titles Act 2008; Urban Planning Act 2007; National Environment Management Act of 2004; and Mortgage Financing Special Provisions Act, of 2008.

Since 1999 we have been implementing the Local Government Reform Programme that decentralized the responsibility for delivery of basic services as well as planning and design activities to Local Government Authorities. The key challenge remains that local governments depend heavily on central government transfers.

The government has set up an institutional framework for response to climate change impacts comprising a National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) and National Climate Change Technical committee (NCCTC) to oversee and guide implementation of climate change activities in the country.

Madam Chair,

The United Republic of Tanzania considers the Second Preparatory Committee meeting as a major milestone on the road to the New Habitat Agenda. In this respect Tanzania has submitted a draft National Report for Habitat III.

Allow me now to conclude my remarks by assuring you of our full support to the Habitat III process.

I thank you for your attention.,