



Federal Government of Nigeria

Statement by

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At the Third Preparatory Conference (PrepCom III) for the
Third United Nations Conference on Housing and
Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

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Distinguished Co-Chairs,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I bring warm greetings from the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and best wishes for a successful Third Preparatory Committee Meeting to our wonderful host Nation, Indonesia and host city Surabaya and all participants.

At the onset, we wish to take this opportunity to appreciate the commitment and diligence of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee to this process, as well as all those who have worked ceaselessly over the last couple of months to produce the draft New Urban Agenda for consideration at this session. We have confidence in the Bureau to conduct the negotiations at this final official preparatory meeting in a transparent, inclusive and open manner to enable us achieve successful results.

Chairpersons,

At a time when globalization is taking firm roots, when our world is changing daily, when the consequence of urbanization is escaping territorial boundary to international frontiers by unprecedented emigration, we cannot overstate the fact

that this is a defining Conference for the future of housing and human settlements development in the 21st century, as well as in the operationalization of the urban components of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The New Urban Agenda must answer to the dire need for a new order that responds to the urgency of NOW. Therefore it must be a renewed political commitment for sustainable development, and must fully reflect not only the social, political and economic diversity of cities, it must reflect all dimensions of housing and sustainable urban development. It must realistically and pragmatically position our towns and cities as major economic platforms for production and innovation to help millions escape poverty through better jobs and improved quality of life.

Furthermore, the outcome document must commit to realistic and pragmatic actions that address pertinent issues of inequalities, informality, insecurity, unsustainable forms of urban expansion, adequate housing as well as other environmental and health challenges. It must clearly identify the means of implementation and financing arrangements. These should be our greater consideration as we begin negotiations at this final preparatory session and adopt the New Urban Agenda at Habitat III in Quito in October.

The Government of Nigeria is privileged, and honored to have contributed to the preparatory process for Habitat III through supporting the development of the Common African Position for Habitat III (CAPH3) and the hosting of the Habitat III African Regional Meeting in our capital city of Abuja in February, this year. We are pleased to see that **consideration was given to Africa's vision for better cities and communities** in the outcome document. We believe that this document reflects all of these characteristics and necessities. We are confident that these final provisions in the New Urban Agenda will provide a solid framework for the promotion of stable, prosperous, inclusive and equitable cities in Africa for sustained transformative change.

Chairpersons, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

In the run up to Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador in October in less than three (3) months time, we must now more than ever demonstrate a greater sense of urgency and forge stronger partnerships, collaboration and cooperation to positively impact on

the outcome document of Habitat III. **Let me assure you of Nigeria's commitment to CHANGE** and her resolve to play a leading role in contributing to a meaningful housing and sustainable urban development.

This commitment is manifested by President Buhari's decision to merge three ministries - Power, Works and Housing into one Ministry for coordination and efficiency and to increase capital spending from 15 per cent to 30 per cent to grow infrastructure amongst the many life changing initiatives targeted at vulnerable **people including Nigeria's largest social safety policy in 56years.**

As we proceed in the negotiations permit me to proffer just a few examples of what we can do to ensure that the New Urban Agenda delivers positive and sustainable change and leads us closer to our common goal of economic growth, development and prosperity for all:

First is the imperative to embrace urbanization and optimize its opportunities. We must develop and drive targeted urban development policies that generate jobs, widen social protection and ensure long-term sustainability of our human settlements.

Second, is that the New Urban Agenda must contain actions that are implementable within the time frame of twenty-years. We have unfinished business with the Habitat Agenda and the MDGs. The success of the New Urban Agenda will be hinged on timely implementation and the extent to which we integrate it into our respective overall national policies and panning strategies in order to accelerate economic transformation.

Third, priority must be given to developing a robust monitoring framework and assessment mechanism for the New Urban Agenda. Likewise, we must better manage knowledge and resources, as well as build capacities of all partners to implement the New Urban Agenda. Moreover, the importance of harnessing the advancements in science, technology and innovation for sustainable urbanization is crucial and cannot be overemphasized.

Finally, it is imperative to put in place an effective coordination, follow-up and review mechanism for the New Urban Agenda. As the institutional leader on urbanization, UN-Habitat should be empowered, strengthened and well-funded to monitor and report progress on the New Urban Agenda.

In conclusion, distinguished Co-Chairs, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we pledge our continued support as you lead us through this process. We look forward to constructive engagement at this Third Preparatory Meeting.

I thank you for your attention.

25 July, 2016