



**Statement by H.E. K. Nkomani,  
Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Kenya, UNEP  
and UN-Habitat  
at the Habitat III Conference,  
Quito, Ecuador,  
17 -20 October 2016**

**Your Excellency, Mr. Rafael Correa Delgado,  
President of the Republic of Ecuador,**

**Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegation,**

**Your Excellency Mr. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary  
General of the United Nations,**

**Dr. Joan Clos, Under-Secretary-General and  
Executive Director of UN-Habitat,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, let me take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Ecuador for hosting this important Conference and for the warm hospitality extended to us since our arrival.

At the outset, we would like to associate ourselves with the Statement by Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. In my capacity as Chair of the Africa Group in Nairobi, I would like to align the Africa Group with the G77 and China Statement by Thailand.

## **Distinguished Delegates,**

The “**New Urban Agenda**” follows the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, which contains Sustainable Development Goal 11, “**Sustainable Cities and Communities.**” The Conference also follows the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Climate Change Agreement. This Conference therefore presents an opportunity for us to exchange views on how sustainable urbanization and human settlements can contribute towards achieving sustainable development.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Our cities and towns are rapidly growing. In the case of the African continent, statistics released by the UN-Habitat indicate that the rate of urbanization rose dramatically from 15 percent in 1960 to 40 percent in 2010. The rate of urbanization is projected to reach 60 percent by 2050. This makes it imperative for our Governments and all relevant stakeholders to develop and manage our urban areas in a sustainable way without neglecting our rural areas. The world’s pristine ecosystems remain in the rural areas. It is also important for Governments to fully integrate women and youth as

we implement the **New Urban Agenda** and human settlements programmes.

### **Distinguished Delegates,**

Zimbabwe fully supports the adoption of the **New Urban Agenda** and stands ready to implement it. Timely and effective implementation of the **New Urban Agenda** and human settlements programmes will significantly contribute towards the achievement of the SDG 11. However, there is no doubt that funding the implementation of the Agenda programmes will be a major challenge not only for Zimbabwe but for many other developing countries, especially those in Africa. There is need to develop innovative financial mechanisms to transform our cities into resilient, sustainable and socially inclusive living spaces.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is urgent that Governments establish programmes aimed at providing affordable housing and amenities in their respective countries. Zimbabwe's Constitution recognizes "access to housing" as a basic human right. My country is implementing the National Housing Delivery Programme which was crafted in sync with our national economic blue-print, the Zimbabwe Agenda for

Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (**ZIMASSET**). The programme is expected to make a major contribution to the country's housing stock by the end of 2018.

### **Distinguished Delegates,**

Access to housing is incomplete without the development of the requisite energy supply systems. My Government is pursuing diverse avenues to provide power to all by 2030. These include the construction of a hydro power station in the Batoka Gorge on the Zambezi River and the development of various solar power stations. Feasibility studies have confirmed Zimbabwe's potential to generate power from wind turbines. In view of global climate change, it is agreed that our future lies in the development of alternative clean and renewable power.

### **Distinguished Delegates,**

Climate change will pose major threats to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the **New Urban Agenda** if not urgently addressed. Many of our local authorities do not have adequate resources to develop mitigation and adaptation strategies to deal with the problem of climate change. We therefore call upon developed countries to fulfill their United Nations Framework Convention on

Climate Change (**UNFCC**) commitments to provide the means of implementation including financial resources to assist developing countries finance both mitigation and adaptation strategies in line with the Paris outcomes.

### **Distinguished Delegates,**

Zimbabwe calls for the strengthening of the UN-Habitat to enable the organisation to effectively implement its mandate to support sustainable urbanization and human settlements. A well-resourced UN-Habitat will assist developing countries in implementing the **New Urban Agenda** and human settlement programmes. Strong multi-level, inclusive partnerships play a critical role in the implementation of the **New Urban Agenda** and human settlements programmes. This calls for collaboration between Governments and the private sector through Public-Private-Partnerships.

### **In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

A strong follow-up and review of the **New Urban Agenda** and human settlements programmes will be essential for effective implementation. Follow-up and review processes should be Member States-driven. The processes should be executed with the support of UN-Habitat. This will enable Member States to assess their

progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Agenda. Going forward, it is therefore critical that we have a robust and well-resourced UN-Habitat which will assist countries, particularly developing countries, deliver the **New Urban Agenda** and Human Settlements programmes. In this regard, Zimbabwe supports the proposed midterm review of the New Urban Agenda in 2026.

With these few remarks, I wish us all a successful and productive Conference.

I thank you.