



## PERMANENT MISSION OF KENYA TO THE UN-HABITAT

REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR NAKHUMICHA WAFULA EGH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO UN-HABITAT, DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL OPENING OF THE INAUGURAL JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (JTC) ON THE GREATER BUSIA METRO PROJECT, BUSIA, UGANDA

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Honorable Minister,

Your Excellency Governor of Busia

Your Excellency Ambassador Eunice Kigenyi, Ag. High Commissioner of the Republic of Uganda to Kenya,

Ambassador Dennis Mburu, Deputy Director General, Africa Affairs Directorate, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Kenya,

Mr. Oumar Sylla, Director, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa, and your delegation,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

1. It is a pleasure and an honor to join you this morning for the Inaugural Joint Technical Committee (JTC) of the Greater Busia Metropolitan Development Project. Allow me to begin by aligning myself fully with the excellent remarks made by Ambassador Dennis Mburu, which have clearly outlined the significance and ambition of this initiative.
2. Today marks an important moment in the journey of collaboration between our two sister nations—Kenya and Uganda. The launch of this Joint Technical Committee is not just a procedural milestone; it is a bold step toward translating the shared aspirations of our governments into tangible outcomes for our people.
3. The Greater Busia Metro Project stands as a practical demonstration of our shared commitment to sustainable urban development and regional integration. Through it, we are transforming a shared urban space into a model of cross-border planning and cooperation, where opportunities are created, communities are connected, and development benefits both sides of the border.



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4. The East African Community's vision of "One People, One Destiny" finds real expression here in Busia. For decades, our communities on either side of this border have lived as one—interacting daily through trade, culture, and family ties. This project acknowledges that reality and seeks to strengthen it through planned, inclusive, and resilient urban development.
5. We are deeply appreciative of the leadership and partnership of UN-Habitat, under the stewardship of Mr. Oumar Sylla, and the generous support of the Government of Denmark, whose contribution has enabled this project to take shape. Their support affirms international confidence in the capacity of our region to drive innovative and cooperative approaches to urbanization.
6. The Greater Busia Metro Project is the first of its kind in East Africa, and one of the few in Africa that intentionally promotes joint metropolitan planning across national borders. Its success will therefore set a valuable precedent for other cross-border initiatives, demonstrating that shared prosperity is best achieved through shared planning and shared vision.
7. As the Joint Technical Committee begins its work—developing frameworks, defining priorities, and guiding implementation—I urge you to approach this task with vision, discipline, and unity of purpose. The project is time-bound, and the communities of Busia—both in Kenya and Uganda—are looking to you to deliver results that will transform livelihoods and improve urban systems.
8. Allow me to emphasize that our respective Permanent Missions to UN-Habitat stand ready to support this process. We were there during its conception and birth, and we will continue to walk alongside you throughout its implementation. Together with UN-Habitat, we will ensure the necessary coordination, visibility, and resource mobilization to sustain this transformative work.
9. I wish to commend the Governments of Kenya and Uganda, and the local leadership of Busia County and Busia District, for their dedication to this shared agenda. Your political will and collaborative spirit are what make such visionary projects possible.



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10. Finally, this Joint Technical Committee carries the hopes of our people. The success of this initiative will not only transform Busia but could also serve as a **model to be replicated at other border points in Kenya and across the African continent**. Let us, therefore, work with determination, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to deliver a Busia that truly reflects the unity and potential of our region.
11. I wish you productive deliberations and every success in the work ahead.

Thank you.