



**STATEMENT BY HON. ALICE WAHOME, EGH; THE CABINET SECRETARY  
FOR LANDS, PUBLIC WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
DURING THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN  
SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE  
BOARD 2024**

---

**Honourable Ahmed Musa Dangiwa, Minister for Housing and Urban  
Development of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chair of the Executive  
Board;**

**Director General of the United Nations Offices in Nairobi, Ms. Zainab Hawa  
Bangura;**

**The Executive Director of UN-Habitat Anacláudia Rossbach;**

**Excellencies;**

**Distinguished Guests;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It gives me great pleasure to join you during this Second Session of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat for 2024. On behalf of the Government of Kenya, host to UN-Habitat and the United Nations offices in Nairobi (UNON), I wish to welcome you all to enjoy our hospitality and wish you fruitful deliberations.

Let me begin by congratulating the Executive Director Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach for her appointment as the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, this being her first Executive Board meeting. I also wish to recognize UN-Habitat and the Bureau of the Executive Board for the successful organization of this Session.

**Excellencies;**

At the core of the discussion today is the need for an organization that in line with its core mandate is well-funded and has sustainable and predictable funding to enable UN-Habitat to achieve its mandate. We are convinced that a revitalized and reinvigorated UN-Habitat will execute its mandate more effectively and enable the agency to support Member States in harnessing the positive gains of urbanization. I confirm the

Government of Kenya commitment to continue being available in supporting the UN-Habitat and urge Member States to honour their commitments by providing the much-needed financial resources especially in non-earmarked contributions which are vital for the normative and programmatic work.

**Distinguished Guests;**

We appreciate the Report of the Executive Director on the Draft Work Programme of the UN-Habitat and Draft budget of the UN-Habitat Foundation for 2025. We equally appreciate the Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions which has considered the report of the Executive Director on the same. We take note of the overall resource requirements for UN-Habitat for 2025 are projected to be \$177.3 million, which is a decrease of 2 per cent in comparison with the re-estimated resource requirements of \$181 million for 2024, which is based on the 2023 real delivery levels.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I am aware that Member States extended the current strategic plan until 2025 to align the planning cycle of UN-Habitat with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of the United Nations system during the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, in June 2023. We appreciate the summary of the annual report for 2023 and note that the activities mentioned therein demonstrate the implementation in 2023 of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2020–2025, which continues to provide a robust framework for accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, we want to reassure you of the readiness of Kenya to host the resumed Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly to consider the Strategic Plan for UN-Habitat for 2026-2029. We appreciate the fact that the strategic plan for the period 2026-2029 is being developed through an inclusive and consultative process, guided by lessons learned and consultations with Member States, United Nations Development System entities, staff, stakeholders, and partners. We further note that the development of the plan builds on the former themes but refines the approach with a clear focus and prioritization.

**Distinguished Guests;**

The Government of Kenya appreciates the support accorded to Kenya through technical assistance for urban development, transformation and regeneration policies, plans and

programs, and resource mobilization under Subprogram 1. We also appreciate UN-Habitat's continued support to our county governments with generating their source revenue, improving local expenditure efficiency, optimizing the financial management capacity of authorities, and prioritizing infrastructure investments within Subprogram 2.

As you may be aware, the Government of Kenya launched the Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) in 2022, which is central to the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda. The Mission is not only to build houses but to uplift communities, create jobs, and establish the foundations for a prosperous future. The demand for the affordable homes is however immense with 250,000 units needed annually and 50,000 are being supplied. It is therefore, important that UN-Habitat continues to support Kenya through the Host Country Programme 2023-2027 in order to mobilize the public and private sectors, non-state actors and development partners to contribute to sustainable urban development in the country.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you are all aware, the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum 12 (WUF 12) was held in Cairo, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Government of Kenya to commend the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in collaboration with UN-Habitat for successfully convening the WUF12. Further, we are grateful to UN-Habitat for facilitating the Heads of Delegations event on resolution 2/7 on “**Adequate Housing for All**” which Kenya Co-hosted together with France. I want to thank the Member States for their participation in the event which made it very successful resulting in the proposal of institutionalization of the meeting into future World Urban Forums.

I believe that the UN-Habitat will continue to advocate and track the progress of commitments contained in the **Cairo Call to Action** as well as the Addis Ababa Declaration made by the Member States of the African Union and participants during the inaugural Africa Urban Forum Held in September 2024. Kenya reaffirms her commitment to promoting sustainable urbanization through the New Urban Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Pact for the Future.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you are all aware, fifteen resolutions were adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly (UNHA) of UN-Habitat at its first and second sessions held in 2019 and 2023. Notably, the implementation of most resolutions is constrained by limited funding. Nevertheless, allow me to commend UN-Habitat for the progressive implementation of the resolutions despite financial limitations.

On resolution 2/7 on “**Adequate Housing for All**”, we appreciate the significant progress made on its implementation such as the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental Expert Working Group to advise and assist the UNHA in the implementation of its mandate on adequate Housing. In addition, Kenya looks forward to hosting the first session of the Intergovernmental Expert Working Group that will inform the development of the proposed platform on adequate housing for all, projected to be launched in 2025.

Kenya is also implementing Resolution 1/5 on “Enhancing the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience”, by championing the Building Climate Resilience with the Urban Poor (BCRUP). This is being done through the Kenya Urban Resilience Programme that focuses on among other key areas, the establishment of economic stimulus projects. Besides, the government launched the Climate Resilience Service Programme (Climate Worx) in September 2024. This innovative programme is aimed at building climate resilience and supporting economic empowerment among unemployed youth, especially in urban areas across the country.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

In conclusion, as we prepare for the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, I would like to assure you of Kenya’s readiness to host all the delegations. Kenya is proud to host the United Nations Office in Nairobi, the headquarters of UN-Habitat and UNEP, among other United Nations agencies. As we embark on the agenda that is before us, I wish you fruitful deliberations as I reassure you once again of Kenya’s continued commitment and support to UN-Habitat.

**I THANK YOU.**