

INTERVENTION - NIGERIA

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - DAY 2: Tuesday 16th November 2021

Agenda Item 7

Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2021 and the implementation of sub-programmes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and an update on the response of the Programme to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

We thank you Mr Chair for excellently steering the second Executive Board Meeting for 2021.

Nigeria commends Madam Executive Director and the presenters for the detailed briefings, and the success achieved by UN-Habitat despite the drawbacks posed by COVID. Some positives have however emerged from the imposed restrictions, with UN-Habitat churning out many laudable knowledge tools, methodologies and developing capacities to achieve the goals of the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs.

Different regions have been affected by the devastating effects of the pandemic in diverse ways. In Africa, more people living in poverty and in sub-standard and unsanitary conditions with lack of access to good health care, reliable and clean water, sanitation and other basic services conducive for decent living, work and recreation. This calls for urgency in deepening funding and intervention programmes aimed at improving socio-economic development and emergencies so that people can better live, better flourish and better prosper.

In the face of these challenges, we commend UN-Habitat for upholding activities and technical cooperation in bringing relief to the affected. Its oversight functions and monitoring missions in Nigeria have not waned, but have resulted in new UN-Habitat supported Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Projects to the benefit of many poor, support in the preparation of a new National Urban Development Policy, and the National Report on the Implementation of the NUA underway for the High-Level General Assembly Review Meeting in April, 2022 .

Nigeria remains resolute in achieving the goals of the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11, and appreciates this strengthened strategic partnership, normative guidance, technical assistance and encouragement provided through its Regional Office for Africa (RoAf).

Nigeria has hosted and funded a Habitat Country Programme Support Office since 2003, and provided leadership and funding support to key regional programmes, including preparations for Habitat II and III, and the Presidential Initiative on the New African Urban Agenda, and has also indicated interest in hosting a proposed Multi-Country Office of UN-Habitat.

We appreciate the priority focus being given to urbanization and basic services provision under the on-going United Nations led Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNDPF) for 2023-2027. This has in turn informed on-going negotiations for an extended Country Programme of Cooperation with UN-Habitat for 2022-2027 aligned with the UNDPF. We look forward to seeing similar constructive interventions extended to other African Member States.

With all these commendable programmes underway, Nigeria looks forward to real transformed human settlements in the very near future.

I thank you Mr. Chair.