

STATEMENT BY THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION ON AGENDA ITEM 4:
FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS,
INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOURCE
MOBILIZATION STRATEGY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STRATEGIC
PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2020–2023 AND ACTION BY THE UNITED
NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT) TO
ADDRESS GEOGRAPHICAL AND GENDER IMBALANCES IN THE
COMPOSITION OF ITS STAFF

DELIVERED BY

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FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING, NIGERIA

Mr. Chair, Madam Executive-Director, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Nigeria aligns itself with the statement of Kenya on behalf of the Africa Group.

Nigeria views with great appreciation the courageous and effectual efforts of the Executive Director, H.E. Maimunah Moh'd Sharif, in the management of our organisation, the UN-Habitat, having reversed the deficit which she met in the organisation. We are pleased to note her success in implementing austerity measures that have enabled the organisation to head towards a positive closing balance for the first time in about a decade. It is for this reason that, at the outset, we hold the view that she be granted reasonable leverage to the reserve funds to the effect that the organisation, under her sterling leadership, is reasonably empowered to address liquidity challenges as well as unplanned expenses among others in the discharge of its mandate.

While cognisant of the expediency of financial propriety, it is evident that a delicate balance needs to be struck between the requirements for fiscal prudence and the necessity for UN-Habitat to remain the effective and efficient organisation we all expect it to be.

This delegation holds this view because UN-Habitat represents the primary organisation that presents succour to the developing world, and should be seen to veritably deliver on this germane aspiration that the rest of the globe would not leave them behind, specifically in the light of the emergent challenges occasioned by climate change and rapid urbanisation, a message which resonates clearly as the world reached the 8 billion mark only last week.

Mr Chair, Madam Executive Director, Distinguished Delegates,

This Executive Board needs to display, in no unmistakable terms, genuine commitment to see this organisation functioning effectively and without unnecessary administrative bottlenecks. We have confidence in the prevalence of good and we hope to see it resonate in the outcomes of this session of the Executive Board.

I thank you.