

**NIGERIA'S STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 8: NORMATIVE AND OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF UN-HABITAT, INCLUDING REPORTING ON THE PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES OF UN-HABITAT IN 2022 AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUBPROGRAMMES, FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES**

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Mr. Chair,

This decade is a defining one in the urbanisation dialogue as we are more than half way through the timelines to achieve the SDGs. We note the fact that Urbanisation is a key driver on global development as indeed in Nigeria. Nigeria hosts five of the 30 largest urban settlements on the African continent and cities will play an even more pivotal role by 2037, when the urban population in Nigeria's cities will have doubled.

2. Over half of Nigeria's population now lives in cities. Also, Nigeria's cities are responsible for 60% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

3. It is clear that Nigeria is a major frontier in the global Urbanisation dialogue and we face this dynamic through a sustained collaboration with UN-Habitat. In this regard, Nigeria has endorsed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Federal Government of Nigeria and UN-Habitat for another five years till 2027. This comes with an accompanying Contribution Agreement which will further consolidate on the existing relationship between the Federal Government of Nigeria and UN-Habitat towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the African Agenda 2063.

4. Similarly, in this year 2023, Nigeria has increased the annual contribution of \$170,000 to \$250,000 to accommodate an increase in programmes and activities. The contribution will meet the cost of the Habitat Support Office in Abuja, our annual national contribution to the Africa Urban Agenda as well as increased capacity building.

Mr Chair,

5. Nigeria welcomes the prospects of the SDG cities certification to broaden understanding on the links between urbanisation and

sustainable development and encourage consultation with member states to ensure collective acceptance as well as its possible inclusion into the Local 2030 Coalition and other United Nations processes.

6. I thank you.