

**NIGERIA'S NATIONAL STATEMENT AT THE SECOND
SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT
ASSEMBLY)**

Presented by:

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The President,
Madam Executive Director,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, my delegation aligns itself with the statements earlier presented on behalf of the Africa Group and the G77 and China. I have the honour on behalf of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, at this second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, to acknowledge the remarkable achievements of UN-Habitat in its all-important mandate in the Sustainable Development Agenda as the focal point on matters of urbanization globally, very well espoused in its strategic plan 2020-2023. Noting that UN-Habitat has been steadfast in advancing sustainable urbanisation amidst the numerous challenges faced in recent times, my delegation is therefore pleased to welcome the extension of the strategic plan.

Mr President,

2. The innovative resolutions brought before this session of the Assembly attest to our collective commitment to

finding transformative solutions to the global crises affecting our settlements. It is indeed through dialogue and collaboration that we can overcome these complex challenges that lie ahead. We further emphasize the critical importance of leaving no one behind in our pursuit of sustainable urbanisation as no single country can actually respond to this challenge on its own. It is in this light that we consider the theme for this Assembly as being most appropriate at this time.

Mr President,

3. Nigeria has witnessed significant successes in our urbanisation journey. Our cities are expected to host 70% of our population by 2050, when we would become the third most populous country in the world. We have paid particular attention to enhancing resilience to shocks and stressors reflected since the successful adoption of our National Urban Policy in 1992, and sustained through our regular reviews to address emerging challenges and keep our plans and policies aligned with the relevant international agreements on urbanisation in a participatory manner, incorporating various experts and stakeholders as well as the subnational governments some of whom have also succeeded in formulating their own urban policies in line with the national policy.

4. We note the invaluable support provided by the UN-Habitat Support Office in Abuja that has helped us address key urban challenges. We would, therefore, continue to demonstrate commitment to partnering with UN-Habitat and its support office in our quest for inclusive and sustainable urban development.

5. As we proceed in this auspicious gathering, it is important we remain mindful of the enormous work that lies ahead and scale up our efforts to achieve the SDGs, particularly in areas such as affordable housing, climate action, and inclusive urban planning. We must therefore harness the power of innovation, technology, and international cooperation to build resilient cities that can withstand future challenges.

6. In conclusion, my delegation commends UN-Habitat for its dedication and the successes achieved thus far. We reiterate our unwavering support to UN-Habitat as we forge ahead in our shared mission to create cities and communities that are sustainable, inclusive, and which leave no one behind.

I thank you.