



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT

BY

HON. JUDITH N. NABAKOOBA

MINISTER OF LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE UN-HABITAT ASSEMBLY

JUNE 6th 2023

NAIROBI

[Please check against delivery]

**President of the UN General Assembly,
Your Excellences Heads of Delegations,
The Executive Director of UN-Habitat,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am Judith Nabakooba, Uganda's Minister of Lands, Housing & Urban Development.

Your Excellences, Uganda aligns itself with the statement delivered by H.E. Beyene Russom on behalf of the African Group.

My delegation and I extend our gratitude to the Republic of Kenya, for the warm hospitality so far extended to us since we arrived in this beautiful and homely city of Nairobi.

Your Excellences

I thank the UN-Habitat Executive Director and her team, for the excellent arrangements for this meeting. Uganda would like to associate herself with the report of the UN-Habitat Executive Director to this Assembly and call for continued support to the UN-Habitat to enable this good work continue and even expand.

Your Excellences,

Uganda has continued to focus not just on sustainable urbanization and housing in cities, but also on secondary towns, and rural growth centres.

1. As such, Uganda is implementing the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID) Program since 2013. The programme supports cities and Municipalities in delivering urban planning, infrastructure development and institutional strengthening of urban systems. I invite you to visit our exhibition booth to see some of the marvels this programme has delivered to our cities.

2. Government approved 15 new cities in 2020. The expectation and intention are for government to increase investment in these cities so as to stimulate regionally spread higher order urbanization. Government is already delivering on this.
3. With UN-Habitat's support, Uganda is implementing projects in Participatory Slum Upgrading; Enhancing Land Tenure Security; Preparation of Urban and Regional Profiles; implementation of Urban Planning Studios; implementation of the National Urban Policy; as well as training on reporting and monitoring of SDG indicators for human settlements and support to strengthening of Municipal Development Forums.
4. Uganda is in advanced stages of agreeing a Contribution Agreement with the UN-Habitat that will see the latter support us in establishing a vibrant urban observatory to help improve our monitoring of urban indicators.
5. As a country, we have had our fair share of crises, ranging from the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic, **flooding** (Kasese, Mbale), **land slides** (Kasese, Bududa, Kisoro), and influx of **refugees** (Arua, Koboko, Kampala, Kasese, etc), among others. But we remain committed to dealing with these crises and leaving no one behind. We continue to recognize, nevertheless, that we are NOT singly, if at all, responsible for the onset of these crises and therefore reiterate the need for international cooperation and collaboration in dealing with them.

Finally, Your Excellences, I reiterate Uganda's unwavering commitment to the full implementation of SDGs, including SDG 11, and the New Urban Agenda. We invite you friends from the international community to enhance your good support to Uganda in this regard.

Thank you.