

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ZAMBIA, HON. GARY NKOMBO, MP
TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HABITAT
ASSEMBLY
IN NAIROBI, KENYA**

**THEME:
“A SUSTAINABLE URBAN FUTURE THROUGH INCLUSIVE AND
EFFECTIVE MULTILATERALISM: ACHIEVING THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN TIMES OF GLOBAL
CRISES”**

5th – 9th June, 2023

The Executive Director, UN-Habitat, Madam Maimunah Mohd Sharif

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to convey hearty congratulations to the Executive Director and the UN-Habitat on holding the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and best wishes for a successful engagement.

Four years after the inaugural UN-Habitat Assembly, Zambia looks forward to participating in progressive engagements of the second session of the Assembly under the theme, **“A Sustainable Urban Future Through Inclusive and Effective Multilateralism: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Times of Global Crises”**. This theme resonates with our endeavors towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda, particularly SDG 11, aimed at “Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.”

Chairperson,

- As a Country, Zambia recognizes that a better future for our cities and human settlements requires us to overcome the crises that we face today arising from climate change, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting inequalities, through systematic and collaborative local action.
- Zambia has mainstreamed the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country’s Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP), with over 80% of the SDGs aligned to the plan. Improving urban settlements while strengthening adaptation measures and resilience to climate change is among the key focus areas in the plan.
- The development of the National Urbanisation Policy, whose vision is “Prosperous, Inclusive and Resilient Urban Settlements.”

has progressed to form the backdrop for sustainable urban planning, development, and land-use management.

- Zambia has accelerated decentralization and promotion of multi-level governance as a way of enabling inclusive development and access to basic services by devolving key functions to the local authorities and strengthening sub-district structures to contribute to service delivery. The Government has also significantly increased the allocation of resources to the local level to encourage a locally driven development agenda.
- Government is creating linkages between the settlements and the markets and the urban and the rural areas by improving the road infrastructure and building bridges and crossing points.
- Zambia is implementing a National Housing Policy to facilitate sustainable, decent, and affordable housing for all. The policy embraces participatory housing development initiatives, such as housing cooperatives and Public Private Partnership models, to promote innovations, enhance resilience, and lower construction costs.
- The country is also implementing the participatory slum upgrading program III (PSUP III) in collaboration with the UN-Habitat, and a social housing program to provide decent housing for all.
- Zambia promotes deliberate access to land for women, youth, people living with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. Security of tenure is assured through the National Systematic Land Titling Project (SLTP) through the issuance of title deeds in peri-urban areas previously excluded from land titling.
- Chairperson, Zambia is hopeful and confident of realising the desired outcomes of the Sustainable Development Goals and the

New Urban Agenda. However, if we are to achieve these outcomes, the global community needs to advance the following:

1. Develop clear strategies for fostering global and regional synergies in addressing urban challenges;
2. Ensure adequate and predictable financing for developing countries to make impactful contributions towards addressing urbanisation challenges;
3. Support with appropriate technologies and capacities to transform settlements into engines of growth that will engender sustainable development;
4. Support for the development of data for evidence-based planning and assessment of progress towards implementation of the SDGs;
5. Develop clear measures to spur innovative solutions for rural development challenges to reinforce rural areas as the major source of food security.

In conclusion, I wish to re-affirm our commitment to effectively implementing the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable urban development.

I thank you all.