

THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR 2023

NIGERIA'S STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 7:
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE
ANALYSIS OF THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLES TO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA BY
MEMBER STATES.

Presented by:

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NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

Thank you Chair,

Nigeria commends the Secretariat for the report which we have just received and applauds the commitment to NUA mainstreaming, operationalization, monitoring and reporting through its current strategic work plan.

2. However, there appears to be a clear confusion, at least from the stand point of this delegation, in the method of addressing the several challenges portrayed in the report. For context, permit me to reiterate that it was the call of this delegation for increased reporting on the NUA. This call was premised on the poor state of reporting on the NUA and the need to understand and respond to the predisposing factors.

3. Subsequent to that call, a Programme Budget Implication was envisaged with an initial proposal for 4 posts among other programme related costs. This was negotiated and streamlined, on a trial basis, to two posts as was eventually provided for in the supplementary budget contained in Paragraph 11 of decision 2023/1. With an understanding that the full proposal of 4 posts could be envisaged within a regular budget process especially in light of the first report we have just received.

4. To reiterate, it was the Secretariat's informed proposal that 4 posts related to the New Urban Agenda, will attend to the aspiration to address the intricacies and indeed the wholistic nature of the NUA.

5. Nigeria considers that the report we have just received, overwhelmingly underscores the significant deficit in funding, in personnel, in capacity and in the presence of harmonized monitoring and reporting tools, with specific regard to the forthcoming the Quadrennial report of the UN Secretary General due in 2026, being the penultimate reporting before the end of the SDG tenure. We see this as case enough to implement the full proposal of 4 staff for NUA matters.

6. We wish to remind that the New Urban Agenda which is the culmination of several international processes, created a paradigm for holistically addressing the matter of human settlements as a panacea for meeting the SDGs as embodied in its Paragraphs 9 and 22 among others.

Addressing Issues of Human Settlements to meet the aspirations of the SDGs, this is the format in which UN-Habitat treats the SDGs.

7. My delegation is therefore concerned with the apparent deconstruction of new urban agenda by an attempt to reallocating what should be NUA dedicated personnel in a manner besides what has been negotiated. Even more appalling is that this initiative which is being favoured is apparently well covered in other UN-System wide processes.

8. Consequently, my delegation requests the proper allocation of the 4 positions envisaged for the NUA. UN-Habitat is not the focal point for the SDGs. There are several processes within the UN System to address the issues of the SDGs whereas only UN-Habitat holds the mandate for housing and sustainable urbanization.

9. We therefore request clarification from the Secretariat on the 4 positions initially envisaged for the NUA and the related programme costs and the status of coverage in the proposed budget.

10. I thank you.