

**NIGERIA'S STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 6: UPDATE ON  
THE PREPARATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN OF UN-  
HABITAT FOR THE PERIOD 2026-2029**

**DELIVERED BY:**

**DR OLAKUNDE AKINOLA**

**DIRECTOR URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT & HEAD OF DEPARTMENT  
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR 2024,  
MAY 2024**

Thank you Chair for giving Nigeria the floor. We wish to begin by expressing appreciation to the secretariat for the consultative process through which the development of the strategic plan is evolving. Nigeria notes that UN-Habitat has remained the driver of the normative frameworks for the global human settlements discourse and that the secretariat has proactively engaged delegations in this process.

2. Having said that Mr Chair, it is important to stress that a key challenge, as reflected in the OIOS report, revolves around the difficulty in delivering UN-Habitat's robust normative framework and the organisation's acclaimed expertise, to the grassroots. The said OIOS report identifies a lack of strategic field presence, short-term focused projects and a weak strategic prioritization for implementation. This brings to mind the challenge of the poor manning of the Regional Office for Africa for which my delegation remains concerned.

3. Nigeria sees this as a clarion call for due diligence in the development of a strategic plan that will prioritize implementation at the grassroots, especially because this is the final strategic plan for the period covered by the SDGs.

4. In this regard, this delegation wishes to underline the need for enhanced field activities and would call for the development of **an implementation plan as part of the development of a strategic plan**, to ensure effective delivery to the grassroots.

5. I thank you.