

**AGENDA 6 (a) and (b): MALAWI INTERVENTION ON UN-HABITAT
STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

My delegation, appreciates the opportunity to engage in discussions on the annual report for 2023 regarding UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan for 2020–2025, as well as the update on the development of the plan for 2026–2029.

Mr. Chair, on the Annual Report for 2023 (2020–2025):

Malawi thanks the Secretariat for the comprehensive presentation on the annual report for 2023 on the Strategic Plan for the period 2020–2025. The report, titled “Local Action in a Time of Crises,” rightly highlights the urgent need for urban transformation to address global challenges such as climate change, inequality, and rapid urbanization. We fully agree that cities and local governments are central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 11.

Malawi acknowledges the critical role of UN-Habitat in facilitating global action towards sustainable cities and communities. The report’s reference to the Rescuing SDG 11 for a Resilient Urban Planet synthesis report highlights the importance of coordinated interventions by urban actors to meet SDG 11 targets. As a country

undergoing rapid urbanization, Malawi is keenly aware of the need for accelerated efforts in urban planning, housing, and resilience-building.

We welcome the resolutions adopted at the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in 2023, particularly those focused on promoting adequate housing for all, transforming informal settlements, and accelerating the localization of the SDGs. These resolutions are aligned with Malawi's priorities in addressing urbanization challenges and improving living conditions for our people, especially in informal settlements. In this context, we request that UN-Habitat continue to provide technical and financial support to countries like Malawi to implement these resolutions effectively.

Mr. Chair, the report's mention of UN-Habitat's achievements, such as improved connectivity and green mobility benefiting over 958,000 people, is commendable. Malawi acknowledges the value of these interventions and urges UN-Habitat to continue supporting cities in Africa, particularly in low-resource settings, to improve sustainable mobility and access to essential services.

On the Update for 2026–2029:

Mr. Chair, Malawi welcomes the ongoing efforts through retreats and many other engagements to shape the next phase of the Strategic Plan. As we look toward 2026–2029, we urge UN-Habitat to prioritize

addressing emerging challenges, particularly urban resilience in the face of climate change, and the urgent need for affordable housing in rapidly urbanizing regions like Malawi. Furthermore, we suggest strengthening collaboration with national and local governments to ensure that the next strategic plan is fully aligned with the national priorities of member states.

In conclusion, Malawi reaffirms its commitment to supporting UN-Habitat's efforts to create inclusive, sustainable, and resilient cities and communities. We look forward to continuing our cooperation as we work together toward a better urban future for all.

Mr. Chair, I thank you.