

AGENDA 7: INTERVENTION BY MALAWI ON THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NORMATIVE AND OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF UN-HABITAT.

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Malawi thanks the Executive Director for the detailed report on the implementation of UN-Habitat's normative and operational activities, including its programmatic work, sub-programmes, flagship initiatives, and technical cooperation activities.

We deeply appreciate UN-Habitat's continued support for countries affected by disasters and conflicts. In Malawi, we were severely impacted by Cyclone Freddy in the year 2023, which caused widespread devastation, displacement, and destruction of infrastructure. In this regard, we recognize the importance of UN-Habitat's role in post-disaster recovery, particularly in rebuilding resilient urban and rural communities.

We commend the agency's efforts to promote sustainable recovery, urban resilience, and inclusive planning in disaster-affected areas. However, we urge UN-Habitat to prioritize further support to nations like Malawi, which face compounded challenges of rapid urbanization, climate change, and disaster recovery. Technical cooperation and capacity-building efforts must focus on

strengthening local governments' ability to respond to and recover from such crises.

Moreover, we stress the need for more targeted assistance for marginalized communities, including women, children, and displaced persons, who are often the hardest hit in such emergencies. Ensuring that these groups are involved in recovery efforts will be key to achieving long-term resilience.

Malawi remains committed to working closely with UN-Habitat to address these pressing challenges and build sustainable and resilient urban systems for the future.

Mr. Chair, I thank you.