



DRAFT SUMMARY FRAMEWORK FOR AN AFRICAN COMMON POSITION ON HABITAT III (ACPH3)

We, African Ministers of Housing and Urban Development, convening in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on July 29, 2015, as a sub-committee on Urban Development and Human Settlements of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization agree to proceed with the process of developing an African Common Position on the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) to be held, in Quito, Ecuador, October 2016;

RECOGNIZE progress made in advancing the human settlement Agenda since the convening of Habitat I conference in Vancouver, Canada in 1976 and Habitat II Conference held in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996, and the need to build on that progress.

FURTHER RECOGNIZE that despite the progress made, many challenges exist, which need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. In addition, there are new and emerging challenges to sustainable urbanization and human settlements which call for our collective efforts to effectively address them.

CONSIDER the Habitat III conference as a unique opportunity for the world to agree on a New Urban and Human Settlements Agenda building on the outcomes of Habitat II and the unfinished business of the MDGs in particular, the goal of adequate shelter for all and that Africa must seize the occasion to fully engage the global community in shaping the New Agenda in line with those international agreements, African Union Agenda 2063 and the evolving universal post 2015 development agenda.

RECALL all the relevant resolutions of the Governing Council of Habitat and the United Nations General Assembly on the convening of the Habitat III Conference and other outcomes of major UN conferences and summits on economic, social and environment fields including the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Third United Nations Conference on Financing for Development as important contributions in defining the New Urban Agenda.

ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE the potential contributions of the Post 2015 Development Agenda, proposed sustainable development goal No. 11 and the upcoming COP21 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in contributing to the New Urban Agenda.

FULLY SUPPORT the specificity given to urbanization with the agreement to include a stand-alone Goal 11 -- *making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.*

ALSO TAKE NOTE of paragraph 44 relating to sustainable urban development of the Dakar Declaration of 15th Conference of Heads of State and Government of countries using French as a common Language which was held from 29 to 30 November 2014

FURTHER TAKE NOTE of the extensive consultations that have taken place among the various sub-regions, with stakeholders within our respective countries, and among ourselves as Ministers of housing and urban development since 2005; and more significantly among our Heads of State and Government who have provided guidance on the vision for Africa's development as well as adopted a collective position on the future global development agenda;

TAKING into account the development of the African Report on Habitat III by ECA, and reiterate our call for the document to reflect our national reports, in terms of progress, opportunities, new challenges and new vision to inform a comprehensive Urban Agenda.

REAFFIRM the principles we agreed to in N'Djamena that the African Urban Agenda should be owned and driven by Africa, informed by African realities and based on Africa's current priorities as well as future needs; be implementable and results focused, with clearly defined deliverables and a plan of action; and that it should build on relevant existing commitments in regional and globally agreed documents on urbanization and sustainable human settlements.

REASSERT the urgent need to harness the transformative potential of urbanization in its various facets to facilitate the reduction of poverty in all its forms and achieve an inclusive, integrated, prosperous, stable and peaceful Africa driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena;

WELCOME the Presidential Initiative on the Urban African Agenda and Strengthening Partnerships Programme under UN-Habitat and invite African Heads of State and Government willing to join the initiative to do so.

COGNIZANT of the need to strengthen the UN-Habitat to make it politically visible, as a key player in mobilizing all relevant actors, state and non-state in implementing the urban and human settlements component of the Post 2015 Development Agenda

REITERATE the continuing relevance of the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda namely adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, and reiterate that all its aspirations have not been fully met, mainly due to the challenges encountered in implementing the Habitat Agenda including limited access to housing finance, land and basic services as well as slums and informal settlements.

CALL for sustained efforts in addressing the challenges encountered in implementing the Habitat Agenda, including limited access to housing finance, land and basic services, as well as the expansion of slums and informal settlements.

ACKNOWLEDGE the multi-sectoral nature of urbanization and human settlements development and the need to adopt an integrated and holistic approach in building collaborations, partnerships and alliances with relevant government departments and institutions as well as engagement with relevant stake holders including inter alia civil society, private sector, grassroots organizations, women, youth, people with disabilities, academia, media to facilitate delivery, financing, monitoring and evaluation of the new urban agenda

NOTE current efforts to harness the creative energies of the informal sector as well as consolidate the accumulated and diverse human and physical assets embedded within it through participation, access and empowerment, especially of women, youth and vulnerable groups.

ACKNOWLEDGE FURTHER THAT this entails cooperation, collaboration and dialogue between respective multi-level government departments and institutions to drive government-wide programmes and policies, the implementation of which must be supported by both state and non-state actors.

REITERATE that the process of urbanization, and the potential embedded within it, presents an invaluable opportunity for Africa to realize the structural transformation by harnessing the emerging dynamism resulting from the urban dividend provided by the expansion and movement of populations, resulting in urban agglomeration and concentration and recognize that institutional, cultural, economic and political transformations can contribute to major advances in the urban experience for Africa's diverse communities. ;

FURTHER REITERATES the importance of continuing to strengthen policy and institutional framework for managing urbanization and human settlements as a key component of structural transformation in Africa.

RECOGNISE the complementarity and symbiotic linkages between urban and rural settings, which exist as a continuum, driven by the overall dynamic of urbanization

TAKE NOTE of the technical background document considered by the EGM that informed the generation of this summary

REAFFIRM six fundamental principles underlying the African perspective to the outcome of habitat III, agreed to in Nairobi on 13 April 2015

DECIDE to pursue an ambitious new, and transformative urban and human settlements agenda based on the following pillars:

- Pillar 1: Enhancing the potential of urbanization for accelerating structural economic transformation; Address: inclusive growth, poverty eradication, reduce inequality, enhance rural urban linkages, promote connectivity, and job creation among other.
- Pillar 2: Fostering sustainability and resilience of the urban and Human Settlements including social and economic resilience of the rural and urban development continuum at national and regional levels , to address sustainable urban, territorial and land use planning, reducing risks and disaster effects, climate change and mitigation and adaptation, preserving eco-systems, urban public spaces, urban pollution and waste management.
- Pillar 3: Promoting people-centred urban and human settlement development, to promote equity and inclusion by facilitating urban poverty mitigation through job creation and entrepreneurship development; the provision of basic services to all; promoting gender equality; leveraging population and demographic dynamics, ensuring accessibility for all, including for vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, children and the elderly, and promoting inclusive and sustainable human settlements.
- Pillar 4: promoting transformative change through strengthening of urban planning, urban legislation, land management and governance, urban policies and development financing, to promote coordinated spatial and programmatic planning as an effective mechanism for responding to rapid urbanization and for directing sustainable human settlement development and for building and consolidating required skills, methods, information, and practices for multi-level, decentralized and local planning, together with strong management and governance capabilities, including the review of planning curriculums in line with UN Habitat Resolution 25/6 on the International Guidelines for Urban and Territorial Planning.
- Pillar 5: Strengthening Regional Integration as well as preserving and enhancing the diverse African architectural and urban identities forging a shared continental identity and developing linkages between national urban systems ,by particularly promoting cross-boundary alignment and intensifying the process of creating sustainable agglomerations in border areas as well as the requisite facilities within them, while putting in place the relevant management and planning systems for border towns.
- Pillar 6: Urban and human settlement development enhances Africa's position as a global player, through reaffirming the aspiration within Agenda 2063 of Africa emerging as a strong, united, innovative, resilient and influential global player and partner with a larger role in world affairs, while also taking full responsibility to finance her growth and development; and not being donor dependent. We welcome the continued collaboration with international development partners for technical and financial support.

- Pillar 7: Enhancing capacity for urban safety, resilience and disaster risk management, by recognizing that urban areas are particularly vulnerable to climate change risks because of the high concentration of people, buildings and infrastructure, and build institutional capacity to manage the disaster management function, including for risk reduction planning and activities; acknowledge the linkage between high levels of crime and violence and deep rooted social and economic ills in order to build safer cities through inclusiveness, social cohesion, and an improved quality of life for all.
- Pillar 8 Institute a Global partnership for sustainable urban management to facilitate implementation of the new urban and human settlements agenda in Africa
- Mandate the Working Group established at the Addis Ababa EGM to continue refining in consultation with member states, the draft framework towards an African Common Position on Habitat III as well as the technical background document and resubmit the same for consideration and adoption at the regional meeting in Abuja – Nigeria
- Encourage SG of Habitat III Conference, in line with the requests of Member States in OP 12 of A/RES/69/266 to ensure full and effective participation of African states in the regional and sub-regional consultative meetings and the Habitat III Conference by extending financial support to government delegations