



Statement by the Government of Malawi to the Habitat III conference

Distinguished Chairperson, Excellencies, and distinguished delegates, I am honoured to represent my country Malawi, I bring fraternal greetings from His Excellency, Professor Peter Authur Mutharika, the president and the people of Malawi, the warm hear of Africa.

First , I wish to join my fellow colleague nationals in congratulating His Excellency the President of Equador and His government for their warm welcome , I also wish to congratulate the secretary general and the habitat 3 secretariat for a well organized conference

The Government of Malawi, like all UN member states committed itself to implement the Habitat Agenda in 1996, to provide adequate shelter for all and develop Sustainable human settlements in an urbanising world. The implementation of Malawi's commitment to Habitat II's agenda met with a number of challenges as such it was impossible to fully achieve the agenda. Therefore, there is still need for more interventions to be implemented for the country to achieve the said agenda.

Malawi, renews and strengthens its commitment to sustainable urbanization and the development of sustainable urban and human settlement development by attending this third conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. The Government recognizes that Habitat III brings with it a new set of commitments which Malawi realizes it will have to commit to.

Progress Made Since Habitat II

Since the Habitat II conference, the Government of Malawi has formulated policies and implemented a number of programmes which have assisted in managing rapid urbanization and the major ones include:

- Implementation of a Rural Growth Centres project and Secondary Centres Development programme as strategies to promote economic growth and infrastructure development in rural areas and medium size towns;
- Implementation of the Decent and Affordable Housing Subsidy Programme (DHASP) which is targeting the rural and urban poor which has benefited over 12,000 households.
- Implementation of Slum Upgrading programmes in the major cities of Lilongwe, Blantyre, and Zomba, and recently in Mzuzu under the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme with financial and technical assistance from UN-Habitat;
- Establishment of Roads Authority and Roads Fund Authority to improve funding and delivery of road infrastructure as part of the structural and institutional reforms in the road transport sector;
- Formulation of the National Housing Policy to improve housing service delivery;
- Formulation of a National Land Policy which proposed reforms for improving land administration, urban planning and human settlement development;
- Establishment of a Housing Ownership scheme for public servants; and
- Establishment of a Local Development Fund, with an urban window and a Public Land Development fund for provision of infrastructure and services for housing development.

Priorities for Malawi under the New Urban Agenda

The challenges which Malawi is facing at present will form the focus for its New Urban Agenda. As a country we will prioritise urban issues in the country's overall development agenda while recognizing the importance of rural urban linkages for the sustainable development of cities. The New Urban Agenda for Malawi will focus on:

- improving public transport system which pose a mobility challenge for the urban population especially the poor;

- strengthening rural urban linkages which are crucial for the sustainable physical and economic growth of cities;
- building the human and financial capacity at all levels for urban planning and management;
- infrastructure development and service provision for sustainable urban and human settlement development;
- sustainable management of the growing urban population growth through provision of infrastructure and services; and
- providing spatial urban development frameworks for all cities and urban centres to prevent sprawl and ribbon development which makes provision of basic services and infrastructure difficult and expensive.

Strategies for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda

Malawi acknowledges that Sustainable Development Goal Number 11 is key to the New Urban Agenda and in order to achieve, policies have to be developed or reviewed. Further evidence based planning must be instituted to prioritize the necessary reforms that will guide the implementation of its New Urban agenda, including:

- formulation of the National Urban Policy which will promote the development of well governed and sustainable cities;
- review of the National Housing Policy which will improve access to adequate and safe housing for all income groups;
- strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable urban development by establishing department responsible for urban development matters;
- initiating the process of devolving urban planning and management functions from central government to local councils;
- strengthening the legal framework by approving the Physical Planning Act, the Land act and other land related laws which are key to the sustainable management of urbanization; and

- strengthening partnerships with the private sector, civil society organisations and development partners

Conclusion

The Government of Malawi reiterates its commitment to implement the forthcoming New Urban Agenda which provides an opportunity for achieving the sustainable development of urban and human settlements by putting forward strategies and instituting reforms in order to achieve the desired outcomes.

Malawi further strengthens its standing of implementing the New Urban agenda in line with the Common Africa Position on Habitat III, which among other things encourages member states to localize and own the Agenda so that it is informed by African realities and based on Africa's current priorities.

The Government of Malawi shall continue and endeavor to strengthen its partnership with UN Habitat and other development partners and agencies which are key to the implementation of its New Urban Agenda.

Finally, the Government of Malawi Commends the United Nations through the UN Habitat for its commitment towards the sustainable development of urban and human settlements.

I thank you for your attention. ZIKOMO