

**Sudan's Speech at the 3<sup>rd</sup> PrepCom Meeting  
of the 3<sup>rd</sup> United Nations Conference on  
Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)  
Surabaya, Indonesia, 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

Mr. Joan Clos, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and UN-Habitat's  
Executive Director:  
Ministers, Heads of Delegations, Delegates:

I am pleased to address you today on behalf of Sudan's government to present to you briefly Sudan's key achievements related to implementation of the Habitat Agenda that resulted from the 1996 Istanbul's Habitat II Conference, and the challenges that faced Sudan to achieve those accomplishments, and Sudan's vision and goals during the coming 20 years.

In the arena of sustainable housing, Sudan launched a national housing and reconstruction program and established the National Fund for Housing and Reconstruction in 2008, with a one billion Dollars capital, to fund housing for low income households. Housing projects financed by the Fund mushroomed in various parts of Sudan and a total of 50,000 housing units have been built so far. Sudan has also made vast achievements in addressing informal housing. Thus, while they constituted about two-thirds of housing units in Sudanese urban areas in 1996, they constitute only about 20% today. Informal housing dwellers have been allocated housing units or serviced plots in planned residential areas.

In terms of sustainable urban development, Sudan has started preparing a national urban development strategy, and establishing a national urban observatory and a network of local urban observatories. A number of Sudanese cities have already prepared and adopted long-term strategic urban development plans.

With regards to ensuring urban food security, Sudan has built a number of dams, such as Merawi Dam, to expand food production and to produce electricity. Sudan has also built numerous roads, highways, bridges, and airports that link urban and rural areas together and to increase communication and inter-connectivity between production, marketing and consumption areas.

Distinguished guests:

The international sanctions and embargos that have been imposed on Sudan since 1994 constitute the kernel impediments to achieving sustainable urban development in Sudan. They have grave negative impacts by restricting importation of life-saving equipment, water, sanitation and hygiene technologies among others, and also on food security and capacity building. Unless those embargos and sanctions are lifted, vulnerable Sudanese people will continue to suffer and sustainable urban development will be hindered.

Natural disasters are among the biggest challenges that face Sudan in the arena of sustainable urban development. Recurrent droughts and desertification in particular have negatively affected northern and central Sudan during the past 20 years resulting in the failure of crops and agricultural production and the loss of livestock; hence the displacement of thousands of households from rural to urban areas. Although Sudan is addressing those challenges through strategies and programs in spite of its limited resources, we request regional and international assistance and collaboration to address those challenges effectively so as to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable households affected by those disasters.

As you may know, Sudan is a post-conflict country affected by armed conflicts in some of its regions resulting in waves of internal displacements. Refugees from neighboring countries continue to pour into Sudan posing strong challenges to housing and sustainable urban development.

Distinguished delegates:

Sudan will strive to provide sustainable housing to its citizens, and to address informal settlements and to adopt national and local urban development strategies aiming at addressing the aforementioned challenges and to upgrade the quality of life in its urban areas. Furthermore, it will strive to embrace the New Urban Agenda and to adopt goal 11 of the SDGs pertaining to cities and sustainable urban development.

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