

**STATEMENT FOR MR. YAMUNGU KAYANDABILA PERMANENT SECRETARY OF
THE MINISTRY OF LANDS, HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT,
TO THE OCCASION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HABITAT III) QUITO, ECUADOR
(17th -20th OCTOBER, 2016)**

**Mr. Ban-ki Moon, UN Secretary General,
Mr. Peter Thompson, President of the UN General assembly,
Your Excellency Raffael Correa, Constitutional President of Ecuador
Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN Habitat,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I feel privileged to deliver this statement on behalf of the Tanzanian Delegation. We feel indebted to the Government of Ecuador and the People of Quito for the warm welcome extended to my delegation since our arrival in this country. Allow me also to extend my congratulations from the citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania to Mr. Ban-ki Moon UN Secretary General who is finishing his term, for his tireless efforts in dealing with challenging and cross cutting matters, and also to His Excellency, President Rafael Correa for successfully organizing this Event.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Since time immemorial cities have played a critical role in the national economic development and in connecting spaces, people and goods and facilitating commerce and social interaction. As the world moves into the urban age, the dynamism and importance of cities, not only as the dominant form of habitat for humankind, but also as engines for human development has become more imminent.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is in the 21st century that the world population has transformed from being more urban than rural. This transformation has, and continues to pose, multiple challenges questioning the sustainability of cities of the present time and in the future. These challenges are more serious in cities with stagnating economies amidst increasing poverty and with limited capacity to manage cities towards sustainable urban development.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Currently, Tanzania is implementing the Strategic Cities Project Funded by The World Bank, Government of Denmark and International Development Association (IDA) to improve urban infrastructure and services, strengthening urban institutional and implementation capacity and enhanced rural-urban linkages in Tanzania. The Government is also engaged in Regularization of Unplanned Settlements Project. The Project deals with planning, surveying and titling of land parcels to create enough spaces for improvement of infrastructures and delivery public services. This Project enhances rights of occupancy, increases land value and improves living conditions of people. It is our hope that Habitat III Agenda will be realized through economic and technical partnerships and commitments forged by all UN Members in assistances and investments to make sure that no one is left behind.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Targeting at achieving Sustainable Development Goals by improving Human Settlement, Tanzania adopted the National Transportation Policy of 2003, and the Public Private Partnership Policy of 2009 among others, which successfully created a good and favorable investment opportunities. In that regard, allow me to welcome investors in the flourishing transportation and real estate development markets which are booming in Tanzania.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

As a Least Developed Country, Tanzania is hopeful that in line with the letter and spirit of Sustainable Development Goal 17, on Sustainable Partnership, the international community will come to our assistance in implementing the new Urban Agenda in our country, the African region, and the entire developing world, mindful of the fact that ultimately our cities and towns will look like the way they were financed. We need to partner and enable our municipalities to plan and build sustainable cities, towns and settlements for now and the coming generations

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I take this opportunity to declare our political commitment to the New Urban Agenda as basis for participation, partnerships and inclusiveness in improving the living conditions in human settlements in ways that are appropriate with local needs and realities. We acknowledge the need to redress the global, economic, social and environmental challenges to ensure the creation of better living environments for all.

Thank you for your attention.