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STATEMENT BY **KENYA**

**STATEMENT BY:
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CABINET SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT**

**DURING THE FIRST PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF
HABITAT III CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 17-18, NEW
YORK.**

Mr. Ban Ki moon, Secretary General of the United Nations

Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN Habitat

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the Kenya delegation. I congratulate the Executive Director for his reappointment, and on his appointment as the Secretary General of the Habitat III conference.

I also wish to congratulate the newly elected Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, and to wish them well in the new assignment.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is nearly 40 years since we collectively committed to address the global challenges of urbanization and human settlements. Nearly every government represented in this room signed up to these challenges. Some countries have made enormous, even I might say historic strides over those four decades. But many others, particularly in Africa and the Least Developed Countries, have been left behind.

Today, as we prepare for Habitat III conference, it is evidently clear that the challenges we set out to address 40 years ago still exist. Moreover, pressing new and emerging challenges have also come to the fore and continue to threaten the viability of our urban habitats and rural settlements.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

We have just completed 18 months of work developing the sustainable development goals (SDGs). For the first time in history, we have an integrated goal set that has cities and human settlements at its core. This is a remarkable achievement. But it also poses a new, enormous and historic challenge to all of us.

The scale of the 21st century challenges we face in urbanization and human settlements, including building safe, resilient and sustainable cities, demands that

we develop a new strategy and a new way of doing business in the international community in order to respond to cities and human settlements. As the adage goes, we cannot solve new problems with old thinking.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

The post 2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals present us an important opportunity to transform the global agenda for human habitat and with it to transform the UN-Habitat Programme to enable it to effectively respond to the current and emerging challenges that lie ahead.

It is estimated that by 2050, 70 percent of the world population will live in urban areas leaving 30 percent in other human settlements. In crafting our new human settlement strategy, we must adopt a comprehensive and holistic approach that not only envisions a different and better future for all, leaving no one behind, but that also ensures that we have the leadership, the institution and the resources, both private and public to attain our aspirations.

In a majority of developing countries, the challenge remains how to ensure proper planning, provide decent housing and access to basic services to the population. Therefore, the Habitat III process is an opportunity to craft a new inclusive, safe, resilient and secure transformative urban and human settlements agenda that builds on the lessons learned from the implementation of the Vancouver and Istanbul outcomes and, beyond that, to lay out the institutions and governance structures to achieve the new agenda.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

For us in Kenya, we believe that it will be beneficial for all humanity that Habitat III and the product of its new agenda address three fundamental issues:

First, **Vision**. A new vision should be crafted and embraced that is clear and responsive to the aspirations and interests of all member States. This vision should provide for decent housing and basic services for all in sustainable human settlements. The vision should be propelled by strong political goodwill and commitment facilitating the achievement of measurable and time bound results.

Second, **institutional capabilities**. We need a UN Habitat that has the requisite leadership and technical capacity to support member states in realizing the new vision and a governance structure to enable a revitalized UN Habitat to help countries achieve the SDGs.

Third, **resources**. The goal and targets that we have set to attain by 2030, for cities and human settlements have significant resource implications in the developing and developed world. Commensurate resources must therefore be found to help revitalize the mandate of UN-Habitat.

In conclusion, in the context of the post 2015 development agenda, cities and other human settlements must be places of inclusion and that protect the human rights of all equitably. What this means, Ladies and Gentlemen, is that in our vision, there can be no place for slums and marginalized communities in the future want. Finally, I wish to reiterate Kenya's commitment and readiness to work with other delegations in the Habitat III process to ensure the realization of a transformed and revitalized UN-Habitat with a new global vision and wherewithal to achieve it.

I thank you for your kind attention