



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY SOUTH AFRICA**

**SESSION ON REGIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

**HABITAT III OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS**

**NEW YORK**

**25 April 2016**

Chairperson,

The delegation of South Africa wishes to voice their solidarity to the governments of Ecuador and Japan. South Africa is also in support of the statement made by G77 plus China. The delegation further wants to endorse the African Union position on Urbanisation as stated in Agenda 2063 with states that; “cities and other Settlements are hubs of cultural and economic activities, with modernised infrastructure, and (where) people have access to all basic necessities of life including shelter, water, sanitation, energy, public transport and ICT (information and communication technology ). This statement is in line with emerging themes expressed from the regional III regional meetings.

South Africa also wants to congratulate Nigeria for hosting a successful Habitat III African Regional Meeting. This conferences declaration emphasised the African Position which is underpinned by the eight (8) pillars that form Africa’s aspirations of a New Urban Agenda. These are:

Pillar 1: Harness the potential of Urbanization to accelerate structural economic transformation and inclusive growth by:

- Pillar 2: Link Sustainable Urban and Human Settlements Development with Resilience
- Pillar 3: Enhance people-centered urban and human settlements development
- Pillar 4: Strengthening institutions and systems for promoting transformative change in human settlements through:-
- Pillar 5: Enhance the contribution of urban and human settlements development to the continental integration process by:-
- Pillar 6: Enhance Africa's global competitiveness through Urban and human settlements development by:-
- Pillar 7: Enhancing Environmental Sustainability and Effective Response to Climate Change in Human Settlements by:
- Pillar 8: Institute a Global partnership for sustainable urban management to facilitate implementation of the new global urban and human settlements agenda in Africa

Lastly chairperson, we would like to express our country's appreciation for allowing us to host a Thematic Meeting on informal settlements. This will go a long way in contributing to the body of knowledge in the global policy agenda.

I thank you.