



STATEMENT

BY

**THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
CHIEFTAINSHIP – DR. PONTŠO ‘MATUMELO SEKATLE**

AT

**THE THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR
THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND
SUSTAINBLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HABITAT III)**

**JULY 2016
SURABAYA- INDONESIA**

His Excellency Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia,

Hon Basuki Hadimuljono, Minister of Public Works and Housing,

Honourable Ministers,

Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat and Secretary-General of the Habitat III Conference,

Excellences,

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

It is with great honour and privilege for me to deliver remarks at this Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). Allow me, at the outset, to thank the Government and the people of Indonesia for the hospitality and UNHABITAT for working tirelessly with all relevant stakeholders to make this session possible. The aura of inspiration that we feel when we are in this beautiful country assures us of a successful conclusion of our meeting.

Lesotho welcomes the New Urban Agenda which serves as a framework for policy implementation at national and local levels towards sustainable urban development for the next twenty years. We acknowledge the inclusive and participatory manner through which it was drawn up.

Co-chairs

Urbanization has become a driving force for development with the power to change and improve people's lives. However, it is an unprecedented challenge that calls for all actors – Member States, multilateral organizations, local governments, private sector and civil society to work together to find a new model of development that is able to integrate all facets of sustainable development to promote equity and shared prosperity.

In this regard, we acknowledge the inclusion of our recommendations in the new agenda, especially those relating to enhancing implementation through predictable and sustainable financing, capacity development and partnerships. We appreciate the commitment of “*leaving no one behind*” as an approach to ensure equitable access to physical and social infrastructure such as affordable and adequate housing and shelter.

The new agenda ushers in hope as we policy makers are determined to harness the urbanization phenomenon for sustainable and inclusive growth and development. In this regard there is room for improvement to make the agenda more action and result oriented.

In addition, the linkage between the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG'S) should be emphasized. We should consider the importance of local governments in the implementation of SDGs and the critical role they could play in advancing the urban agenda. The local governments need to be capacitated to undertake local economic development interventions to end hunger, reduce poverty, improve settlement planning, and provide affordable housing and infrastructure such as water, roads, electricity and sanitation.

Furthermore, we also wish to emphasize the need to provide concrete strategies to strengthen UN- Habitat's coordination and capacity building role to assist national governments in the implementation of the new urban agenda. This should also apply to ECOSOC especially on the work of the Committee of Experts in Public Administration (CEPA) as it endeavors to assist governments in their management and coordination role in the implementation of SDGs.

In conclusion, allow me to reaffirm our re-commitment to the important goal of attaining sustainability in human settlements.

I THANK YOU