INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA, AT THE HABITAT III INFORMAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS: (NEW YORK, 19 MAY 2016)

I have the honour to deliver this Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. As indicated earlier the Group notes with appreciation the work so far done by members of the Habitat III bureau in organizing the consultative meetings and the first intergovernmental session to discuss the draft outcome document

As we define this Habitat III agenda it will only be proper that we also design the means for achieving it. Indeed achieving the New Urban Agenda will require that effective implementation is undertaken at all levels of government.

Allow me therefore to make some general remarks on some of the key messages that the group would like to communicate. During the second intergovernmental session, we will be making more detailed interventions on the specific paragraphs of this portion.

Madam Chair,

The group feels that the text will require to be <u>re-arranged</u> especially the subtitles. The subsections and sub-titles under effective implementation require sequencing. We have three subsections organized in accordance to the levels of planning, the level on sectors, while the portion on MoI is organized around tools. We need to have a systematic way of using titles. The big subsections are missing. The group proposes starting with tools, followed by planning and lastly the MoI.

The group feel that governance and participation should be strongly embedded in the section on effective implementation and means of implementation. However we do not need to re-sectorise the structure. We welcome reference to an integrated approach to and linkages between national policies, and linkages between urban and rural areas. But this should be spread to other sectors.

We feel there is less emphasis on the social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as compared to the economic dimension. There has to be a balance among the three dimensions of sustainable development.

On stakeholder engagement the text dwells much on the governing models and the language of stakeholder engagement framework could be problematic to the rest of the members. The group insists that the subnational and stakeholder framework is not balanced and will require balancing since the document is universal. The stakeholder roles should be clarified in each context. The content is prescriptive and dwells much on governance model of the local authorities. There are some of portions of the section that are not broadly agreed e.g the principal of subsidiarity, while local self-government require further clarification.

On planning the group welcomes reference to planning of the territories across cities and metropolitan areas. We have different systems of decentralization across countries. There are differences in the way we execute governance. Strengthening of subnational governments should have specific references. We need to see more specificity on how and why we have to create alliances. Urban planning and management need to have a long term perspective. It should have flexibility to be adjusted as and when there is need. There should be less emphasis on short term planning.

On land there is need to emphasize rural urban-linkages and land to sea linkages. Implementation should be complementary with the other processes. We emphasize efficient use of land.

On housing section there is no reference to right to adequate housing. This requires to be included in this section.

On mobility - in paragraphs112 -118, we need to make stronger the message of road safety as also contained in the Resolution 70/260. Road safety should be strongly reflected in the New Urban Agenda since most accidents occur in cities and urban areas.

On basic services, the group welcomes reference to the reference to water and sanitation. There should be stronger mention of sewerage system and storm water management. While we call for quality urban basic services, the list of services should be expanded.

On energy, the group welcomes Paragraph 122 especially the reference to renewable and efficiency energy which should be maintained. Energy access should also be mentioned.

On education- the group feels that it is important to emphasize the reference to education in this section.

Means of Implementation

The group calls for inclusion of all portions of the means of implementation targets 11.a, 11.b and 11.c of the SDG 11. The group emphasizes inclusion of the role of international enabling environment to implement the NUA. We need to strengthen the section on borrowing and fiscal policy autonomy to the subnational level of government. There should be language on supporting local governments to mobilize revenues, strengthen debt management and strengthen municipal bond markets.

On international development cooperation, the group calls for ODA providers to scale up and also meet their ODA commitments as contained in the Addis Ababa

Action agenda. On ODA scaling up and honoring of commitment, we can use the agreed language in Paragraphs 51-53 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The group would like to see language on incentives at both the national and subnational level to catalyze mobilizing stable longer term private finance, from both domestic and international sources.

On data, the group feels that the emphasis on data is weak should be strengthened and mainstreamed across governance, planning, and most importantly mention the role of data for decision and policy making. In Paragraph 162 we should include a strong reference to the right to privacy of data. Sources of data should be the national statistical offices. We should avoid using of data from other sources. This was elaborated in the 47th session United Nations Statistical Commission.

We welcome inclusion of capacity building especially at the sub national levels of government and in local authorities. Specific capacities will be required to gather quantitative data on the widening of the tax base and integration of the informal sector by promoting formalization into the formal economy to raise revenues. Addressing capacity deficits in local authorities especially in urban planning, data collection, information sharing and management and policy enforcement is important to the group.

There is too much focus on financing on cities without striking a balance with unique challenges facing different regions. Solutions for cities are supposed to focus on all cities in both developed and developing countries. This should be reflected in Paragraphs 127, 130, 131, and 132 of the draft.

On climate finance the group welcomes the inclusion of this portion in the text. Climate finance is problematic and we should avoid mixing concepts without using the agreed language. We need to use language like Green Climate Fund. We call for strengthening climate finance and splitting this paragraph while using

language from UNFCCC and other commitments. We should avoid creating new windows that are not agreed.

On technology and innovation, the group would to see language on support for technological transfer from developed to developing countries in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and also Addis Ababa Action Agenda. All the means of implementation are equal and should be reflected as such.

There is need to include the role Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) as these are key in providing financing especially in developing countries (LDC, LLDC SIDS) to finance services and infrastructure. We need to see specific language on well-functioning national and regional development banks and their role in financing development at both the national and subnational levels of government.

The group would like to include **language on urging states to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures…(**Full language of Para 30 of the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development**).** This should be included in Para 145 of the NUA.

The group would like to strengthen the portion of the MoI as follows;

Para 129 – Adds portions of Para 20 and 22 in AAAA with emphasis on Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) and role of ODA in supporting capacity.

Para 143 – Add language on stakeholder partnership, as contained in Para 48 of AAAA

144Bis - We propose requesting the UN –Habitat to establish a UN Trust Fund to support the intent of Para 144. We will be proposing some language for Para 145Bis (Nigeria)

The group would like to see an addition of section on governance to complement the effective implementation to support three drivers of implementation, planning, and the sectors and MoI tools.

Lastly, the group is of the opinion that some of the following languages or phrases identified in the following paragraphs can either be simplified or recast to bring in more clarity. These include in the following paragraphs;

Para 88 – the principal of subsidiarity requires further clarity.

Para 89 – The portion of monitoring and evaluation should be included.

Para 90 – encompassing democratic legitimacy requires clarification.

Para 93 – Propose including the term "design" before "planning".

Para 97 – Terms Well-connected cities and rural hinterland require clarification

Para 99 – Term state of the art urban indicator should be clarified.

Para 100- Use of land consumption or land use.

Para 102 - Self-enumeration is not common language.

Para 105 – Food safety and nutrition para 105 It is important to use food security and nutrition as the and agreed correct language.

Para 111- Quality and habitability should be clarified.

Para 112 – Car Oriented needs clarification.

Para 113 – Density based fair distribution should be clarified.

Para 119 – reference to mobility incentives that lead to subsidies is not accurate.

Para 120 – financially and operationally phrase is not clear

Para 119, 125, 126 and 128 require recasting to make them clear.

Para 132 – <u>transparency in data spending</u> is not clear.

Para 136 – <u>Unsustainable debt financing</u> is not clear.

Para 141 – <u>All implicated levels of government</u> is not clear.

I thank you.