

INTERVENTION - NIGERIA

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - DAY 1: Monday 15th November 2021

Agenda Item 4.

Financial, budgetary and administrative matters, including the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plan.

Thank you Mr. Chair.

Warm greetings Excellencies, the Executive Director, Distinguished delegates and the Secretariat.

We thank Madam Executive Director, and her team for the informative presentations and updates on the current financial situation, the resource mobilization strategy and staffing situation. While the reports are commendable and quite encouraging, Nigeria has a few observations and comments to make:

FIRST: Despite the commendable progress, Nigeria observes that much resource is still needed to achieve the activities and targets of the current Strategic Plan 2020-2023. The reality is that, now more than ever, increased efforts are needed in our resource mobilization drive to successfully meet the set interventions and targets of our Plan.

A more joint unity of purpose and radical approach for funds mobilization must now be explored to deliver the wide-scale interventions and programmes envisaged to guarantee a more secure urban future, particularly beyond the COVID-19 era.

Closely connected to this is the several pledges made at the Partnership and Pledging Conference during the inaugural Habitat Assembly in 2019 to raise funds needed by UN-Habitat for core and specific programmes to support implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

We would like to be enlightened on what has been the follow-up, and current progress with regards to actual redemption of the many promises made at that Conference?

SECONDLY Mr. Chair: Regarding funds mobilization, Nigeria has always advocated for a more aggressive and personal approach to fund raising efforts. We believe Face-to-face interactions and meetings with countries at the highest political level of Presidents would yield positive results. For the African region, the possibility of a **'Presidential Roundtable for Fund Raising for COVID 19 Post Recovery'** could additionally be explored, the current pandemic allowing of course, or through some other innovative methods.

I recall in the run up to Habitat III, a similar approach was adopted for the new African Urban Agenda Programme, driven by the then Presidents of Nigeria and Ghana, which yielded much success for funding the programme.

Nigeria may also through this initiative, consider putting some funding support into effective human settlements growth and regeneration programmes, as these remain a major area of concern for the region.

THIRDLY Mr. Chair: Also for our better understanding, what exactly is the update on the proposed Multi-Country Offices (MCOs) of UN-Habitat?. How many countries have indicated interest so far, especially in the African region?. Have the modalities been finalized, and when is the expected roll-off date?. This also applies to the UN-Habitat Flagship programmes launched at WUF 10 in February 2020.

AND FINALLY, we take this opportunity to appeal once again to call on all Member States yet to do so, to pay up their outstanding voluntary contributions, and heed the call for higher levels of non-earmarked funding to equip and assist UN-Habitat in its normative and operational work.

I thank you Mr Chairman.