



**Remarks by HE Mr MJ Mahlangu, South African High Commissioner to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the UNON, ENEP and UN-HABITAT on the occasion of a briefing on the COP27 Presidential Initiative by Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat**

**9 September 2022**

**Nairobi, UN Gigiri Complex**

Programme Director;

Your Excellency Ms Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Ambassadors, High Commissioner and Permanent Representatives,

Invited guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Executive Director, Ms Maimunah Mohd Sharif for inviting me and my delegation to this briefing on COP27 Presidential Initiative on “Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation”. A special thanks also goes to the Government of Egypt for the Presidential Initiative in her capacity as the host of COP27.

Excellences, as you are maybe aware, South Africa is a strong supporter of UN-Habitat's normative mandate and was instrumental in the development of the programmes and initiatives such as:

*“Establishing a global network for informal settlements and slum upgrading; The adoption of International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning; The development of the African Harmonised Framework for the implementation of the new urban agenda; The development and adoption of the UN system-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements and promoting urban safety as a component of sustainable human settlements in Africa through the African Forum on Urban Safety (AFUS)”.*

South Africa supports the work of UN-Habitat because sustainable human settlements are central to South Africa's commitment to the reduction of poverty and improving people's lives.

Excellences, the strengthening of UN-Habitat is central to its efforts to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and governance in line with its role as a focal point for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

In this regard, South Africa supports the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe Initiative) that aim to accelerate the implementation of the international development agendas including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As I conclude, let me thank the Executive Director for accepting the invitation from the Minister of Human Settlement to visit South Africa. We are ready to host you Madam Executive Director. Ladies and gentlemen, South Africa is proposing to host the Launch of the Global Action Plan Framework on Informal Settlements and Slums in South Africa to prepare for the development and tabling of a Global Action Plan at the United Nations' Habitat Assembly in 2023. The Executive Director is invited to jointly host the Launch with the Minister of Human Settlements.

Once again, thank you very much for inviting me to this briefing!

I thank you,

