

**GHANA'S STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO KENYA
ON BEHALF OF HON. MARTIN ADJEI-MENSAH KORSAH (MP), DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LOCAL
GOVERNMENT, DECENTRALISATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE UN-HABITAT ASSEMBLY, MONDAY, 29TH MAY, 2023**

The Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Your Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I bring you warm greetings from the President, Government and the good people of Ghana. In his statement delivered virtually during the Bureau meeting on 29th March 2023, Hon. Martin Adjei-Mensah Korsah, the Deputy Minister for Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development, shared Ghana's successes on urban development and management, and we are happy for the opportunity to reiterate some of the efforts being made by the country to achieve the SDGs particularly the Goal 11.

The Government of Ghana wishes to acknowledge the enormous technical assistance received from UN Habitat over the years. The invaluable guidance and contributions from various experts helped enrich Ghana's draft revised National Urban Policy as their perspectives in the global context were brought to bear on the policy document.

The Government of Ghana launched the Report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda on 3rd October 2022 as part of the commemoration of the World Habitat Day. Ghana has demonstrated clearly how we have localised the implementation of the SDGs through our decentralized approach to governance. It is significant to note that the Medium-Term Development Plans of Ghana's 261 District Assemblies have been aligned to the SDGs to track the progress of implementation.

It is therefore a privilege for us as a country, to be the first to be implementing the Smart SDGs Cities Programme with the support of UN-Habitat and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway. This Programme in our view, is a game changer and in tandem with the theme for the *2022 World Cities Day "Acting Locally to Go Global"*.

Your Excellencies

Ghana strongly supports the following Draft Resolutions being sponsored by the African Group:

1. Resolution to enhance linkage between urbanisation and climate change;
2. Resolution for the creation of a Human Settlement Resilience Framework (early warning and risk reduction);
3. Resolution on Urban Planning and Sustainable Infrastructure; and
4. Resolution for Equitable Financing and Effective Monitoring of the Implementation of Resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly

Ghana wishes to encourage Member States to seriously consider issues related to urban- rural linkage, taking into account the Africa Union Agenda 2063, as well as Member States commitment to ensure “No One is left Behind” in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals.

Further, cognizant of the rapid urbanization taking place in Ghana and other developing countries, especially Africa, which are also adversely impacted by climate change, it is imperative to consider urban-rural linkages as an agenda to delivering the SDGs. Ghana reiterates its commitment to collaborating and working together with other Member States and contribute meaningfully to ensure the adoption of these important resolutions.

Again, Ghana strongly supports the need for a monitoring mechanism to effectively track implementation of not only resolutions, but also other flagship programmes facilitated by the UN-Habitat in collaboration with Member States. Accordingly, we support consideration of resolution dealing with matters of equitable financing and effective monitoring of the implementation of resolutions adopted by *the UN-Habitat Assembly*.

Finally, on behalf of the President, Government and the good people of the Republic of Ghana, I wish to declare Ghana’s continuous commitment to strengthening the UN-Habitat towards ensuring sustainable urban development as well as sustainable human settlements.

I thank you for your kind attention.