

**OPENING STATEMENT OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT/CHAIR OF THE UN-HABITAT EXECUTIVE BOARD, ARC. AHMED
MUSA DANGIWA AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEETING HOLDING IN NAIROBI, KENYA.**

PROTOCOL:

Your Excellencies,

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure, Republic of Kenya,

Director, United Nations Organisations in Nairobi (UNON),

Under Secretary General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat, Ms. Anaclaudia Rossbach

Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Michal Mlynar,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. First, I would like thank President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency, William Samoei Ruto and the people of Kenya for the warm welcome and the great hospitality that they have extended to all of us who came for this Executive Board Meeting.
2. It is my pleasure to welcome you all as Chair of this second session of the 2024 UN-Habitat Executive Board. On behalf of the Bureau, I would like to thank you for remaining committed to the huge responsibility entrusted to this Executive Board on behalf of the entire world as we drive the mandate and vision of this great institution.

3. As this is my first formal engagement since the appointment of the Executive Director, I want to take this moment to warmly congratulate the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Anaclaudia Rossbach.
4. Madam ED, your appointment is well deserved and based on your impressive pedigree and track record of contributions to the Human Settlements agenda globally. Please accept my personal best wishes, as well as those of my country and delegation, for a successful tenure as Executive Director. We assure you of the continued support of Nigeria to UN-Habitat under your leadership.
5. I also want to sincerely appreciate and commend Mr. Michal Mlynar, who served this institution effectively in an acting capacity. He competently coordinated activities of the organization across several fora, including during the first session of the Executive Board Meeting for the year. Mr. Michal, we appreciate you.
6. I am pleased to note the initial steps that our new Executive Director has taken so far towards moving this organization forward. This includes engagements at the inaugural African Urban Forum (AUF) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; the United Nations General Assembly; WUF12 in Cairo, Egypt; COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan; as well as at several other activities in the past few months since she assumed duty.
7. The outcome speaks volumes about the efforts put in and the competence of our ED, and (I believe I speak for most member states). We are all assured of your passion and commitment to UN

Habitat and zeal for pragmatic implementation of the UN Habitat mandate and attention to the concerns of both developed and developing member states alike.

8. Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, I acknowledge your support and contributions during Nigeria's tenure as Chair of the Executive Board, and the progress we have collectively made. Notable ones are considerations of the progress in the balanced implementation of the Assembly resolutions, the consideration of the organization's workplan and budget, as well as the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026-2029. These are all expected to further strengthen the actualization of the global human settlements vision at the national levels. In this regard, the emphasis on the sustainability of the strategic plan and its inclusiveness is most reassuring.
9. We continue to recognize the importance of increased funding for the noble objectives of UN-Habitat, and the contributions of member states and partners in this regard. Nigeria is also renewing its commitment to UN-Habitat. Just last week our President, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, approved the sum of \$1.5 million USD towards clearing Nigeria's outstanding contribution as part of efforts to strengthen its commitment to the organization.
10. Furthermore, we appreciate the need to open up as many opportunities as possible for this organization. We therefore look forward to receiving the progress reports on our collaborations with other UN bodies as well as the private sector, including the updates on the Sustainable Cities and Communities Foundation (SCCF).

11. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all of you as members of this Board, as well as to the various regional and political groups, the ad hoc working groups, and the Secretariat for your support in the preparations for this second session of the Executive Board for 2024. I wish us all very fruitful deliberations.

12. Thank you very much.