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STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

I Session of Executive Board 2025

(25-27 MARCH, 2025)

**Chairperson,
Madam Executive Director,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates.**

The Republic of Mozambique is addressing the Executive Board on behalf of the African Group.

Allow me to commence by conveying our sincere satisfaction to you, Chairperson, on the manner you presided over the UN-HABITAT Executive Board for more than a year, conducting Member States in fundamental and fruitful debates thus permitting strategizing and strengthening multilateralism.

The African Group would like to express its appreciation to you, Madame Executive Director and the entire team for preparing this session and making available the **working** documents for the consideration of the Executive Board.

Agenda Item4

**Chairperson,
Madam Executive Director,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates.**

The African Group takes note of the report presented, **under Agenda Item 3**, by the Permanent Representative of Colombia, **in his capacity as Chair of the Working Group on PBA**, and

appreciates **the dedication and the transparent manner shown in conducting the PBA working group meetings including the consideration of the draft outcomes documents of this First session of the Executive Board.**

The Group takes further note of the report by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal, **in his capacity as the Chair of the Working Group on the development of the stakeholder's engagement policy, and appreciates the great efforts invested by the Chair to reach consensus on the draft policy,** and urges Member States to **fully engage towards its finalization while remaining guided by the full respect of** the intergovernmental nature of the Programme and **by the** recent legal opinion on **the interpretation of Governing Council resolution 19/8 related to** the no objection basis **and the sacred saint principle of the sovereignty of** Member States **and their right** to object on the accreditation of a Non-governmental organization, in accordance with UN practice.

Mr. Chair,

The Group takes note of the Interim financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as at 31 December 2024 and the Financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as at 28 February 2025.

Given the austerity measures emanating from the liquidity crisis in the regular budget fund and the constraints hindering the financial situation of the Programme, the Group appreciates the contributors to the core budget of the Programme, and encourages Member States to increase their financial contributions to bridge

the gap, and provide support to UN-Habitat to implement its Strategic Plan and Programs of Work, as well as enhancing its work to achieve the urban goals of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

The Group also took note of the report of the Executive Director on Staffing of the UN-HABITAT. Albeit the figures shown favours the African region in terms of staff enrolled in the UN-HABITAT system, African Group is of the view that the region is still in disadvantage when it comes to professional positions. In this regard the group urge UN-HABITAT to prioritize admission of the professionals from the underrepresented sub-regions, to ensure equal geographical representation, with strict observance of the Charter of the United Nations.

(Agenda Item 5)

**Chairperson,
Madam Executive Director,
Excellencies,
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Mr. Chair, the Africa Group takes note of the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for 2026. As highlighted in the Report of the Executive Director on the Status of the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2026, the

Group supports further discussions on the draft work programme for 2026 and reiterates its engagement to constructively engage on this matter. We look forward to the finalization of the draft budget for the year 2026.

Mr. Chair, the Group extends its gratitude to Madame Executive Director and her team for drafting the Program of Work. We welcome the Program of work focusing on pathways to transformative change, supporting cities in integrating urban and territorial planning, management, and investment to help overcome inequalities and build urban resilience, as well as strengthening capacity development as a cross-cutting function of the Programme's operations. We also welcome the objective of the subprogramme 1 of the PoW aiming to reduce the spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum and its strategic outcomes, mainly to advocate for adequate, safe and affordable housing. We encourage UN-Habitat to expand the scope of this strategic focus and enhance its operational and normative work in its PoW 2026 with regard to the urban-rural continuum, mainly in the African continent and through the enhancement of the UN-Habitat collaboration with its regional offices in Africa and the Arab region.

In this regard, we further call for an effective implementation of the UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions 1/5 Enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, serving as legislative mandate of the 2nd subprogram on Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions. Finally Mr. Chair the Group wishes to express its full support for the PoWs Habitat Gender Policy and Plan (GPP) to be fully aligned with the

new Strategic Plan 2026-2029 that serves a basis for UN-Habitat work during this period.

I thank you

(Agenda Item no. 6)

Mr Chairperson, madam Executive Director, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

The Africa Group takes note of the Draft Strategic Plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2026–2029. The Group thanks the Secretariat for trying to merge the different views of Member States to adjust the Strategic Plan and make it suitable for everyone. We also welcome the **inclusive** consultative process **that has contributed to the development of** the current draft Strategic Plan. The Group reiterates the need to avoid vague and **non** agreed terminology in the Strategic Plan such as gender-responsive, and affirms its readiness to engage constructively **with other member States to enhance** the current draft, with the view of **its finalization and submission to** the resumed session of UN-Habitat Assembly.

Moreover, the Africa Group emphasizes the need for the Strategic Plan to prioritize capacity building **in urban planning, policy development, including the support for the implementation and reporting on the New Urban Agenda as well as in building national and local capacity to develop and implement public**

policies and programmes commensurate to resources available in countries, cities and human settlements.

The Africa Group further emphasizes on the importance of financial resource mobilization to promote resilient housing projects in developing countries, especially in Africa.

I thank you very much indeed and I yield the floor back to you chair.

Agenda Item no. 7

**Chairperson,
Madam Executive Director,
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Distinguished Delegates.**

The African Group appreciates the efforts of all member-states to ensure the establishment of the SCCF that is mandated as source for sustainable funding in favour of UN-Habitat, and recognizes the intent of the Executive Director to conduct an independent due diligence in consultation with United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ).

We appreciate the need and right of the ED to carry out further checks on the reason behind the inaction of the Foundation in bringing the funds to UN-Habitat in 2024. However, the Group reaffirms the need for a briefing to the Executive Board by the SCCF on its present status.

Chairperson, for Africa and other developing Regions, divers, consistent and sustainable funding is crucial. At this time when funding is one of UN-Habitat's major priorities, there is needed effort in supporting the nurturing of promising initiatives like the SCCF. The need for a collective effort in ensuring sustainable funding for the organization cannot be overemphasized given the limitations of existing mechanisms like the scalability model.

Finally, the Africa Group welcomes the need for periodic evaluations and would highly appreciate it if it could be informed the timeframe of the due diligence for it believes that if the SCCF is allowed to properly start with all the required structures in place a better holistic assessment may be done in favour of UN-Habitat.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 8:

Chairperson,

Madam Executive Director,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates.

The African Group takes note of the report of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat on the implementation of the normative and operational activities, including updates on programmatic activities for 2024 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes, and technical cooperation activities. The Group

commends the continued efforts of UN-Habitat in advancing the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 11, through its normative and operational activities. We appreciate the progress made in capacity development, urban crises prevention, and response initiatives, as well as the strides taken to address challenges in Ethiopia, Central America, and other regions.

The Africa Group would like to encourage UN-HABITAT to consider similar approach similar to the one adopted in Latin America and to work on a system of regional integration in order to wider impact (para 38) , for example, with regard to mapping and inventory of slums in order to support the planning and development of public policies, as well as the transformation of vulnerable settlements.

The Group acknowledges the notable achievements in areas such as slum transformation, inclusive urban regeneration, sustainable mobility, and waste management. We also commend the collaboration with regional entities, including the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the development of regional strategies, which reflect the importance of tailored solutions to address specific regional challenges. Additionally, the Group recognizes the efforts to enhance land tenure security, promote people-centered smart cities, and strengthen urban-rural linkages.

However, the Group takes note of the inequitable resource allocation to ensure balanced implementation of activities across all regions, particularly in Africa. We encourage UN-Habitat to prioritize capacity building and technical assistance to Member States, especially in

Least Developed Countries and fragile settings, to effectively manage and address urban challenges.

Finally, the African Group calls for regular updates on the implementation of UN-Habitat resolutions and flagship programmes, with a focus on measurable outcomes and impact. We also stress the importance of aligning future activities with the priorities of the African Group, particularly in the areas of affordable resilient housing, urban resilience, and sustainable infrastructure.

Thank you very much Chair

Agenda Item 09

**Mr Chairperson,
Madam Executive Director,
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Distinguished Delegates.**

The African Group, takes note of the update on the implementation of UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions and reiterate that all UN-HABITAT Resolutions need to be implemented in an equal and balanced manner taking into consideration **national contexts, needs and priorities;**

The Africa Group has for long been emphasizing that Equal resource allocation should be given to all resolutions **without prioritization,** bearing in mind that according to regional priorities and needs, some resolutions may be implemented in a specific context of a region more than it does to the others;

The African Group also notes **with concern the crosscutting challenge of funding that continues to impede full implementation** of all resolutions, and particularly resolutions introduced by the Africa Group.

The Group further recalls its initiative for the establishment of a mechanism to ensure the proper monitoring of the implementation of resolutions. This is embodied in **resolution 2/10 on Equitable Financing and Effective Monitoring of the Implementation of Resolutions introduced by the Africa Group** and adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session, as an innovative way to enhance the balanced implementation of all resolutions.

In this regard, the Group would like to refer to the **UN-Habitat Assembly resolution tracker**, as mandated by UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/10, which **provides the latest information on the financial and programmatic status of all resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly**. The tracker has the merit to clearly show, in a transparent way, the progress and gaps in the funding of those resolutions.

For instance, UNHABITAT resolutions introduced by the Africa Group suffer great gaps in funding , such as **Resolution 2/8** on Urban planning and sustainable infrastructure, suffers from **98%** gap in financing. The **resolution 2/9** on Creation of a human settlement resilience framework for early warning, foresight, risk reduction, crisis response, and post-crisis recovery and reconstruction, lacks 99% of funding, **resolution 2/7** on Adequate housing for all, has a gap of 72%,

resolution 2/2 on Accelerating the transformation of informal settlements and slums by 2030.

The Group, therefore, calls on the secretariat to deploy more efforts in mobilizing resources to allow for the full and equal implementation of all resolutions.

In this regard, the Group has taken note of the response of the secretariat, to the question asked by one delegation, yesterday, related to the status of operationalisation of the urban action funding window, particularly the aspect of the **transfer of project balances to aliment the fund**, to allow for implementation of resolutions that were adopted without a budget. The fact that no transfers have been done so far, as they are depending on the acceptance by the donors of such transfers, makes **the Group deplore the absence of an established timeframe to engage with donors in this regard.**

While, the Group is commending UN-Habitat for the efforts in utilizing the limited core resources of the Programme to directly and indirectly support resolutions implementation, it calls the secretariat to start engaging, in the soonest possible, with donors to operationalize the urban action funding window

With reference to the resolution 2/1, the group takes note of the new draft international guidelines on smart cities, and underlines the importance of its technical focus and the imperative of not deviating its purpose and objectives to political matters, and calls for further

consultations for its finalization for possible submission to the resumed session.

Finally, the Group is of the view that future updates on implementation of resolutions should also include challenges encountered, lessons learned and best practices identified.

I thank you.

Agenda Item 10

**Chairperson,
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Distinguished Delegates.**

The African Group took note of the report by the Executive Director on the Implementation of the United Nations Development System Reforms in the United Nations Human Settlement Programme.

The Group further welcomes the mechanism established at regional and national level to strengthen UN-HABITAT intervention at these levels, including the coordination of UN system towards the achievement of SDG 11.

The Group commends the active engagement of the UN-HABITAT to regional framework and encourages the approach of reaching out regional entities similar to UNECA in Africa to continue

providing guidance that contributes to the achievement of the SDG goals.

The Africa Group took note of the country-level engagement and participation in the implementation of the UNDS Reforms, however, the Group would like to suggest equal treatment to specificities on the contributions in all areas to the Common Country Assessment(CCA) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework(UNSDCF), as we note that in the report Africa is only highlighted in figures of signatory to UNSDCF, to quote but few, differently from other regions of the world.

Therefore, the Group would highly appreciate if constraints, bottlenecks, strongholds and weaknesses related to the all process could be shared to help Member States assess their contribution to the work of the UN-HABITAT.

The African group welcomes the new generation of Habitat Country Programme Document (HCPD) which will be designed to be results-based management. This will reinforce the National Authorities and UN Agency's position as leaders in addressing SDG 11, focusing chiefly on local priorities.

Finally, Mr Chairperson, the Group encourages the UN-HABITAT to continue lending its support to the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation to add value to the implementation of the common development agenda.

I Thank You Chair.

Agenda Item 12

**Chairperson,
Madam Executive Director,
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The African Group took note of the report of the Executive Director on the Actions to update and improve the internal management policies and procedures of the UN-HABITAT and regarding the communication procedure.

The Group commends the efforts made by the Executive Director to put in place tools that facilitate the planning and management of activities within the UN-Habitat System, including the strategies towards enhancing organizational operations through digitalization.

To conclude, chair, the Group would like to express its concern regarding the failure of the communication mechanism established between UN-HABITAT and Its Members States. Some African Group Permanent Mission in Nairobi witnessed a situation whereby the Secretariat of UN-HABITAT sends correspondence directly to capitals, without the knowledge of the Permanent Missions accredited in Nairobi, which are the official channel of communication between UN System and the Member States. In this regard, the African Group recommends the improvement of the communication channel between UN system and National Governments through their Permanent Representation in Nairobi.

Thank you for your attention.