

Statement by Nigeria

Hon. Arc. Ahmed Musa Dangiwa

Minister of Housing and Urban Development

United Nations Habitat Assembly – High-Level Dialogue

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Response to Guiding Question i:

How can adequate housing policies drive poverty reduction, job creation, climate action, and recovery from crises?

Chair of the UN-Habitat Assembly

Executive Director, UN-Habitat,

My dear Colleagues,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Since this is the first time I am taking the floor I would like to thank the Executive Director and her team for the good work that they are doing especially in developing the Strategic Action Plan.
2. I want to first re-affirm that Nigeria supports the Plan and its focus on adequate housing, land, basic services and the transformation of slums and informal settlements as these are the principles that underpin our Housing Strategy in Nigeria.
3. Back to the dialogue, Nigeria strongly believes that **adequate housing policies are among the most powerful tools for reducing poverty, creating jobs, strengthening climate resilience, and driving post-crisis recovery.**
4. Under the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, we have launched the **Renewed Hope Housing Programme**, which places housing firmly at the centre of our national development strategy. The **first phase targets 50,000 housing units**, and already, **10,112 units are under construction across 14 states and the FCT.**
5. This construction effort alone has generated **over 250,000 direct and indirect jobs**—from artisans and suppliers to engineers and local SMEs—at an average of **25 jobs per unit**. But this is just the beginning.

6. To meet our population growth and bridge the housing deficit, **Nigeria must build at least 550,000 homes annually**. At 25 jobs per unit, this translates to **over 13.7 million jobs every year**—making housing a key pillar for economic transformation and employment generation.
7. One of our most ambitious and inclusive models is the **Renewed Hope Social Housing Estates**, which aims to build **100 homes in each of Nigeria's 774 Local Government Areas**, totalling **77,400 units**. This initiative alone is projected to **create more than 1.9 million jobs**, stimulate rural economies, and bring development directly to underserved communities.
8. Beyond job creation, we are addressing **affordability** as a matter of policy. According to our Renewed Hope Social Housing Concept Note, **low-income Nigerians will pay no more than one-third of their monthly earnings** toward owning a home. The government will **absorb the remaining cost** through a mix of **targeted subsidies, tax waivers, and bulk procurement incentives**—ensuring **no one is left behind due to income status**.
9. Additionally, **30% of these social housing units will be allocated free of charge**, on an **owner-occupier basis**, to the **most vulnerable and homeless Nigerians**, as part of our rights-based approach to housing.
10. This model shows that when aligned with social equity, economic inclusion, and climate goals, **housing becomes more than shelter**—it becomes a **catalyst for national development and human dignity**.
11. Nigeria stands ready to collaborate with UN-Habitat and Member States to **scale these innovations and share good practices globally**.
12. Thank you.