

Uganda country statement at the third open ended meeting of the committee of permanent representatives of OECPR-3

Thank you Mr. chair for the leadership; and thanks to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat for the technical assistance in the organization of this meeting.

The Republic of Uganda wishes to align itself to the statement of the group of 77 as presented by Egypt, and further aligns with the statement by Mozambique on behalf of the Africa group.

Uganda welcomes the report of the Executive Director, and appreciates the steps taken regarding the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda is central to SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities which agitates for making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Uganda as chair of the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Urbanisation and Human settlements (AU STC8) takes the subject seriously and subscribes to the provisions of the New Urban Agenda through Vision 2040, the National Physical Development Plan, the National Housing Policy of 2016 and the National Urban Policy of 2017, which underscores the importance of resilient cities, orderly urban areas and sustainable human settlements development.

Over the past ten years, Uganda, has been implementing a specific program on urban infrastructure across ten cities and several municipalities that has made them more productive, resilient and inclusive. The Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development program has transformed the urban landscape through enhanced job creation. It is the intention of the government

of Uganda to continue its urban development agenda through similar programs.

Over time, Uganda has also improved on its Governance framework through democratic processes of leadership which has been very critical for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The role of stakeholder engagement and community empowerment through the concept of development forums at all levels of urban administration has been another asset in our pursuit in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and a lot has been achieved through this concept. Municipal Development Forums, which are constituted by apolitical stakeholders have been fundamental in identifying urban development agenda that puts people rather than political affiliation at the centre of development.

Mr. Chair, the Republic of Uganda reaffirms itself to working with member states in sharing experiences and best practices so that we may not leave anyone behind.

Lastly, Uganda wishes to extend its deepest appreciation to UN habitat through the Executive Director for the technical assistance in the urban development and housing sectors through various training programs, learning exchanges and other forms of collaborative working relationships.