



STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR ALL: AGENDA ITEMS ON, SOCIAL HOUSING, INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS, TENURE SECURITY AND HOUSING FINANCE

Thank you, Chair, for granting me the opportunity to take the floor. As this is my first intervention, I wish to begin by commending the establishment of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All, created pursuant to UN-Habitat Assembly Resolution 2/7, adopted in 2023. I further commend the co-chairs, Kenya and France, for their able and dedicated leadership in steering the Group since its inception. The establishment of this Expert Working Group represents a significant step forward in advancing fair housing initiatives, underscoring a shared global dedication to addressing disparities through inclusive dialogue and joint, evidence-based policymaking.

Zimbabwe reiterates its steadfast support for UN-Habitat and remains deeply committed to advancing its mandate. Thus, Zimbabwe stands ready to collaborate with Experts from Member States and partners to help realize the full transformative impact of UN-Habitat at both regional and global levels.

Zimbabwe like other countries in the sub-Saharan Africa region and beyond is grappling with challenges in human settlements development like informal settlements which are characterised by lack of basic services such as water, sewer, roads, electricity and security of tenure. From our point of view, majority of these urban challenges are attributable to rapid rural to urban migration as well as population growth. Zimbabwe, through its National Constitution, statutes and the Zimbabwe National Human Settlements Policy took deliberate steps to address the challenges with full participation of communities and all stakeholders.

This step aligns with our National Human Settlements Policy, which was launched by His Excellency, President Dr. Emmerson D. Mnangagwa in year 2021. The policy

promotes development of well planned, governed, affordable and sustainable settlements.

The country embraces all forms of legitimate financing into housing and social amenities development. For instance, Public Private Partnership structures are being implemented for the accelerated provision of requisite infrastructure and facilitation of title issuance.

We recommend that any meaningful approach to addressing urban challenges like social housing, informality and tenure security must be accompanied by deliberate and sustained attention to **rural development, which remains a critical yet often overlooked dimension.**

Thank you for your kind attention!!!