



**STATEMENT BY HON ROSEMARY NAJJEMBA TO THE  
25<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UN-  
HABITAT, NAIROBI, KENYA, 20 APRIL 2015**

Mr. President,  
The Executive Director of the UN-HABITAT,  
Honorable Ministers,  
Distinguished delegates,

**Mr. President,**

I convey greetings from the President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the people of Uganda to you all. Permit me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau upon your election to lead the Governing Council for the next two years. I want to assure you that you can count on Uganda's support as you discharge your responsibilities. I thank the Secretariat for the excellent arrangements they have made for this meeting.

My delegation would like to extend our gratitude to our host, the Republic of Kenya, for the warm hospitality so far extended to us since we arrived in your beautiful city of Nairobi. Permit me to thank the Government and people of Kenya for their generous contribution to the work of UN-HABITAT. I wish to associate my delegation with the statement just made by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of the G77 & China.

Let me now turn to the theme of this meeting, “UN HABITAT’s Contribution to the Post-2015 Development Agenda in order to promote Sustainable Urban Development and Human Settlements, ” and its two sub-themes: “Enhancing Urban Rural Linkages across the Continuum of Human Settlements to Harness the Transformative Power of Urbanization for Sustainable Development”; and Sub Theme 2: “UN HABITAT’s role in the Post-2015 Development Agenda”.

Both themes are very relevant at this point in time. Sub-theme one will help us ensure that UN-HABITAT focuses not just on sustainable urbanization and housing in cities, but also on secondary towns, market town and villages. We believe that attention to the link between the urban and rural areas is important for sub-Saharan Africa, which is rapidly urbanizing, yet it is still pre-dominantly rural.

In Uganda, the economic, social and environmental interdependence between urban and rural areas is self-evident. The Government is therefore striving to promote a balanced and mutually supportive approach to ensure country-wide development as it steps up efforts to promote the eradication of poverty and ensure sustainable development.

### **Mr. President**

The second sub theme on the role of “UN HABITAT’s in the Post-2015 Development Agenda” is indeed a timely theme for discussion at this Governing Council.

Uganda supports Goal 11 of the proposed sustainable development goals, which is, “To make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. In our view, UN-HABITAT should contribute to the development and

subsequent monitoring of the targets and indicators of this goal, respecting the mandates of relevant organizations. After its expected adoption, UN-HABITAT should use its expertise to support implementation, particularly in developing countries. This support should include technical assistance and capacity development.

In the context of both the Post-2015 Development Agenda and preparations for Habitat III, we should move away from fragmented views of sustainable urbanization. Rather, we should focus on creating a coherent view of this important phenomenon and its role in sustainable development. This is because we need cities and human settlements that are inclusive, safe, productive, resilient, and sustainable hence the need to recognize the interdependence of these critical issues.

### **Mr. President**

My Government wishes to register our appreciation for all forms of support that the UN-Habitat continues to render to developing countries, particularly Uganda, where a number of projects are ongoing. These include: the Kasoli slum upgrading project, Sustainable Transport for East Africa (SUSTRAN) Programme, the Regional Programme on the promotion of Energy efficiency, use of tools developed by the Global Land Tool Network, support to the Land Policy Implementation Unit, urban and territorial planning and strengthening one stop youth center. We hope that support to these projects will continue especially in the area of development of affordable housing, slum upgrading, urban development and physical planning.

We are grateful to the generous support of many countries that has made these projects and programmes possible. Nevertheless, we wish to express our regret about the decision of UN-HABITAT to withdraw Habitat Programme Managers from many countries

including LDCs, that need them most, at the time that they most need them.

**Mr. President**

We hope that the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Council will adopt the Draft International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning. If adopted, the Guidelines will inform ongoing national and regional spatial planning including the development of the Uganda Spatial Plan and a new legal and institutional framework for planning and management of the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area.

They will strengthen the on-going capacity building and training for our planners and managers at national and local levels in the area of integrated, inclusive and participatory planning and linking social, economic, political and environmental imperatives in our planning processes. We therefore call upon countries to support the guidelines and take this opportunity to invite you all to our side event this afternoon.

**Mr. President,**

The 25 Session of UN-HABITAT's Governing Council will approve the Proposed Work Program and Budget for the biennium 2016 to 2017. The Government and people of Uganda are grateful to member states and particularly our development partners for the support that they continue to provide to UN-HABITAT's work programme and budget.

Uganda is however concerned that UN-HABITAT continues to face serious challenges when it comes to mobilizing core funding and non-earmarked contributions to the UN-Habitat Foundation. The inability of UN-HABITAT to undertake effective fundraising to its core budget and its worsening financial situation remains a

matter of concern to us. This is especially so at a time when it must be fit to implement the post-2015 development agenda.

We call upon the Executive Director to step up efforts to mobilize resources for core funding to enable the organization to overcome this big challenge.

**Mr. President,**

At this session, the Governance Review Process will be a significant subject on our agenda. We are convinced that major structural change in the governance structure would be best discussed in the context of Habitat III. The global community will be better able to reach consensus on the best institutional arrangements to deliver the new HABITAT agenda if thorough consideration of institutional arrangements takes place hand in hand with discussions on the new agenda itself. We hope the process will also help mobilize support and political will to support for a stronger UN-HABITAT.

If the Governing Council decides to take a substantive decision on this matter at this Session, Uganda could support the establishment of a Standing Sub-Committee under the Committee of the Permanent Representatives (CPR), the inter-sessional body of the Governing Council, to address the issues of concern during the inter-sessional period. This should include resource mobilization.

**Mr. President,**

Uganda wishes to appreciate the unique and key role that UN-HABITAT has played over the years in its normative work and in the pursuit of sustainable urbanization, cities and other human

settlements. Let us make every effort to ensure that we all give the support needed to make UN-HABITAT continue to play this critical role as we move to 2016 and beyond.

I thank you for your attention.

**FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY**