

SOUTH AFRICA'S PREPARATIONS FOR HABITAT III

COMMON AFRICAN POSITION FOR HABITAT III

Habitat III Urban Breakfast
5 October 2016



Context and Background

1. Africa intends actively shaping the New Urban Agenda, in line with its vision for an African Urban Agenda which will promote the structural transformation of the continent to realise its development potential, as articulated in Agenda 2063
2. The African Union Commission facilitated a process of developing a Common African Position for Habitat III with support from the UN Economic Commission for Africa, and active participation of African experts and Ministers responsible for housing and urban development.
3. At the Africa Regional Preparatory Conference for Habitat III in Nigeria in February 2016 Ministers adopted the Common African position for Habitat III as the basis for the negotiating position of the Africa Group



Context and Background

4. The Common Position was endorsed at the AU Summit in Kigali in July 2016 through a decision of the Executive Council
5. In addition to forming the basis of the African negotiating position, the Common African position for Habitat III will also form the basis for developing AU Guidelines on housing, human settlements and urban development as part of the work of the AU Specialised Technical Committee on public service, decentralisation, local government, and urban development (STC 8)

Common African Position for Habitat III

Member States of the African Union, in adopting this Common Position:

- CONSIDER the Habitat III conference as a **unique opportunity** for the world to agree on a New Urban and Human Settlements Agenda **building on the outcomes of Habitat II and the 2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development in addressing the **unfinished business of the MDGs** in particular, the **goal of adequate shelter for all** and that Africa must seize the opportunity to fully engage the global community in shaping the New Urban Agenda in line with these international agreements including **African Union Agenda 2063**.



Common African Position for Habitat III

- **REITERATE** the continuing relevance of the twin goals of the **Habitat Agenda** namely **adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world**, and reiterate that all its aspirations have not been fully met, mainly due to the **challenges encountered** in implementing the Habitat Agenda including **limited access to housing finance, land and basic services** as well as the **continued expansion of slums and informal settlements**.



Common African Position for Habitat III

- **ACKNOWLEDGE the multi-sectoral nature of urbanization and human settlements development and the need to adopt an integrated and holistic approach in building collaborations, partnerships and alliances** with relevant government departments and institutions as well as engagement with relevant stakeholders including inter alia civil society, private sector, grassroots organizations, women, youth, people with disabilities, academia, media to facilitate delivery, financing, monitoring and evaluation of the New Urban Agenda.



Common African Position for Habitat III

- REITERATE that the **process of urbanization, and the potential embedded within it**, presents an invaluable opportunity for Africa to realize **the economic, social and spatial structural transformation** by harnessing the emerging dynamism resulting from **the urban dividend** provided by the expansion and movement of populations, resulting in urban agglomeration and concentration and recognize that institutional, cultural, economic and political transformations **can contribute to major advances** in the urban experience for Africa's diverse communities.



THE 8 PILLARS OF THE COMMON AFRICAN POSITION



LEADING CHANGE IN THE CITY: FROM SLUMS TO INTEGRATED, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Pillar 1: Harness the Potential of Urbanization to Accelerate Structural Economic Transformation and Inclusive Growth by:

- **promoting slum upgrading** to provide secure tenure, infrastructure, basic service and socio economic facilities for addressing exclusion, poverty, health, safety and improved quality of life;
- **committing adequate financial resources in the productive urban sectors** for planning and management of urban areas, investment in infrastructure and basic services for human settlements development and provision of decent and affordable housing particularly to the low income segments;
- **promoting inclusive economic growth** that translates to decent job creation as well as improved living standards for all;

Pillar 1: Harness the Potential of Urbanization to Accelerate Structural Economic Transformation and Inclusive Growth by:

- **promoting connectivity between rural and urban areas** to harness the full potential of the urban rural linkage;
- **transforming the urban economies into high productivity and value adding activities;**
- **promoting planning and investment for sustainable urban mobility systems that link people, places and economic opportunities**

Pillar 2: Link Sustainable Urban and Human Settlements Development with Resilience through:

- fostering **resilience** of human settlements, including social and economic resilience, **along the rural - urban development continuum**, and enhancing rural-urban linkages;
- adoption and domestication of the **International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning**, and effective land use planning;
- **active partnerships with the private sector** as actors of land development, for the greater public good in human settlements;
- **up-scaling participatory slum upgrading** and prevention programmes;
- **building institutional capacity** and enhance it where it exists **for urban safety, resilience and disaster risk management** recognizing that urban areas are particularly vulnerable to climate change risks;

Pillar 2: Link Sustainable Urban and Human Settlements Development with Resilience through:

- installing **early warning systems and urban observatories** for disaster risk management and mitigation;
- preserving **eco-systems** and **providing safe and inclusive urban public spaces**;
- addressing **urban pollution**, promoting **renewable energy utilization**, use of **low energy embodied construction materials**, and **improving waste management**;
- embracing **innovation** in the conceptualization, implementation and maintenance of sustainable and resilient human settlements;
- **Integrating mitigation measures throughout project cycles** in order to reduce the impact of disasters on persons in vulnerable situations;

Pillar 3: Enhance People-Centered Urban and Human Settlements Development through,

- providing **basic services to all** for equitable, inclusive and sustainable urban and human settlement development;
- **integrating gender equality and women empowerment** in urban development ;
- adopting **community driven participatory approaches** to human settlements development which originate from residents' identification of needs, and recognizes and builds upon the social capital, innovation, and resources of residents;
- ensuring **safety and security** in human settlements;

Pillar 3: Enhance People-Centered Urban and Human Settlements Development through,

- facilitating **access to urban services and housing for migrants and refugees** as part of integrated and inclusive community development;
- promoting **consultative frameworks** among all urban and human settlements stakeholders as well as promoting participatory approach in urban project implementation;
- ensuring **accessibility to housing and urban basic services for all**, including people in vulnerable situations such as people with disability, children and the elderly;

Pillar 4: Strengthening Institutions and Systems for Promoting Transformative Change in Human Settlements through:-

- adoption of integrated **National Urban Policies** including the **review of planning curriculums** in line with UN Habitat Resolution 25/6 on the **International Guidelines for Urban and Territorial Planning** and further mainstreaming urbanization into national development planning processes;
- supporting **preemptive, spatial and programmatic planning** as an effective mechanism for responding to rapid urbanization and for directing sustainable human settlements development;
- **promoting effective decentralized urban management by capacitating technically and financially local authorities** to address the challenge of rapid urbanization at the local level and to deliver adequate shelter and sustainable human settlements;

Pillar 4: Strengthening Institutions and Systems for Promoting Transformative Change in Human Settlements through:-

- **strengthening urban governance** through the creation of an **enabling environment** for efficient and effective service delivery, encompassing **appropriate legislations** and regulations, **functional institutions**, and **adequate allocation of public finance between the local and national levels**;
- developing **sound policy and regulatory frameworks** to harness **land based revenue**, to improve good land governance, **enhance gender equity**, and **ensure urban equity and sustainability**.

Pillar 5: Enhance the Contribution of Urban and Human Settlements Development to the Continental Integration Process by:-

- promoting sustainable **planning and management systems of border cities and urban corridors** within and across international boundaries;
- **expanding continental spatial development programmes** as well as regional and inter-regional infrastructure, facilities and initiatives that would promote cross boundary interaction and leverage Urban and Human Settlements assets;

Pillar 6: Enhance Africa's Global Competitiveness through Urban and Human Settlements Development

by:-

- **promoting specialization** amongst Africa's major cities with a view to maximizing the continent's value addition;
- **promoting inclusive cities** as articulated in the African Agenda 2063 through advocacy and outreach;
- striving to promote strategic synergy and forge within the continent's integration framework, a **dynamic network of urban and human settlements** that are competitive on the global platform;
- developing smart cities with **improved urban systems for improved functionality**, efficiency and effective delivery of urban basic services and infrastructure ;

Pillar 7: Enhancing Environmental Sustainability and Effective Response to Climate Change in Human Settlements by:

- strengthening **capacities for strategic response** to climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- developing **infrastructure for mitigating the impact** of landslides, inundations, coastal erosion, drought, as well as increasing heat in human settlements **especially in slums and informal settlements**;
- promoting **Green building and infrastructure** and innovation of technologies as well as the application of designs which mitigate climate change and adapt to its impact

Pillar 7: Enhancing Environmental Sustainability and Effective Response to Climate Change in Human Settlements by:

- fostering the utilization of **sustainable renewable energy resources** as well as investment in low carbon production systems in urban centres
- developing systems for **sustainable solid and liquid waste management**, including promoting the principle of reducing, reusing and recycling of resources;
- **Mainstreaming climate change issues in urban planning**

Pillar 8: Institute a Global Partnership for Sustainable Urban Management to Facilitate Implementation of the New Global Urban and Human Settlements Agenda in Africa which:

- recognizes the **importance of continued implementation of the unfinished business** of the relevant MDGs and Habitat Agenda;
- acknowledges the **importance of addressing human settlements continuum as a driving force for structural transformation**;
- establishes **appropriate financial mechanisms** including the setting up of a well-resourced **operational fund for facilitating implementation** of the new Urban and Human Settlements Agenda

Pillar 8: Institute a Global Partnership for Sustainable Urban Management to Facilitate Implementation of the New Global Urban and Human Settlements Agenda in Africa which:

- **strengthens existing institutions and arrangements for implementation;**
- **strengthens UN-Habitat in Nairobi** by universalizing its governing body, ensuring additional, stable and predictable financial resources from regular and non-regular budget from the UN, improving its ability to provide capacity building, empowering it to be the global anchor institution that leads and coordinates the entire UN system in the implementation of the mandate on urbanization and human settlements including in 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the New Urban Agenda

Thank You



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