

**TALKING POINTS FOR MR. CHARLES M. HINGA, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KENYA ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA IN
NEW YORK, 21ST APRIL 2022**

Excellences,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I would like to thank His Excellency Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of ECOSOC, for his kind invitation to address this Special Meeting. The theme for this meeting, on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, is of particular relevance to Kenya as it is part of the focus areas for development since we attained independence in 1963. Adopting sustainable approaches to urbanization so that our cities, towns, and urban areas can be equitable, inclusive, and resilient, is indeed a priority for us.
2. The Government of Kenya has submitted its report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which attests to the progress, challenges and lessons learnt in all areas of sustainable urbanization. In this regard, we have received valuable support from UN-Habitat and the international community in terms of technical assistance, access to tools and training.
3. We note that our challenges include limited financial resources, urban sprawl, increased population, high cost of land, and poor planning among others. To address these challenges, the Government of Kenya has enacted various legislations and policy documents to realize the spirit of the Constitution of Kenya 2010.
4. These documents include, among others, the Urban Areas and Cities Act (UACA) 2011 (Amended 2019), The National Urban Development Policy (NUDP), Sessional Paper No. 6 of 2016, Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2016 on National Housing Policy and National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Policy. Furthermore, the Kenya Vision 2030 blueprint, cognizant of this trend, identified

the development of six metropolitan regions to redefine the urbanization process in the country.

5. The Government of Kenya has specifically prioritized Affordable Housing Program (AHP) as one of the pillars of the Big Four Agenda. Through this program, we have made a strong commitment to catalyze housing projects that will deliver housing en masse, provide affordable home financing solutions, and create an enabling environment for continued development. Our efforts have catalyzed private sector investment in housing and we note reports from our National Construction Authority of investments of over KES 2.3 Trillion in registered housing projects between April 2017 and February 2022.
6. Through the Slum Upgrading Department, the Government has constructed social housing, developed community health centers, social and multipurpose halls, ablution blocks, schools, markets, and installed street lighting to enhance security across the country in various slums and settlements.
7. Additionally, the implementation of the Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project (KISIP), with support from the World Bank and other development partners, had allowed us to improve infrastructure, access to tenure security and related physical and spatial planning within informal settlements across 15 municipalities and a total of 1,389,980 direct beneficiaries.
8. Further, to cushion the vulnerable in the society against effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Kenya put in place a robust response approach through the National Hygiene Program (NHP) dubbed *Kazi Mtaani*. The program improved the living environment, infrastructure and provided income generation opportunities for 278,736 vulnerable youth and women in informal settlements in urban areas.
9. In conclusion, I note that the Government of Kenya is committed to sustainable urban development. Our aims are aligned to the implementation of the New

Urban Agenda as an important approach in our urban development agenda. We continue to prioritize the adoption of strategies that build inclusive human settlements, improve urban resilience, promote adaptation to climate change, and direct sufficient investment in the built environment that will ultimately achieve ecumenical development and improve living conditions and the wellbeing of urban dwellers.

I THANK YOU