

**WELCOME REMARKS BY THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF LANDS,
PUBLIC WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT MR. ZACHARIA M.
NJERU AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UN-HABITAT ON MONDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2022.**

**PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HABITAT ASSEMBLY MS. MARTHA
DELGADO,
CHAIR OF THE BUREAU OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD H.E SILVIO
ALBURQUERQUE,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICES NAIROBI MS.
ZAINAB HAWA BANGURA,
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN-HABITAT MS. MAIMUNAH MOHD
SHARIF**

**EXCELLENCIES,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;**

I AM DELIGHTED TO JOIN YOU FOR THIS SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UN-HABITAT FOR THE YEAR 2022. I WISH TO TAKE THIS EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY KENYA, AND INVITE YOU TO ENJOY OUR HOSPITALITY. ALLOW ME FROM THE ONSET TO CONGRATULATE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MS. MAIMOUNAH MOHD SHARIF FOR HER LEADERSHIP AND FOR THE EXCELLENT PREPARATIONS PUT IN PLACE FOR THIS MEETING. LET ME ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE THE CHAIR H.E THE AMBASSADOR SILVO ALBURQUERQUE OF BRAZIL ON HIS ELECTION.

KENYA IS PROUD TO HOST THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICES IN NAIROBI AND UN-HABITAT THE LEAD UNITED NATIONS AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. I WISH TO

ASSURE YOU OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FULL SUPPORT. AS THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I AM ADDRESSING YOU FOLLOWING MY APPOINTMENT I WISH TO ECHO THE RECENT STATEMENT BY H.E PRESIDENT WILLIAM RUTO AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY REITERATING KENYA'S SUPPORT TO MULTILATERALISM AND STRENGTHENING UN-HABITAT.

EXCELLENCIES

THIS SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE THAT MEMBER STATES ATTACH TO ENSURING AN EFFICIENT AND SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION ABLE TO MEET ITS RESPONSIBILITIES; PROVIDE CLEAR GUIDANCE TO MEMBER STATES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF URBAN POLICIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 11 ENSURING THAT "NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND."

I NOTE WITH CONCERN THAT THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN-HABITAT HAVE BEEN BELOW PAR, MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR THE ORGANIZATION TO EFFECTIVELY DELIVER ON ITS NORMATIVE WORK. I URGE MEMBER STATES TO PROVIDE THE MUCH NEEDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT ESPECIALLY FOR THE FOUNDATION NON EARMARKED FUNDS.

SINCE OUR LAST EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING WE HAVE ACCELERATED OUR EFFORTS TO MEET SDG 11 AT THE RECENT MEETINGS NAMELY:THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON THE NEW URBAN AGENDA, THE WORLD URBAN FORUM, AFRI-CITIES WHERE WE DISCUSSED THE ROLE OF INTERMEDIARY CITIES AND AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHERE MEMBER STATES FINALIZED A RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME AND THE NEW URBAN AGENDA AND FINALLY THE JUST CONCLUDED COP 27 WHICH EMPHASIZED CLIMATE CHANGE IN OUR URBAN AREAS.

THESE EVENTS HAVE BEEN TIMELY AND PROVIDE FRESH IMPETUS TO FAST TRACKING OUR COMMITMENTS TO URBANIZATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. WE LOOK TO THE 2ND UN HABITAT ASSEMBLY IN JUNE 2023 TO FURTHER REDEFINE NEW DIRECTION CENTRAL TO URBANIZATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.

IN LINE WITH THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE ABOVE GLOBAL AGENDAS, THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA HAS PRIORITIZED AFFORDABLE HOUSING AS ONE OF ITS KEY AGENDAS. IT TARGETS TO DELIVER 250,000 LOW-COST HOUSING UNITS ANNUALLY, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON SLUM UPGRADING AND PREVENTION AND INCREASING SOCIAL HOUSING. THE INTERVENTIONS IN THE HOUSING SECTOR INCLUDE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS IN THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY SIDES OF HOUSING WHICH ENTAIL MOBILIZATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING FINANCE; LAND IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION AND REVIEW OF LEGISLATION TO HASTEN THE DELIVERY OF HOUSING.

WITH REGARD TO SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE GOVERNMENT IS IMPLEMENTING THE KENYA URBAN SUPPORT PROGRAM II (KUSP II), WHICH COVERS 59 MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN 45 COUNTIES. WE ARE ALSO IMPLEMENTING THE KENYA URBAN MOBILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WHICH AIMS AT IMPROVING URBAN MOBILITY SERVICES IN KENYA WITH RESILIENT AND GREEN TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR ADVANCING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

EXCELLENCIES

I WISH TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO UN-HABITAT FOR PARTNERING WITH US IN OUR DEVELOPMENT AGENDA BY PROVIDING CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING ON REPORTING FOR THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND OUR COUNTIES ON THE NEW URBAN AGENDA , PROJECTS ON SPATIAL LAND PLANNING, THE ONGOING NAIROBI RIVER REGENERATION INITIATIVE AND THE GO-BLUE ECONOMY PROJECT FOR THE EIGHT COASTAL COUNTIES AS WELL THE COVID -19 RESPONSE INITIATIVE IN OUR INFORMAL SECTORS. I LOOK FORWARD TO LAUNCHING THE NEW 2023-2026 KENYA HABITAT COUNTRY PROGRAMME WHICH SHOULD SERVE TO PROMOTE THE GOVERNMENT'S BOTTOM UP APPROACH AND VISION 2030.

AS WE EMBARK ON THE SESSION'S AGENDA THAT IS BEFORE US, I WISH YOU FRUITFUL DELIBERATIONS AS I REASSURE YOU OF KENYA'S CONTINUED COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT TO UN-HABITAT.

I THANK YOU.

**ZACHARIA M. NJERU
CABINET SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF LANDS, PUBLIC WORKS,
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**