

**STATEMENT FOR MALAWI DURING THE FIRST UN-HABITAT COMMITTEE
OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES HIGH LEVEL MIDTERM REVIEW
MEETING FROM 29 JUNE TO 1 JULY 2021**

Chairperson

President of the UN-Habitat Assembly

Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Distinguished delegates

Let me start by thanking you Chair and the Bureau of UN-Habitat CPR for the work done to ensure that this meeting is orderly. Allow me to also thank the Secretariat of UN-Habitat led by the Executive Director, Madam Maimunah Mohd Sharif, for the support provided to the CPR Bureau and the regional groups during the preparatory stages of this first CPR High-Level Midterm Review meeting of UN-Habitat.

Malawi aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China as well as on behalf of the African Group.

Malawi wishes to appreciate the review report by the Secretariat and the work done so far in the implementation of resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly during its first session in 2019.

As part of its support to the work of UN-Habitat Malawi submitted its progress report on the implementation of the new urban agenda and re-commits to continue honouring its voluntary annual contributions to the foundation non-earmarked budget of UN-Habitat.

The country, with support from UN-Habitat and other partners is implementing projects on urban and climate resilience in different cities. These projects are being implemented under the Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project as a direct response and intervention to the implementation of the National Urban Policy, which is a national policy instrument for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Other activities at National level of the projects include the development of guidelines for the development of green cities in Malawi with emphasis on climate adaptation and development of policy documents for building urban resilience, with focus on climate-related risk

With regard to slum upgrading programmes, the country developed a concept and proposal for implementation of a slum upgrading project. The project aims at Improving Shelter and the Living Conditions of the Poor and Vulnerable Households in Malawian Cities and human settlements. This will be done

through the provision of better housing infrastructure, basic services such as water, access roads, sanitary infrastructures, social and economic infrastructure as well as improving people's livelihoods.

Before conclusion, Malawi would like to urge caution on the use of certain terminology regarding the ongoing meeting, specifically referring to it as a hybrid meeting. Malawi believes that this is a virtual or online meeting. A similar arrangement whereby Chairs of regional and political groups were in these very same premises in CR 2, under UNEA 5.12, but that arrangement was never referred to as a hybrid meeting. Referring to this meeting as being hybrid has particular implications and is precedence setting in problematic manner.

That said, Malawi approaches this virtual engagement, with some reservations, given the various challenges that are associated with online engagement. And also recalling the African group position on having no negotiations in a virtual format.

I thank you Chair for the opportunity to speak.