

Position Paper for the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

I. Strengthening Pathways for the Implementation of International Standards for Sustainable Urban Development

By 2050, 70% of the world population is expected to be in urban areas, therefore the environmental impact and livelihood of the people are to be affected. The International Organization of Standardization has set up parameters on what makes a city sustainable, for example in the aspects of environment, transportation, urban planning and health. UN- HABITAT has been doing projects with several countries in different aspects involving sustainable cities, when it comes safer cities, urban planning, and addressing climate change and the urban environment. In addition to that in the “Sustainable Development Goals” goal 11, make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

The Republic of Kenya, has noticed that around 48% of its population in its city of Nairobi walk and cycle to work, and that 70% of its road fatalities are in its pedestrians. To answer this Kenya has pushed for a Non-Motorized Transport Policy (NMT). This policy improves and integrates road policies and construction of NMT roads for accessibility and safest of NMT users. Moreover, the policy is also used in solving traffic congestion and decreasing the environmental impact caused by the MT users. In addition, Kenya has been doing initiatives and facilitating constructions of suitable housing that is still in the process, the objective is to provide improved living of slum dwellers. Moreover, the Ministry of Land, Housing & Urban Development, promotes for the use of soil block technology

The Republic of Kenya, suggests to the international community that a universally accepted parameters should be made, and Kenya promotes 3 pillars to this parameters. The 3 Pillars are on firstly transportation which will involve Kenya’s NMT policy, Secondly Food which will follow the projects and programs done by the Kenyan Institute of Organic Farming, and finally housing which shall involve Kenya’s projects involving soil block technology. The agreed upon parameters of the international body will be monitored by UN-Habitat, and shall also receive reports and inspections, with a certification rating to see how your country has improved, and how sustainable your cities and urban development have become. A city is where the main source of growth and development happens, and through sustainability, the world can keep on living.

II. Financing Technology Transfer in Urban Development

With the number of urban areas growing more each day, and the expected number of people to live within them will become more than half than the world’s population. The international community has been finding ways on how financing technology transfer within communities will happen to improve urban development within the world. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has been working on technology transfer for states, and funding that could be used through its Green Climate Fund. The Sustainable Development Goals also has its own funding mechanism that can be used in attaining Urban Development due to Goal 11, which is to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

The Republic of Kenya, to answer the call in Financing Technology Transfer within its Urban Development and with the cooperation of the World Bank, has made the Climate innovation Center in Kenya which helps provide assistance, and financing for Small and Medium Enterprises when it comes to climate mitigation and adaptation solutions, which is also involved on urban development. The Kenya has also been involved and became the host of the CTI Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN) Africa Workshop on Adaptation Financing on July 2012, which gathered 80 climate change experts, investors

and project developers which involved discussions of financing especially upon microfinance, and micro-insurance. This initiative is also in cooperation with the UNFCCC Expert Group on Technology Transfer.

The Republic of Kenya recognizes the problem of the proper financing of technology transfer within nations for a sustainable urban development. Kenya recommends the further use and improvement of accessibility to the SDG Fund and the Green Climate Fund of the UNFCCC. Kenya also recommends the use of microfinance, and micro-insurance for an increased accessibility of financing to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, which can be in cooperation with the Climate innovation Center in Kenya. In addition, it also to be monitored and supervises by the UNFCCC Expert Group on Technology Transfer and the UNHABITAT in making sure the proper access and transfer of finance for urban development.