NAIROBI DECLARATION
[23. 3. 12]

We the African Ministers responsible for housing and urban development, meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, from 22 to 23 March 2012, to deliberate on the theme: Territorial Planning and Access to Basic Services for all with a sub-theme on implications of climate change for Territorial Planning and Access to Basic Services in Africa;

Recalling the Decision by the African Union Assembly on promoting the development of sustainable cities and towns in Africa (Assembly/AU/Dec.29 (II) of 2003 and the Durban Declaration of 2005 which was the first meeting of the African Ministers of Housing and Urban Development which resolved to champion and support innovative urban development and land management in Africa and as such, established the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD), as a consultative mechanism on the promotion of sustainable human settlements in Africa;

Further recalling specifically Operative paragraph 5 of the Durban Declaration on AMCHUD 2005 which decided “to establish the African Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) as the consultative mechanism on the promotion of sustainable development of Human settlements in Africa, under the auspices of the African Union.”;

Acknowledging that AMCHUD is open to all African countries with the support and partnership of UN-Habitat

Acknowledging also the role of UN-Habitat in supporting African Countries to address challenges posed by rapid urbanization

Also recalling the Abuja Plan of Action of 2008 which urged Governments to use land for leveraging resources in the provision of housing and infrastructure;

Further recalling the Bamako Declaration and Action Plan of November 2010 which spelt out the commitment of African Governments to improve land governance to tackle housing and sustainable urban development challenges;

Committing ourselves to promoting territorial planning that goes beyond infrastructure provision and ensures that all services are integrated in a coherent city-wide spatial framework with a view to reducing urban poverty and inequality, fostering productivity and protecting the environment;

Recognizing the inefficiency and ineffectiveness of traditional master plans and the required evolution towards more strategic city-wide planning that is more participatory, inclusive and linked to budgeting processes;

Recognizing further, the key role that urban planning plays in guiding, coordinating and synergizing and mobilizing investment in basic services and its power through Plot Layouts to promote cross subsidization and other forms of increasing access to basic services;

Acknowledging the implications of climate change for territorial planning and access to basic services, and the need for integrating adaptation and mitigation measures in planning frameworks of African Cities in the face of growing threats of floods, sea-level rise and landslides, coastal erosion, and increasing greenhouse gas emissions;

Aware of efforts being made by our respective governments to address the impact of climate change by introducing innovative reforms for improving territorial planning and access to basic services for all;
Recalling operative paragraph 18 of the Durban Declaration on AMCHUD 2005, which requests “the African Union to mainstream issues of housing and urban development in the structure of the African Union by establishing a Specialised Technical Committee for the sector, including rendering related political and other forms of support to AMCHUD and giving a high prominence to the challenges of urban development in the NEPAD programme.”

Noting the African Union Assembly decision, Assembly/AU/Dec227/(XII) of February 2009, on the reconfiguration of the Specialized Technical Committees (STC), which establishes a Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralisation;

Also noting the adoption by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in 2007 of the International Guidelines on Decentralization and in 2009 of the International Guidelines on Access to Basic Services, the two normative documents constituting a commitment by all Member States of the United Nations to clear and universal principles of good city management, as well as blueprint for further national action;

Mindful of the need for us, as members of AMCHUD, to intensify regional and national consultations and prepare common positions for the forthcoming Rio+20 in June 2012; the 6th World Urban Forum (WUF) in September 2012; and the Habitat III Conference in 2016;

1) Express our profound gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Kenya for efforts made in convening and hosting the 4th African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD 4), and for offering to host a permanent Secretariat for the same;

2) Pay tribute to UN-Habitat for the arrangements made in preparing and supporting this meeting, and contributing to its financing;

3) Convey appreciation to the outgoing Chair and Bureau of AMCHUD for sustaining the organization during the past two years;

4) Commend the Expert Group which supported the Ministers and prepared the “Nairobi Pact” taking into account technical papers and exchange of country experiences;

5) Reaffirm our commitment to ensure that there is proper and effective coordination between and within all levels of Government especially with regard to the Government Departments responsible for institutional planning and those responsible for basic services so that the full potential of territorial planning as a major and indispensable tool to facilitate access to basic services for all and to mitigate against the effects of climate change can be realized;

6) Commit ourselves to create National Urban Forums as a means to strengthen partnerships between our governments and all stakeholders and to build a consensus for responding effectively to the challenges of rapid urbanization;

7) Further commit ourselves to strengthening and developing transformative National Urban Policy and adopting strategies for realizing smarter and more sustainable urban development through reconfiguration of space, infrastructure and flows in new urban development and retrofitting existing cities, resulting into compact, mixed use, high density development that is walkable and bicycle friendly, and transit oriented;

8) Decide on the composition and membership of the Bureau as follows:

- Chair of Bureau: Kenya
- First Vice Chair: Benin
- Second Vice Chair: Cameroun
- Third Vice Chair: Sudan
- Fourth Vice Chair: Namibia
- Rapporteur: Algeria
- Mali as the Honorary Co-chair
- Togo as the alternate Bureau member for West Africa

1 “Nairobi Pact” refers to the documents attached to this Declaration to which were deliberated upon at the Ministerial Level Meetings and which emanated from the Expert Group Meetings.
• Central African Republic as the alternate Bureau member for Central Africa
• Uganda as the alternate Bureau member for East Africa
• Morocco as the alternate member for North Africa, and
• South Africa remains a permanent honorary vice-chair

9) Recognize with appreciation the support of the Government of South Africa and other African Union Member States since the launch of AMCHUD, including the hosting of the Secretariat;

10) Confirms the Establishment of a Permanent Secretariat to be hosted by the Government of Kenya

11) Invites UN-Habitat to continue supporting the Kenyan Government in the establishment and thereafter the operationalization of a Permanent Secretariat of AMCHUD including through technical, financial and logistical support;

12) Further request the Bureau to expedite the finalization of AMCHUD institutional arrangements in cooperation with the Secretariat;

13) Resolve to implement the attached “Nairobi Pact” outlining key decisions taken during the proceedings of this meeting and recommending concrete actions by national governments, the AMCHUD Bureau and Secretariat, and UN-Habitat;

14) Requests the Chair of AMCHUD to report to the Summit of Heads of State and Governments of the African Union at its next Ordinary Session, on the outcome of AMCHUD 4;

15) Accept the offer of the Government of Chad to host the next Ordinary Session of AMCHUD in March 2014 at a venue to be determined;

16) Request the Chair to take the necessary action towards establishing AMCHUD as a Specialized Technical Committee (STC) of the African Union as envisioned in paragraph 18 of the Durban Declaration of 2005;

17) Invites UN-Habitat to continue providing technical support to AMCHUD as appropriate.

[Adopted on 23 March 2012]