Republic of Zambia

COUNTRY REPORT ON PROGRESS ON URBAN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

PRESENTED AT THE 23RD SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UN-HABITAT IN NAIROBI, KENYA: 12TH APRIL 2011

PRESENTED BY

HON. BRIG-GEN. DR. BRIAN CHITUWO (RTD), GCDS, MP
MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & HOUSING
1. Mr. President, On behalf of the Zambian Delegation and indeed on my own behalf let me congratulate you on your election and that of other bureau members. Further, I thank the Kenyan Government for the hospitality that will be remembered for the years to come.

2. Mr. President, the 22nd Governing Council of UN-Habitat held in April 2009, whose theme was “Promoting affordable housing finance systems in an Urbanising world in the face of the global financial crisis and climate change”, a number of resolutions were passed which shaped Zambia’s programmes.

3. Equally, this year’s theme, “Sustainable Urban Development through expanding access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure” fits well into our developmental programmes and projects.

4. Mr. President, as you may be aware; Zambia is one of the highly urbanized Sub Saharan African countries where approximately 60% live in urban areas.

5. As expected, rapid urbanisation has put pressure on the provision of adequate and decent housing and other basic services to the majority of our fellow citizens. Currently Zambia has deficit of about 1.5 million housing units.

6. This has resulted in the mushrooming of unplanned settlements where access to decent housing, clean and safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and other basic services is low;
7. To address the challenge of urban housing development, my government is currently revising the National Housing Policy of 1996 and the Town and Country Planning Act to make them appropriate to the current demands of adequate urban housing development.

8. Mr. President, paramount among the reforms is the revision of the land policy to, among other measures, improve women and vulnerable groups' access to land. One of the key provisions is that at least 30% of land shall be reserved for women;

9. For sustainable development, we have developed comprehensive and integrated Urban Development Plans through participatory planning so that the intended beneficiaries are involved in the planning and development processes. These plans take into account basic municipal services such as decent housing units, provision of clean and safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, roads, street lighting, solid waste management facilities, etc.

10. Mr. President, Zambia has also established a Land Development Fund for Local Authorities to open up land for sustainable urban development.

11. This initiative is within the context of the National Low Cost Housing Development Programme which is a pro-poor national housing programme;
12. Each Local Authority has been advised to reserve at least 100 hectares of land for the development of low cost housing units.

13. To facilitate partnership in housing development and other infrastructure development, my government has enacted a Public-Private Partnership Act, which has culminated in the establishment of the Public-Private Partnership unit to facilitate public-private partnership involvement in infrastructure development, including housing.

14. We hope, Mr. President, to facilitate sustainable urban development through this legal and institutional framework.

15. We are however seeking partnerships with multi-lateral partners such as UN-Habitat and the Public and Private Sector to support our urban development and renewal programmes and strategies for sustainable development.

16. I want to take this opportunity, Mr. President, to acknowledge a loan of 6.5 million United States Dollars for construction of 345 housing units that has been extended to Zambia by Shelter Afrique.
17. In an effort to make Zambia Green and promote sustainable development, my government has developed and is implementing the Make Zambia Clean and Healthy Programme. This Programme aims at promoting Forest Conservations and Reforestation, provision of clean and safe drinking water, solid waste management, just to mention, but a few focus areas.

18. These programmes and measures, Mr. President, are aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and our National Vision 2030 of developing Zambia into a prosperous middle income country by that year.

I thank you.