



**FEDERAL MINISTRY
OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Event Bulletin



UN-HABITAT COMMENDS NIGERIA'S COMMITMENT TO TACKLING HUMAN SETTLEMENT CHALLENGES

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UN-HABITAT COMMENDS NIGERIA'S COMMITMENT TO TACKLING HUMAN SETTLEMENT CHALLENGES

As Dangiwa Announces FG's \$500,000 Contribution to UN-Habitat Country Office to Boost Multi-Bilateral Fund Mobilization, Advisory Services, and Technical Capacity for Housing and Urban Development



The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has commended Nigeria for its commitment to fostering transformative change in human settlements and improving urban environments.

The new Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Anaclaudia Rossbach, gave the commendation yesterday in Nairobi, Kenya, during the opening session of the second meeting of the 2024 Executive Board, chaired by Nigeria's Minister of

Housing and Urban Development, Arc. Ahmed Musa Dangiwa.

She praised Nigeria's effective leadership of the UN-Habitat Executive Board and lauded Arc. Dangiwa for his focused stewardship as Chair. Ms. Rossbach also expressed gratitude for Nigeria's recent approval of a \$500,000 contribution to UN-Habitat.

"I greatly appreciate Nigeria's commitment, exemplified by the Chair of the Executive Board, Arc. Ahmed Musa Dangiwa, in advancing the mandate of UN-Habitat. Nigeria's approval of \$500,000 to UN-Habitat reflects its dedication to our partnership. This funding will bolster the UN-Habitat Country Office in Nigeria, enhancing its capacity to provide multi-level support for achieving Nigeria's housing and urban development goals," she stated.

Earlier, Arc. Dangiwa, in his opening remarks at the Executive Board Meeting, announced that His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, had approved the Ministry's request for a \$500,000 contribution to UN-Habitat. This aligns with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Nigeria and UN-Habitat for the period 2022–2027. The amount covers the outstanding Tranche 1 contribution for 2022–2023.

Under the MoU, UN-Habitat is tasked with working with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development towards mobilizing technical expertise, capacity, and financial resources at national, regional, and international levels to drive impactful projects. The MoU also supports the development and implementation of projects and activities, provision of technical advisory services, and capacity-building assistance to federal, state, and local governments. Additionally, UN-Habitat will help foster partnerships and establish effective collaboration with bilateral and multilateral development partners.

"We recognize the critical importance of enhanced funding to support UN-Habitat's objectives and appreciate the contributions of member states and partners in this regard. Nigeria remains steadfast in its commitment to UN-Habitat. Just last week, our President approved a \$500,000 contribution to cover Nigeria's

outstanding obligations for 2022–2023, reaffirming our dedication to the organization through our partnership framework," Dangiwa stated.

The Hon. Minister added that the Ministry is determined to maximize the value of its relationships with bi-lateral institutions such as the UN Habitat towards actualizing the Renewed Hope Agenda for housing and urban development. He acknowledged the support of delegates, and the progress achieved during Nigeria's tenure as Chair of the Executive Board. Notable accomplishments include evaluating progress in implementing Assembly resolutions, reviewing the organization's work plan and budget, and advancing the strategic plan for 2026–2029.

"These milestones are expected to strengthen the realization of the global vision for human settlements at the national level. The emphasis on the sustainability and inclusiveness of the strategic plan is particularly reassuring," he added.

Signed
Mark Chieshe
SA Media & Strategy
Hon. Minister of Housing and
Urban Development

DANGIWA SEEKS INCREASED UN-HABITAT SUPPORT FOR NIGERIA'S NATIONAL URBAN RENEWAL AND SLUM UPGRADE PROGRAMME

Announces Plans for Nigeria's First National Urban Forum Mid 2025



In a bid to strengthen Nigeria's efforts in addressing urban development challenges, the Hon. Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Arc. Ahmed Musa Dangiwa, has called for increased support and collaboration from UN-Habitat.

Speaking during a working lunch with the new Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Anaclaudia Roszbach, on the sidelines of the 2nd Session of the 2024 UN-Habitat Executive Board Meeting in Nairobi, the Minister emphasized the urgency of addressing Nigeria's housing and urban challenges.

Arc. Dangiwa underscored the critical state of housing in Nigeria, noting that over 75% of the country's 42 million housing units are substandard, with nearly half of the population living in informal settlements. To address these challenges, he highlighted the Federal Government's National Urban Renewal and Slum Upgrade Programme (NURSUP), which has completed

projects at 54 sites nationwide, with 56 additional projects underway. These efforts aim to improve essential infrastructure such as water supply, solar-powered streetlights, access roads, drainage systems, and waste management solutions.

The Minister stressed the importance of robust partnerships with international organizations like UN-Habitat to scale up these initiatives. "Our collaboration with UN-Habitat is critical. With your support, we aim to expand and enhance Nigeria's National Urban Renewal and Slum Upgrade Programme to deliver transformative outcomes for our people," he stated.

As part of Nigeria's commitment to the global urban agenda, Arc. Dangiwa announced plans to host the country's first National Urban Forum in June or July 2025. The forum will bring together stakeholders—including government

representatives, urban planners, developers, civil society organizations, and development partners—to discuss Nigeria's urban development strategies and align them with the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

The NUA, adopted at the Habitat III Conference in 2016, is a global framework guiding urbanization toward sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience. It emphasizes equitable access to housing, infrastructure, and services while advocating for compact, well-connected urban areas to reduce sprawl and enhance mobility. The NUA prioritizes climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and participatory urban governance, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 11. Its principles are central to Nigeria's efforts under the Renewed Hope Agenda, driving sustainable housing and urban renewal.

Arc. Dangiwa also highlighted Nigeria's leadership in urban transformation, noting President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's approval of \$500,000 to support UN-Habitat.

"Nigeria's Renewed Hope Agenda aligns with the global urban agenda, and we are committed to driving meaningful change through partnerships with organizations like UN-Habitat," said the Minister. He expressed optimism about finalizing a comprehensive partnership framework within six months, with plans to sign the agreement during the National Urban Forum.

In her remarks, Ms. Rossbach praised Nigeria's leadership role in urbanization and the Federal Government's contributions to UN-Habitat initiatives, including \$3 million toward the African Urban Agenda Programme (2013–2016). She affirmed that Nigeria remains a top priority for the agency and acknowledged the government's active participation in global urbanization dialogues, such as WUF12 in Cairo and the inaugural Africa Urban Forum.

Ms. Rossbach also highlighted UN-Habitat's ongoing efforts to align its work plan with Nigeria's strategic priorities, including a national urban renewal strategy and improved land administration systems. She assured the Minister of UN-Habitat's commitment to strengthening its operations in Nigeria and maximizing the impact of the government's \$500,000 contribution.

Additionally, she announced that UN-Habitat is negotiating a €10 million grant with the European Union for urban integration projects in Northern Nigeria, alongside other partnerships with the World Bank and Ekiti State for urban planning and investment. She proposed a high-level visit to Nigeria in 2025 to coincide with the launch of a large-scale urban intervention programme.

"UN-Habitat assures the Honourable Minister that, in partnership with the UN Country Team, the agency is committed to supporting Nigeria in addressing its developmental and urbanization challenges sustainably. This aligns with the SDGs by facilitating better access to inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements," she said.

Arc. Dangiwa's efforts reflect Nigeria's dedication to leveraging its partnership with UN-Habitat to drive transformative outcomes. "Nigeria is committed to advancing sustainable urbanization and improving the lives of our citizens through robust initiatives and strategic collaborations," said the Minister.

Signed
Mark Chieshe
SA Media and Strategy to Hon. Minister
of Housing and Urban Development

REMARKS BY THE HON. MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AT A WORKING LUNCH WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UN-HABITAT, MS. ANACLAUDIA ROSSBACH, ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024, IN NAIROBI, ON THE SIDELINES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 2024 UN-HABITAT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

1. We are now into the second day of deliberations, and I am pleased to note the progress we have made on our agenda. The engagements have been constructive, respectful, and focused on enhancing the institutional capacity of our great organization to create a greater global impact.

2. Madam Executive Director, I believe this progress is largely due to the clarity of your vision as the leader of UN-Habitat. Your capacity to lead, mobilize, and coordinate your team toward fulfilling the organization's mandate is truly commendable.

3. One thing is clear: the challenges UN-Habitat seeks to address in human settlements are immense and global. Over the years since its establishment, the organization has made significant strides and created meaningful impact.

4. However, much more remains to be done. Achieving this requires adequate financing. It is, therefore, imperative that we find creative and innovative ways to encourage member states and donors to contribute more to financing our activities while unlocking capital from the private sector.

5. I believe that as we create more impact, we will unlock greater financial support from national governments. This should be a key focus of our Strategic Action Plan. Let us explore all possible avenues for financing the organization and strengthen our collaborations with other UN bodies and the private sector, including the Sustainable Cities and Communities Foundation (SCCF).

6. In Nigeria, we are fortunate to have a president who recognizes the critical importance of housing and urban development. For the first time in a long while, we now have a standalone ministry dedicated to this sector. We are committed to making a sustainable difference in addressing our significant housing deficit, estimated at over 20 million units. Through our Renewed Hope Cities and Estates Programme, we aim to construct 50,000 housing units in Phase One.

7. As we speak, over 10,112 units are under construction across 13 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

8. Recent industry surveys reveal that 75% of the 42 million housing units in Nigeria—equivalent to 31.6 million units—are substandard. Additionally, nearly 50% of our population lives in informal settlements and slums without access to basic services.

9. Addressing the housing challenge in Nigeria requires a dual approach: upgrading existing housing through urban renewal and constructing new units. This is the path we have taken with our National Urban Renewal and Slum Upgrade Programme (NURSUP). Under Phase One, we have completed projects at 54 sites nationwide and have 56 ongoing projects across the six geopolitical zones. These initiatives include providing essential services such as water supply, solar streetlights, rehabilitated access roads, drainage systems, and waste management solutions.

10. We are also making significant progress in establishing a National Social Housing Fund (NSHF) to ensure that all Nigerians—including low-income, no-income, vulnerable, and underprivileged groups—have access to decent and dignified housing.

11. Beyond housing supply, we are improving our land administration system. In collaboration with the World Bank, we are implementing a National Land Documentation, Registration, and Titling Programme to increase land formalization from less than 6% to 50% within five years.

12. Madam Executive Director, as you can see, Nigeria has a robust programme for housing and urban development. This is why our collaboration with UN-Habitat is so critical. As we work to make UN-Habitat bigger and more impactful, Nigeria seeks to maximize and significantly increase the value we derive from this partnership, in alignment with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda.

13. The \$500,000 approved by Mr. President in his second year is a testament to Nigeria's commitment to supporting UN-Habitat.

14. As a ministry, we are eager to work with UN-Habitat to create a Robust, Signature Partnership to expand and scale up Nigeria's National Urban Renewal and Slum Upgrade Programme (NURSUP). With your support we hope that the Team from Nigeria and those from UN Habitat can work together to finalize the partnership agreement so that we can have a document to sign within the next six months.

15. As Nigeria prepares for the next New Urban Agenda (NUA) reporting cycle, we plan to organize our first National Urban Forum in June or July 2025. This is in fulfilment of a key New Urban agenda requirement and will together stakeholders to discuss Nigeria's urban agenda.

16. Madam ED, we would request and will be happy to have attend this Forum to share your insights with our stakeholders. I am also hoping that by then we would have finalized the framework for Nigeria's enhanced partnership with UN Habitat so that we can sign it on that day to officially mark a new dawn of collaboration.

17. In conclusion, Madam Executive Director, I commend you for the remarkable work you have started doing as the head of UN-Habitat. Your leadership inspires confidence, and we are optimistic about the organization's future under your stewardship. While the challenges ahead are formidable, they are not insurmountable. With visionary leadership, innovative financing, and strategic partnerships, we can build sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities.

18. I have no doubt that you will lead UN-Habitat to greater heights of impact, and Nigeria stands ready to support you in every possible way. We are proud to be an active contributor to this mission and look forward to a partnership that delivers transformative outcomes for our people and the global community.

Thank you.

OPENING STATEMENT OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT/CHAIR OF THE UN-HABITAT EXECUTIVE BOARD, ARC. AHMED MUSA DANGIWA AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HOLDING IN NAIROBI, KENYA.

Your Excellencies,

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure, Republic of Kenya,
Director, United Nations Organisations in Nairobi (UNON),
Under Secretary General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat, Ms. Anaclaudia Rossbach
Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Michal Mlynar,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. First, I would like to thank President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency, William Samoei Ruto and the people of Kenya for the warm welcome and the great hospitality that they have extended to all of us who came for this Executive Board Meeting.

2. It is my pleasure to welcome you all as Chair of this second session of the 2024 UN-Habitat Executive Board. On behalf of the Bureau, I would like to thank you for remaining committed to the huge responsibility entrusted to this Executive Board on behalf of the entire world as we drive the mandate and vision of this great institution.

3. As this is my first formal engagement since the appointment of the Executive Director, I want to take this moment to warmly congratulate the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and the Executive Director

of UN-Habitat, Ms. Anaclaudia Rossbach.

4. Madam ED, your appointment is well deserved and based on your impressive pedigree and track record of contributions to the Human Settlements agenda globally. Please accept my personal best wishes, as well as those of my country and delegation, for a successful tenure as Executive Director. We assure you of the continued support of Nigeria to UN-Habitat under your leadership.

5. I also want to sincerely appreciate and commend Mr. Michal Mlynar, who served this institution effectively in an acting capacity. He competently coordinated activities of the organization across several fora, including during the first session of the Executive Board Meeting for the year. Mr. Michal, we appreciate you.

6. I am pleased to note the initial steps that our new Executive Director has taken so far towards moving this organization forward. This includes engagements at the inaugural African Urban Forum (AUF) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; the United Nations General Assembly; WUF12 in Cairo, Egypt; COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan; as well as at several other activities in the past few months since she assumed duty.

7. The outcome speaks volumes about the efforts put in and the competence of our ED, and (I believe I speak for most member states). We are all assured of your passion and

commitment to UN Habitat and zeal for pragmatic implementation of the UN Habitat mandate and attention to the concerns of both developed and developing member states alike.

8. Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, I acknowledge your support and contributions during Nigeria's tenure as Chair of the Executive Board, and the progress we have collectively made. Notable ones are considerations of the progress in the balanced implementation of the Assembly resolutions, the consideration of the organization's workplan and budget, as well as the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026-2029. These are all expected to further strengthen the actualization of the global human settlements vision at the national levels. In this regard, the emphasis on the sustainability of the strategic plan and its inclusiveness is most reassuring.

9. We continue to recognize the importance of increased funding for the noble objectives of UN-Habitat, and the contributions of member states and partners in this regard. Nigeria is also renewing its commitment to UN-Habitat. Just last week our President, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, approved the sum of \$1.5 million USD towards clearing Nigeria's outstanding contribution as part of efforts to strengthen its commitment to the organization.

10. Furthermore, we appreciate the need to open up as many opportunities as possible for this organization. We therefore look forward to receiving the progress reports on our collaborations with other UN bodies as

well as the private sector, including the updates on the Sustainable Cities and Communities Foundation (SCCF).

11. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all of you as members of this Board, as well as to the various regional and political groups, the ad hoc working groups, and the Secretariat for your support in the preparations for this second session of the Executive Board for 2024. I wish us all very fruitful deliberations.

12. Thank you very much.

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UN-HABITAT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, ARC AHMED MUSA DANGIWA FNIA

Excellencies, Distinguished members of the Executive Board,

1. At every level of consideration, this second 2024 Session of the Board Meeting has been productive. Our engagements have been constructive, respectful, and focused on enhancing the institutional capacity of our great organization to create a greater global impact.
2. Of course, as with every meeting of this nature, we have had some challenging moments. But through the experience, expertise, knowledge of delegates we have been able to come to constructive conclusions through compromise and understanding. That for me is the spirit that underscores the essence of UN-Habitat. I understand that here at UNON, Member States call it the Nairobi Spirit.
3. As we conclude the meeting today, I want to sincerely commend all of you for your cooperation, your maturity, and your valuable contributions.
4. On behalf of the Board, I extend our sincere gratitude for your commitment, and collective efforts in addressing the pressing challenges and opportunities facing urban development globally.
5. As we look ahead, I am confident that the outcomes of this session will guide our organization to greater achievements and contribute in specific ways to the preparations towards the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
6. Madam Executive Director, we deeply appreciate your leadership of UN-Habitat. Your capacity to lead, mobilize, and coordinate your team toward fulfilling the organization's mandate is truly commendable. And as I said during my opening remarks, you have our full support.
7. With these thoughts, I formally declare the 2024 second session of the Executive Board closed.
8. Thank you all and I wish you safe journeys back to your various destinations.



The second session of the Executive Board for 2024

4-6 DECEMBER

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