

KENYA’S COUNTRY POSITION PAPER FOR THE 9TH EDITION OF THE AFRICITIES SUMMIT

A

THEME:

“The Role of Intermediary Cities of Africa in the Implementation of Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and the African Union Agenda 2063”

KISUMU - KENYA

MAY 17 - 21ST, 2022

Purpose: For use by the Kenyan Delegations during: the meeting of African ministers; Meeting of African mayors and leaders of local and sub-national governments elected officials; Tripartite dialogue meeting between ministers, Mayors and leaders of local and sub-national governments and development partners; the meeting of development partners; the Africities Investment Forum (AIF); and the Conference Sessions and Side events.

1. Introduction

Kenya hosts the ninth session of the Africities Summit in Kisumu, Kenya from 17th to 21st May 2022 under the theme; *“The Role of Intermediary Cities of Africa in the Implementation of Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and the African Union Agenda 2063”*. This is the first time the summit is held in an intermediary city, and Kenya is expected to set precedence for the place of intermediary cities in implementing the Global and African Agenda. The deliberations at the conference will be guided by five main themes and Kenya has prepared this position paper to correspond to these themes.

In the first theme on the **State and dynamics of intermediary cities in Africa’s urbanisation**, Kenya acknowledges that the summit takes place during **the decade of action** as the globe progresses towards the 2030 mark of the UN Agenda 2030. Africa, like other continents, picks up the pace towards meeting the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. A significant contribution towards these targets is expected to be met by the intermediary Cities and Local Governments through a consolidation of local actions. This expectation is against the backdrop of governance and management challenges that continue to place a significant burden on the local governments. Kenya for instance is at a stage where new urban governance and management dynamics have emerged since the 2010 Constitutional Order leading to emergent and nascent governance and management institutions. To shore up the contribution of the intermediary cities to the Africa and UN agenda, Kenya and the rest of the continent have to deal with the institutional architecture and governance practice in the local governments as a matter of priority. There is a plausible case for enhanced partnerships, cooperation and collaboration with the private sector, non-governmental Actors and Agencies, who form an integral part of the urban management regime. The summit set a unique platform for Kenya and Africa cities to appraise the institutional and governance architecture of local governments and draw key lessons and learning that would consolidate and accelerate their joint action towards meeting the SDGs in this last decade.

In the second theme on **the role of intermediary cities in wealth creation and economic development of Africa**, it ought to be recognized that the enormous speed at which Africa’s cities are growing is linked to other key development trends, most prominent amongst them being accelerating economic and population growth, increasing migration from rural to urban areas, and the youth bulge. These trends are strongly driven by Africans’ perceptions that cities – in contrast to the continent’s rural areas – offer an abundance of livelihood opportunities,

including employment and income generating opportunities, food security, and access to finance, education and social capital as well as social protection. However, intermediary cities are failing to meet this promise of abundance, relegating the majority of the populace to the informal economy, often not well regulated, and propagating urban injustices. It is important that these intermediary cities are just where dignity, equity and diversity are upheld. Kenya has recognised the potential of the informal economy that thrives in the intermediary cities and is keen on advancing conditions for seamless integration of the informal and formal economies for a better urban future. In addressing this integration, attention has not been lost to the fact that the intermediary cities play an important role in connecting rural and urban populations to basic facilities and service and also serve as hubs for provision of goods and services thereby providing a conducive environment for job creation and income diversification. The summit presents an important platform to share experiences and deepen discourse on the intricate link between urban and rural economies and the transformative potential inherent in the intermediary cities to drive this transformation. Through this theme, Africa will consolidate a common position and rally the globe at the **World Urban Forum (WUF11) convening under the theme of "Transforming our cities for a better urban future"**.

The third theme on **African intermediary cities facing the COVID 19 pandemic and the climate and biodiversity** crisis recognizes the social, economic, environmental and political repercussions of the pandemic. The United Nations estimates that 71 million people will be pushed back into extreme poverty in 2020, the majority being from Africa. Some 1.6 billion informal workers, half the global workforce, have seen their wages affected. These circumstances highlight the importance of cities and urban areas, particularly in Africa that is threatened with a depleted quality of life against the backdrop of a rising urban population and persistent hunger. The COVID-19 crisis pushes the African intermediary cities to reflect on agricultural production, highlighting the urgent need to develop more sustainable food systems and more resilient family farming systems. Furthermore, the development of intermediary cities is associated with high consumption patterns whose effects lead to the generation of high levels of GHGs thereby accelerating the adverse climate change impacts. Coupled with this, intermediary cities have to cope with the growing population of urban poor inhabitants comprising about 60% and occupants of fragile ecosystems and informal settlements. Climate impacts arising from air pollution, inefficient energy consumption patterns and loss of biodiversity stresses the resilience capacity of the population in the intermediary cities and increases vulnerability of the urban poor. At the summit therefore, Kenya will advance the case

that in the aftermath of COVID-19, it is critical for African intermediary cities to diversify and improve productive capacities, and create economic opportunities for small scale producers. This includes adopting targeted policies that guarantee access to vital inputs for agriculture such as finance, land and technology, and rethink resource management including water, which is in competition between extractive industries and agriculture. In addition, measures to reduce emissions and policies that encourage the use of alternative sources of energy need to be put in place in order to curb the rising GHG levels. Energy efficient buildings, low carbon public transport and encouraging cycling and walking are essential measures to cut down GHG emissions in the Cities..

On the fourth theme on **the challenge of financial and human resources in the management of intermediary cities in Africa**, it is important to recall that the Africa Agenda 2063 aims to deliver inclusive and sustainable development while embracing the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance. This is a demonstration of shift of focus from the ‘struggle’ to ‘inclusive social and economic development’ characterised by continental and regional integration, democratic governance and peace and security amongst other issues. Under the banner of the Pan African Vision of “*An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena*”, Agenda 2063 envisions a long-term 50 year development trajectory for Africa. It inspires Africa to revise and adapt its development agenda due to, amongst other factors, ongoing structural transformations; renewed economic growth and social progress; and the need for people centred development, gender equality and youth empowerment. Transformations anchored on people-centred development, gender equality and youth empowerment principles are key to meeting the financial and human resource challenges in the management of intermediary cities. Structural transformations that change the relationship between governments and its people to one that is symbiotic and complementary and facilitates realisation of rights are fundamental in this context. Kenya, having embraced a devolved government system in 2013 accompanied by a transition in local urban governance and management, exemplifies such transformation that is anchored on the supreme law of the country. Such trends are a useful point of departure in the conversation around Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance, and the platform offered through the Africities summit is rich for knowledge and best practice exchange as well as building networks amongst the like-minded.

Lastly, under the fifth theme of **African intermediary cities in the urban social and cultural fabric**, the link between the Africa Agenda 2063 goal 1 of “*A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens*” and SDG goal 11 of “*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*”, sets a good framework to espouse the continent's efforts towards sustainable urban development. The World Cities Report (2020) unpacks the value of sustainable urbanisation as the totality of a city's economic, environmental, social and intangible conditions that have the potential to improve the quality of life of residents in meaningful, visible and concrete ways. With a rapidly urbanising Africa, a compelling case on the roles of planning, managing and governing cities to create inclusive growth and prosperity, while driving sustainable and socially responsible investment has been made in the report. Kenya has accorded unprecedented attention to sustainable urban development, being the first country in Africa to domesticate the New Urban Agenda, and driving significant investment to aid urban transformation in the devolution era. The Africities summit offers a unique platform to pitch for sustainable urban development within the precincts of the New Urban Agenda, and Kenya can offer some emerging practises to compound learning and catalyse investments towards the growth of sustainable cities and urban areas.

This position paper is anchored on these five themes of the summit. It is intended to demonstrate Kenya's commitment to the African Renaissance through contributions to the UN Agenda 2030 and Africa Agenda 2063 within the realm of sustainable urbanisation, featuring intermediary or secondary cities. The paper uses specific examples in the Kenyan sphere of sustainable urban development to set the context and illustrate its commitment to the agendas, while calling upon the continent to invigorate learning, knowledge exchange and networking to build a better urban future. The paper further suggests areas of potential convergence for joint action and reforms, nationally, regionally, continentally and globally, in transforming secondary cities for a better urban future thereby setting the pitch for WUF 11.

2. The 9th Edition of Africities Summit

Kisumu is the first intermediary city in the continent to host the Africities summit, symbolising Africa's commitment to transformation towards inclusive cities growth and sustainable development. Africa is the next frontier for urbanisation, with its cities growing faster than no other worldwide, at an average of 3.5% per year. This growth of urbanisation varies across the continent, ranging from the already heavily urbanised North Africa (47.8%) to the less urbanised Sub-Saharan Africa (32.8%). The aggregate rate of urbanisation on the continent is

projected to grow from 40% in 2015 to 56% in 2050. Most of this urbanisation is occurring in intermediary (secondary) cities, bringing them to the limelight in the sustainable urban development discourse. This growth is strongly driven by Africans' perceptions that cities, in contrast to the continent's rural areas, offer an abundance of livelihood opportunities, including employment and income generating opportunities, food security, and access to finance, education and social capital as well as social protection.

Africities summit is the largest democratic gathering organised in Africa. It is the main platform for dialogue on decentralisation and local governance that brings together every three years; African ministers, Mayors, Leaders and Elected officials of local and regional governments, Civil Society Organisations, Traditional Authorities, representatives of the African diaspora, Economic Actors, Experts, Researchers and Academics, Financial Institutions, and Development Partners. The eighth session of Africities enlisted over 8,000 participants from 77 Countries in Africa and beyond, almost half of them being Mayors and locally elected officials, pointing to the growing significance of the summit. Barring any Covid restrictions, Kisumu and Kenya anticipate to host a similar attendance.

Convened by the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA), the summit seeks to advance decentralisation and local governance as a panacea for improving the living standards of the citizens. Kenya is a good case, having adopted a constitutional dispensation that advances devolved government and decentralised local urban governance. Furthermore, the summit agenda aligns well with the Kenya Vision 2030, where intermediary cities are integral in transforming Kenya into an industrialised upper middle income economy offering a high quality of life to all its citizens by 2030.

The summit comes early in the decade of action, where countries are expected to accelerate their efforts to deliver on the promise of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are closely interlinked with the Africa Agenda 2063. The vast majority of the actions will be taken at the local level in Cities and Urban areas. Such actions must collectively add up to a continental and global shift toward a more sustainable future that reduces poverty and inequality, and improves the quality of life, among other societal challenges.

More importantly for Kenya, devolution has inspired new forms of governance, supporting the course for local actions through devolved governments and resources. The devolved units offer much greater opportunity for citizens-influenced development agenda that responds to their priority needs enhancing the chances for better quality of life for all. Devolved resources are

instrumental in driving local action and increasing the potential for achieving the national targets of the UN and Africa Agenda. Kisumu, being one amongst the decentralised units that have recorded significant growth since the onset of devolution, is suitably positioned to provide a practical exhibition of the role intermediary cities can play in the implementation of UN Agenda 2030 and Africa Agenda 2063.

3. The Kenya Position

The Kenya position is based on the theme of the Africities Summit titled “The contribution of intermediary cities in the implementation of Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and Africa Union Agenda 2063”. The theme provides overall guidance to the keynote speeches at high level segments, pre-conference activities and the side events / exhibitions. The outlined themes guiding the summit sessions that will be supported by respective background papers and highlights are:

- i. The State and dynamics of intermediary cities in Africa’s urbanisation.
- ii. The role of intermediary cities in wealth creation and economic development of Africa.
- iii. African intermediary cities are facing the COVID 19 pandemic and the climate and biodiversity crisis.
- iv. The challenge of financial and human resources in the management of intermediary cities in Africa.
- v. African intermediary cities in the urban social and cultural fabric.

3.1 Thematic Highlights

3.1.1 The State and dynamics of intermediary cities in Africa's urbanisation

According to United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), there are over 1400 intermediary cities in Africa. They are increasing in number owing to Africa's rapid urbanisation and their changing functions and stature. Africa Union, in 2019, acknowledged the urgent need for effective policy responses to Africa's rapid urban growth and acceleration of coherent and systematic implementation of the New Urban Agenda. AU commitment is "Making African cities more habitable". The effective urban policy formulation and implementation, however, must of necessity recognize the special place of intermediary cities, their nature and growth trends over time, their role in achieving inclusive and sustainable urbanisation in Africa, and their integration into metropolitan regions.

3.1.1.1 The Nature and Growth of Intermediary Cities

Intermediary cities have been defined as cities with 50,000 to one million inhabitants that generally play a primary role in connecting important rural and urban areas to basic facilities, services and opportunities. UCLG estimates that they are home to over 20% of the world's population, which stood at 7.75 billion in 2020. They are also accommodating over one third (36%) of the total urban population, which according to the World Bank stood at 4.358 billion in 2020. Because of their scale and spatial distribution, they can offer, and decentralise, housing, basic facilities and services more cost-efficiently than the metropolitan regions, capital cities and mega cities. Indeed, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) noted that intermediary cities are vital to breaking dependency on high carbon development; structuring the urban network/system, and connecting the rural and urban to continental and global level. They also connect urban and rural economies. UCLG affirms that the intermediary cities hold the promise to a more "inclusive, safe and resilient" urbanism, and development of a more balanced and sustainable urban systems, especially in rapidly urbanising regions like Africa.

According to world urbanisation prospects 2014, the number of cities with between 500,000 and 1 million urban population had increased from 294 in 1990, to 525 in 2014 and projected to hit 731 in 2030. And the number of people living in such cities is expected to grow by over 40%, increasing from 363 million in 2014 to 509 million in 2030- but remaining home to over 10% of the global urban population. Cities with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants, constituting

the growing majority, accommodated close to one half of the world's urban population in 2014, but that proportion is projected to shrink over time, such that by 2030 these small cities and towns will still be home to around 45 per cent of urban dwellers. The intermediary cities are among the fastest growing urban agglomerations, comprising medium-sized cities and cities with less than 1 million inhabitants located in Asia and Africa. Between 2000 and 2014 the world's cities with more than 500,000 inhabitants grew at an average annual rate of 2.4 per cent- with 43 of these cities growing twice as fast, 4 in Africa. UCLG notes that 210 million Africans live in one of the continent's 1400 intermediary cities. Going forward, UCLG recommends more prominence for intermediary cities in the new urban agenda and implementation.

Kenya is home to over 70 intermediary cities that comprise about 63 municipalities and four cities, with the exception of Nairobi which is a major city and a national capital with over five million inhabitants. Rapid growth of intermediary cities in Kenya has been observable and will increase with devolutions that spur development across the country. Most of these cities are headquarters for county government, attracting people, funding, investments, business and tourism. Through the World Bank's supported Urban Support Programme, Kenya is in the process of undertaking urban institutional reforms including formation of institutional structures, infrastructure support, delineation of urban boundaries among others.

Position:

Kenya reinforces her commitment to accelerate urban governance and management reforms through an active establishment and strengthening of urban institutions under the Urban Areas and Cities Act to enhance capacity to define, plan, develop and operationalize all intermediary cities in Kenya.

3.1.1.2 African renaissance towards inclusive and sustainable development – Africa Agenda 2063

Africa Agenda 2063 aims to deliver inclusive and sustainable development while embracing the Pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance. This is a shift of focus from the 'struggle' to 'inclusive social and economic development' characterised by continental and regional integration, democratic governance and peace and security amongst other issues. Under the banner of the Pan African Vision of "*An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa,*

driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena”, Agenda 2063 envisions a long-term 50-year development trajectory for Africa. It inspires Africa to revise and adapt its development agenda due to, amongst other factors, ongoing structural transformations; renewed economic growth and social progress; and the need for people centred development, gender equality and youth empowerment. It recognizes the value of increased unity of Africa which makes it a global power to be reckoned with and capable of rallying support around its own common agenda and emerging development and investment opportunities.

Kenya, having embraced a devolved government system in 2013 accompanied by a transition in local urban governance and management, exemplifies the adaptability intended in the African agenda. Kenya is indeed not alone in this urban transition, and the platform offered through the Africities summit is rich for knowledge and best practice exchange as well as building networks amongst the like-minded. Indeed, Kenya's devolved system of government has occasioned transformative change in the relationship between people and their governments; decentralisation within the county framework; and delegation of responsibilities to cities, municipalities, towns and markets. Citizen participation in county and urban planning, development and governance is mandatory and legally provided for under the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011. An entrenched revenue sharing formula to county governments guarantee rational and equitable decentralisation of funding and development throughout the country. Inter-governmental relations exist to mediate any conflict and tension between national and county governments, including on matters of resource allocations.

Position:

Kenya is committed to fully implement the National Urban Development Policy and transition to livable and sustainable urban development including upscaling the shareable revenue for county governments and intermediary cities as well as the establishment of an Urban Development Fund to support these processes.

3.1.1.3 Integration of Intermediary Cities within the Metropolitan Development Framework

Increasing urbanisation and urban expansion have caused many cities to grow beyond their boundaries into metropolitan regions. This is understood as the city and its commuting zone, which consists of suburban, peri-urban and rural areas economically and socially linked to the

city. Intermediary cities quite often develop and become part of the urban systems and structure within the metropolitan region, often surrounding capital cities and megacities. They emerge and develop as satellite cities near the main city, which is at the centre of a metropolitan region. They are different from suburbs, subdivisions and bedroom communities because they have their own centre. They cater for the overflow of people, industries, goods and services from the major cities and address part of their housing, industrial, commercial, recreational and social problems. Integration of the intermediary cities within a metropolitan area calls for a coordinated metropolitan planning and development that strategically accommodate the intermediary cities within a polycentric urban system and spatial planning; metropolitan transportation planning and management; and coordinated service delivery. Currently several African countries, overwhelmed by the high rates of population growth in their main cities, are in the process of planning for intermediary/satellite cities near main cities as the new vision for urban expansion in Africa. UN-Habitat advocates for an *integrative approach for metropolitan management that involves local, sub-national and national governments participation in metropolitan governance, metropolitan policies and legislation, metropolitan planning, and metropolitan finance and economics.*

Kenya has established the Nairobi Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (NAMATA) which seeks to provide a mechanism for the establishment of an integrated, efficient, effective and sustainable transport system within the Metropolitan area. The Metropolitan Area includes Nairobi, Muranga, Kiambu, Kajiado and Machakos counties. Kenya has the Nairobi Metropolitan Development Department, under the Directorate of Urban and Metropolitan Development, whose mandate is to coordinate and administer policy in respect to the Nairobi Metropolitan region, including an integrated Nairobi Metropolitan Areas Growth and Development Strategy. Target areas include Preparation of spatial planning; Development and enforcement of planning and zoning regulations; Integrated roads, bus and rail infrastructure; Efficient mass transport systems; Efficient water supply and waste management infrastructure for the Nairobi metropolitan region among others. The government of Kenya further plans to create five new metropolitan areas around the country by merging key towns and cities into zones, Kisumu inclusive, in a bid to boost urban services and planning.

Position:

Kenya has embraced metropolitan planning, development and service delivery in the Nairobi Metropolitan Region. It is further committed to the preparation and implementation of metropolitan development strategies for five additional metropolitan regions across the country as provided in Vision 2030.

3.1.2 The role of intermediary cities in wealth creation and economic development of Africa**3.1.2.1 Significance of intermediary cities in contributing to a better future**

By 2050 two-thirds of the world's population will live in urban areas; 90 percent of urban growth will occur in less developed regions such as East Asia, South Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa, at a rapid pace and in situations where capacities and resources are most constrained and development challenges are most intense. This stresses the important relationship between urban and rural communities as being one of high significance.

Urban and rural communities do not live in isolation from one another. The flow of people, goods, services and transport does not go in one direction only but is manifested by repeated and reciprocal circular movement across the urban-rural continuum, which contributes to functional, integrated territories and regions. A large number of households live, work and depend on both rural and urban ecosystems that sustain human life beyond political and administrative spheres. Global framework agreements espouse recognition and response to rapidly evolving urban-rural systems in which households, communities and local and national governments face new and often critical challenges. Governments at all levels must move from a growing recognition of these challenges to coordinated actions to strengthen urban-rural linkages and implement integrated territorial development. The establishment of the regional economic blocs in Kenya is intended to boost the urban-rural linkages.

The intermediary cities play an important role in connecting rural and urban populations to basic facilities and service and also serve as hubs for provision of goods and services thereby providing a conducive environment for job creation and income diversification.

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) stresses the need to reduce urban-rural disparities to foster equitable development across urban- rural areas, to encourage urban-rural interactions and connectivity. Sub- National Governments need effective planning and inculcate the roles of

different actors in enhancing service delivery, and collective development in which no place and no one is left behind.

There is a strong link between the quality of life in cities and how cities draw on and manage the natural resources available to them. To date, the trend towards urbanisation has been accompanied by increased pressure on the environment and accelerated demand for basic services, infrastructure, jobs, land, and affordable housing, particularly for the nearly 1 billion urban poor who live in informal settlements.

Intermediary Cities significantly contribute to the food sovereignty debate in Africa since they are characterised by strong rural urban linkages, a situation which makes them prime areas for the conversations of food systems and the symbiotic relationships of the urban and rural areas. High levels of undernutrition and food insecurity are some of the challenges brought by the increasing urbanization. Most of the urban dwellers lack access to affordable, healthy, and nutritious foods since much of the food consumed in urban centres comes from rural areas including vegetables, fruits, and staple foods.

Food sovereignty calls for the development of local and regional self-sufficiency and if possible close links between producers and consumers. In this case drawing a link between the rural food producers and the urban food consumers. It has long since become a concept of self-determination also in industrialised nations and in the cities. The major issue being how independent African cities are and how capable they can be to feed their growing population without depending on imported foods. Another fundamental question is, how to retain and value food traditionally known to be consumed by the inhabitants or indigenous peoples of the towns surrounding the intermediary cities. As migration from rural to urban areas increases, a lot of farming land remains unutilized therefore not just affecting food production but the production of foods that are largely traditional and authentic for the inhabitants.

The COVID-19 crisis pushes the African cities to reflect on the agricultural production in Africa, highlighting the urgent need to develop more sustainable food systems and more resilient family farming systems. In the aftermath of COVID-19, it is critical for African cities, more so intermediary cities, to diversify and improve productive capacities, and create economic opportunities for small scale producers. This includes adopting targeted policies that guarantee access to vital inputs for agriculture such as finance, land and technology, and rethink resource management including water, which is in competition between extractive industries and agriculture.

The future of food systems is closely bound to cities and urban processes. As these relationships are progressively recognised and unpacked, cities are becoming the new front lines in the struggle for more just and sustainable food systems. One of the primary ways that cities shape food and agricultural systems is through the direct and indirect outcomes of policy processes that take place in urban contexts, but which have potentially far-reaching impacts.

There is equally a growing sense of vulnerability and neglect amongst the women and youth who form the bulk of the population in the intermediate cities that has given rise to social vices such as violent extremism and ineptitude amongst the youth. The potential from the youth bulge remains largely unexploited, including their innovations.

In summary, intermediary cities play a fundamental role in;

- I. Ready markets for agricultural producers of the surrounding regions for improved food security.
- II. Provision of goods and services especially basic services such as (health and education), but also home to agricultural and financial (credit) institutions.
- III. Employment in terms of consolidation of non-farm activities and employment opportunities, mostly in the informal sector.
- IV. Financial flows in money transfers and family remittances flowing from urban to rural areas.
- V. Off-setting the economic, social and environmental burden of the primate cities.
- VI. Harnessing the gender agenda and youth innovation.
- VII. Enhance GDP and livelihoods of the populace through urban-rural linkages.
- VIII. Host institutional architecture for inclusive urban planning that strengthens social cohesion for the provision of durable solutions.
- IX. Consumption of potential agricultural land through uncontrolled spatial spread.

Position:

The Government is committed to making 'Kenyan cities' work by making them attractive places to live, work, invest and recreate through; implementation of the Kenya Urban programme and Kenya Urban Support Programme.

3.1.2.2 The Contribution of Intermediary Cities in the Implementation of African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement

The African Continental Free Trade Area is a Free Trade Area founded in 2018 bringing together 54 of the 55 African Countries. The AfCFTA will be a game changer for stimulating intra-African trade and is projected to increase the value of intra-African trade by between 15 per cent (or \$50 billion) and 25 per cent (or \$70 billion), depending on liberalisation efforts, in 2040, compared to a situation with no AfCFTA in place. With the sole removal of tariffs on goods, the share of intra-African trade would increase by nearly 40 per cent to over 50 per cent, depending on the ambition of the implementation of liberalisation. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement has arguably created the largest free trade area in the world measured by the number of countries participating. The pact connects 1.3 billion people across 55 countries with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) valued at US\$3.4 trillion. It has the potential to lift 30 million people out of extreme poverty, but achieving its full potential will depend on putting in place significant policy reforms and trade facilitation measures. The AfCFTA is set to liberalise 90% of Tariff Lines Traded in Goods, and Services among African Countries. Intermediary Cities, especially those close to the Border have played a significant role in fostering cross-border trade by producing essential goods and services necessary in facilitating trade.

It is therefore critical to effectively plan, develop and intensify necessary strategies and infrastructure to foster Kenya's competitiveness in Trade to its export markets. Capacity building initiatives should be put in place by County Authorities, Private Sector, Citizens and Industry Leaders to take advantage of the huge market potential in the African Market.

Position:

Kenya is committed to strengthening the capacities of cities as engines of globalised trading and hubs for the African Continental Free Trade Area thereby providing ready markets and a conducive business environment with trading partners. This is supported by the ease of doing business policy and prioritization of infrastructural development.

3.1.2.3 Contributions of the Diaspora in Growth and Development of Intermediary Cities

The African diaspora is the sixth sub-region of the African Union; it represents nearly 350 million members worldwide. Its potential is huge, cultural, political, and economic; remittances

today exceed the amount of official development assistance. The organisation of an Africities Investment Forum (AIF) in the framework of the Africities Summit in Kisumu will offer to the Diaspora the opportunity to reconnect with the continent through participating in its development, by providing their knowledge, assets, and inputs of all kinds, targeting primarily African intermediary cities.

At the 8th edition of the Africities Summit in Marrakesh a first official contact was established with the United States Conference of Mayors to build bridges with their counterparts in Africa, taking advantage of the DOOR (Door of our return), an initiative taken by the African Diaspora in the US to commemorate the 400 years of departure of the first ship involved in the shameful black slavery trade and promote the return back to the Africa Motherland. Celebrations of the DOOR initiative took place in 2019 in Gore, Senegal; Almina, Ghana; Topo Badagry Nigeria; that culminated in the hosting of the representatives of the Diaspora by the Pan African Parliament in November 2019 in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. It is the intention of the organisers and hosts of the Africities Summits to make Kisumu the place of reconnection of Africa with its Diaspora, and to organise a full-fledged Diaspora Day that will provide for a real structuring of this connection and its materialisation with tangible headway. Key expectations and contributions for the Diaspora team are;

- I. Participating in its development, by providing their knowledge, assets, finances and inputs of all kinds, targeting primarily African intermediary cities.
- II. Participating in Local Youth innovations leading to scalable investment opportunities.
- III. Participating in Governance towards improved service delivery in the intermediary cities.

Position:

Kenya has enacted the Kenya Diaspora Policy (2014) with intermediary cities as gateways for Diaspora remittances and investments.

3.1.2.4 Twinning of African cities for Better Economic Prosperity

Partnership with all stakeholders is essential for the realisation of the Agenda 2030 of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), Agenda 2063 and monitoring and reporting on Voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews. The 4th edition of the Africities

Summit in Nairobi in 2006 insisted on the need to build coalitions with the local stakeholders to be able to implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which represented at that time the global agenda rallying then the consensus of the international community. What was true then is even more true today. Partnership with all stakeholders is essential for the realisation of the 2030 Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and of Agenda 2063. It is for this reason that since the 4th edition of the Africities Summit in Nairobi, at each Summit, dedicated sessions are organised to discuss how well the different stakeholders can partner with local and subnational governments in order to effectively address the issues at hand.

During the Africities Summit in Kisumu, sessions will be organised with associations of residents; farmers' organisations; employee unions; women's organisations; youth organisations; local entrepreneurs; cooperatives and mutuality companies; microcredit organisations; financial institutions; professionals from central and local administrations; civil society organisations and NGOs; traditional authorities; associations of migrants; the diaspora and afro-descendants associations; academia and researchers; the media and journalists; professionals of arts and culture; African philanthropists; as well as associations of people with disabilities. These sessions will explore the possibilities of coalitions for local transformation between local authorities and each family of actors. For African intermediary cities, all these energies, all these networks, all these organisations of citizens can play a role, alongside the local and subnational governments authorities.

Position:

Kenya supports announcements on the Twinning of Intermediary Cities of Mutual Convergence within the African Continent. Already two Kenyan cities have entered into twinning arrangements with Morocco notably; Kisumu with Marakesh and Mombasa with Tangiers.

3.1.3 African intermediary cities facing the COVID 19 pandemic and the climate and biodiversity crisis

3.1.3.1 Intermediary Cities and Pandemic / COVID 19

Intermediary cities in Kenya and by extension across the globe are the hardest hit with pandemic outbreaks. Such scenarios have been experienced with a number of cases involving Ebola, Covid-19, Malaria, Cholera and Swine flu among others. Populations in both rural and urban areas as well as the sectors with essential services have suffered the consequences of these pandemics. Notable cases relate to dwindling business opportunities, loss of income and livelihoods, loss of jobs among the youths who depend on small and medium enterprise ventures, wastage of learning hours, stigma among residents and fear of visiting health facilities among others. This situation has led to the increase in numbers of the vulnerable population within the city space. The prevailing situation calls for immediate action by the concerned authorities at all levels of Government to address the challenges that arise including relief, recovery and/or reinvestment measures that can be counted on to soften the impact of the crisis on the people (especially the poor), businesses (especially micro and small businesses) and the economy at large. The ultimate goal is to ensure that the recovery efforts focus on strengthening the health systems, supporting the unemployed workers and supporting the struggling businesses.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has compounded all aspects of socio-economic development in Kenya. The pandemic has had serious consequences on the economy, education, health, unemployment, gender inequality, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing and trade among others. The containment measures introduced by the government, including restrictions on travel, have also had a huge impact on the economy. The country's GDP growth is expected to be greatly affected. It is projected that the GDP will fall from the baseline of 6.2 per cent to 3.4 per cent in 2020, according to the Central Bank of Kenya. This has further been revised downward to 2.5 per cent by the National Treasury. The pandemic affected the education sector by disrupting the school calendar. The closure of schools affected the education of tens of thousands of students. The disruptions may have long-term consequences on girls' education, and their economic and health wellbeing. This will undoubtedly reverse the gains made over the years, including human capital development and access to education. At the same time, an increase in the number of girls who became pregnant was witnessed, leading to increased pressure on health facilities and healthcare provision. This may also increase maternal and infant mortality. Other challenges include increased teenage HIV/AIDS infections, child labor and violence against children.

The COVID-19 pandemic directly and indirectly affected women negatively and disproportionately, especially women in cities. It further puts a strain on the everyday lives of women given the burden of care often falls on them. This includes taking care of children and other family members. In other words if family members fall ill, women are more likely to take care of them. This puts them at risk of contracting the disease. COVID-19 containment resulted in business closures. This led to job losses, and consequently growth in poverty levels. The same was also felt by the Government whose revenue is reduced. In addition, the Government had to find money to cushion citizens from the harsh economic realities. The Government announced tax relief measures (lower VAT and reduced Corporate Income Tax) to encourage continued production of goods and services and protect jobs. In addition, the Government also announced various relief measures targeting employees and citizens at the bottom of the pyramid, especially in urban areas.

County governments were largely affected by the effects of COVID 19 and developed emergency fund regulations in 2020 to re-engineer their budgets to address covid-19 due to effects of Lockdowns, Slow engagement of Commercial Transactions and Movements across Countries and Borders. In response to the impacts of COVID-19, county governments have developed the county COVID-19 socio-economic recovery and re-engineering strategy 2020-2023. Prioritisation of the economic stimulus package in priority areas of SDG Implementation should be considered in order to foster implementation that was slowed down during the emergence of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Commitment to action

Intermediary cities economic stop-gap measure in the face of COVID 19 pandemic: The Government put in place a robust approach to address the COVID-19, setting up the National Co-ordination Committee on Coronavirus Pandemic (NCCCCP) and the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to mobilize resources to finance pandemic response activities. For instance, in response to the socio-economic impact on low-income earners, the **National Hygiene Program** (NHP), dubbed the ***Kazi Mtaani*** initiative, was put in place with the engagement of over 200,000 youths and vulnerable Women. Through this initiative, residents from informal settlements are recruited to undertake projects concentrated in and around informal settlements with the aim of improving the environment through clean up exercise, solid waste management, tree growing towards greening of the cities and an opportunity for a source of livelihood. The

recruited workers benefited from daily wages for work (cash for work) in a program that supports widespread employment.

Position:

Kenya is committed to implementation of international protocols on response and prevention of pandemics as revised from time to time by the World Health Organization. It continues to implement mass vaccination for its population. In terms of the Socio-economic effects, it recognizes the need to cushion the urban poor and restart economic transformation through policies that enable trade, technology and transformation. It implemented a National Hygiene Programme (Kazi Mtaani) as a way of cushioning the urban poor with a focus on intermediary cities.

3.1.3.2 Cities and Climate Change

The development of intermediary cities is associated with high consumption patterns whose effects lead to the generation of high levels of GHGs thereby accelerating the adverse climate change impacts. Such cities / urban jurisdictions are characterised by urban poor inhabitants who comprise about 60% of the population. The vulnerable urban populace normally occupy fragile ecosystems and informal settlements. Such locations are characterised by poor living conditions, high indoor air pollution from use of fossil fuels for cooking, high flood risk, poor access to basic services and poor solid and liquid waste management systems among others. The Cities are also characterised by a high number of public and private auto-mobiles which are relatively high emitters of GHG emissions. The rising GHG emission levels has resulted in a number of impacts affecting Cities including rising temperature levels, occurrence of floods leading to destruction of infrastructure such as buildings, bridges and roads, occurrence of droughts resulting to reduced availability of and access to water, causing rationing in homes among others. All these impacts affect the livelihoods of populations living in intermediary cities and increase vulnerability of the urban poor. In order to curb the rising GHG levels, measures to reduce emissions and policies that encourage the use of alternative sources of energy need to be put in place. Energy efficient buildings, low carbon public transport and encouraging cycling and walking are essential measures to cut down GHG emissions in the Cities.

The Government is in the process of developing a Long Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LTS). The Strategy builds upon the Country's updated Nationally Determined

Contribution (NDC) to develop a pathway for the Country to successfully reduce its GHG emissions. The high levels of GHG emissions in intermediary cities can be addressed through some of the interventions proposed in the Strategy. These interventions include, but are not limited to

- I. Promoting low-emission transportation modes within the Cities for both goods and public transportation (Bus Rapid Transport).
- II. Transition from fossil fuel to electric and hydrogen fueled vehicles
- III. Adoption of electric stoves to replace fossil fuels for cooking

Making cities resilience: The campaign of Making Cities Resilient 2030 which includes, for example the capacity to finance for resilience; engagement of multi-sectoral and multi stakeholder groups such as communities, vulnerable population, private sector; the use of nature-based solutions for resilience; the reduction of climate risks through appropriate actions and others can be upscaled in intermediary cities to strengthen them in coping with disaster risks and climate change impacts. Already support from WB to the Kenyan Government to develop Urban Resilient strategies in four cities is an indication that the Country is on the right trajectory. It is imperative to note that urban areas are part of the devolved systems in terms of administrative units and therefore inclusive in the institutional framework of the County Climate Change Act where the ward is the smallest unit of climate action in Kenya. To enhance sustainable climate action, locally led action can be implemented at ward level.

Position:

Kenya is committed to making Intermediary Cities resilient to adverse effects of Climate Change by implementing the Climate Change Act, 2016; the Urban Development Policy Framework; and the National Climate Change Action Plan. Kenya calls on African Countries to push Developed Countries to meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement for Mitigation and Adaptation. The election of Kenya's Head of State, H. E. Uhuru Kenyatta , as the new Chairperson for the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) is a big opportunity to push the Africa Climate Agenda forward.

3.1.3.3 Building Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor (BCRUP)

To meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, climate action successes are clearly needed to encourage more commitment. At the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit hosted by the UNSG in New York, these successes were showcased on a global stage to recognize and motivate global climate commitments. The Summit inspired countries and other stakeholders to accelerate and scale up climate action and stay within 1.5⁰C temperature rise, as emphasised in the recent IPCC special report, raise ambitions and mobilise new resources for sustainable infrastructure and city development. The Summit focused on 9 tracks namely: mitigation strategy; social and political drivers; youth and mobilisation; energy transition; resilience and adaptation; nature-based solutions; infrastructure, cities and local Action (ICLA); climate finance and carbon pricing; and industry. The ICLA track is Co-Lead by Kenya and Turkey and involves 5 Sub-Tracks namely: Buildings, Transportation, Building Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor (BCRUP), Decentralised Financing and Sub-National Mobilisation.

Building Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor (BCRUP) is one of the 41 initiatives launched at the Climate Action Summit, 2019 in New York which targeted raising of Climate Ambition. The Initiative was coordinated by Kenya with technical support from UNHabitat and launched by H. E, President Uhuru Kenyatta at the UN Climate Action Summit on 23rd September 2019.

Position:

Kenya is coordinating the implementation of the Building Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor initiative which H.E, the President of the Republic of Kenya, presided over the global launch in New York. Kenya is developing urban resilience strategies aimed at equipping intermediary cities to better manage impacts of climate change. Kenya further encourages intermediary cities to join the “Making Cities Resilience 2030” initiative.

3.1.3.4 The Decade of Action Towards Realisation of the UN Agenda 2030

Africities summit comes at a time when the world is entering the Decade of Action. This is the ten-year (2020-2030) period during which national and local governments, the private sector and civil society must accelerate their efforts to deliver on the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for accelerating sustainable solutions to the world’s biggest challenges. These challenges range from poverty, food insecurity, housing shortage and gender-based discrimination to climate change, inequality and closing the finance gap. It is

envisaged that by 2030, the cumulative assembly of local actions must collectively add up to a global shift toward a more sustainable future that meets the targets of the SDGs.

African Governments, Kenya included, ascribe to the UN Agenda 2030 and related global commitments that espouse the importance of cities such as Paris Agreement, New Urban Agenda, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Addis Ababa Action Agenda. These collectively form the backbone of international development policy, recommendations, goals, targets and indicators for Member States. A common thread in each of these instruments is the recognition of local governments as important partners in the drive to a more sustainable future. Furthermore, a more detailed implementation framework for the SDGs is provided through the New Urban Agenda.

Effective implementation of SDGs calls for mobilising required financial resources from various sources, most important being from domestic resources. This is the most predictable and reliable source of financing, though not adequate. In many countries including Kenya, domestic resource mobilisation constitutes over 70 percent of financing needed to support the implementation of the SDGs. Hence, developing countries require capacities to strengthen their revenue authorities of their Local Governments in order to effectively mobilise the resources to finance the SDGs.

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) is linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. New Urban Agenda reaffirms our global commitment to sustainable urban development as a critical step for realising sustainable development in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, Subnational and local levels, with the participation of all relevant actors. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner, and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including Goal 11 of “making *cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*”. NUA expands on the relatively limited means of implementation for SDG 11 by delving into the processes that produce better urban outcomes, like national urban policies, legislation, spatial planning and local finance frameworks. It further calls on Member States to; “*carry out a periodic follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda, ensuring coherence at the national, regional and global levels, in order to track progress, assess impact and ensure the Agenda’s effective and timely implementation, accountability to our citizens and transparency, in an inclusive manner*”. This process should take into account contributions of national, subnational and local levels of government and should be a continuous process aimed at creating and

reinforcing partnerships among all relevant stakeholders and fostering exchanges of urban solutions and mutual learning.

In the decade of action, Kenya will reinforce commitment to the UN Agenda 2030 through the following actions;

- I. Strengthen the role of the Association of Urban, Cities and Municipal Managers & Authorities of Kenya (AUCIMMAK) in monitoring and reporting on local actions within the framework of the national SDG reporting mechanism
- II. Kenya re-enforces the recommendation that Development Partners should develop graduation policies that are sequenced, gradual and phased to address challenges presented by the diverse circumstances of middle income countries. It should be noted that globally MICS are home to over 70 percent of the people living below the poverty line.
- III. Public, private and blended finance can complement each other to support the 2030 Agenda. This calls for integrated national development strategies as a critical nexus across the sectors.

Kenya Position:

Kenya has adopted and is implementing the New Urban Agenda . Kenya has prioritised the review of the Popular Version of the New Urban Agenda and adopted its monitoring tool in the intermediary cities. Kenya Support implementation of the Local 2030 Coalition to accelerate local-level delivery of all the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals.

3.1.4 The challenge of financial and human resources in the management of intermediary cities in Africa

The need to build and strengthen capacities of all actors in the management and development of secondary cities and administering the delivery of urban services has been widely recognized in the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. However, intermediary cities beset by economic stagnation,extensive population growth,social and cultural change are adequately or appropriately equipped to address either the scale or rate of change of recent and current urban conditions.Institutional strengthening and capacity building at County and Sub-National levels will help instil a service-oriented culture and achieve Cities aspiration of a robust and inclusive growth. Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP) has supported county governments with capacity building development grants, subject to some minimum conditions. The idea has been

to build incentives through the availability of conditional grants, to achieve a sound urban management capability at the county level, through urban boards and committees.

Article 187 of the Constitution, provides that if a function or power is transferred from one level of government to another, then resources are transferred in line with the ‘finance follows function’ principle. The delivery of urban services became a statutory requirement with the adoption of the Urban Areas and Cities Act (UACA) in 2011. Resources allocated to intermediary cities with devolution are insufficient to maintain the same level of service delivery provided before. It is critical that adequate financial resources are provided to Intermediary cities in order to meet statutory requirements in the provision of basic services.

Counties have set up County Urban Institutional Development Strategies, outlining the county's overall approach to management of its urban areas. The strategies provide the process by which counties integrate urban development into countywide planning and an annual action plan and budget for achieving the programme objectives.

3.1.4.1 Planning, Financing and Development of Africa’s Intermediary Cities

The Kenya National Urban Development Policy (NUDP), formally launched in early 2016 and declared effective in January 2018, envisions secure, well governed, competitive and sustainable urban areas and cities, and aims to facilitate sustainable urbanization through good governance and the delivery of accessible quality and efficient infrastructure and services. The Kenya Urban Program (KenUP) has been formulated by the Government, to operationalize and implement aspects of the NUDP, with a clear focus on Kenya’s urban areas. In particular, NUDP aims to support the implementation of urban governance, urban planning and urban management as per the provisions of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011 (UACA). The preparation of integrated spatial plans and Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plans (ISUDPs) at the County and Intermediary City levels should integrate both climate mitigation and adaptation strategies while taking into consideration the provisions of Climate Change Act (2016), National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP, 2018-2022) and Urban Areas and Cities (Amendment) Act, 2019. The spatial plans should further guide the following aspects in the management of Intermediary Cities;

- I. Align county financial and institutional resources to agreed policy objectives and programmes;
- II. Engender effective resource mobilisation for sustainable development;

- III. Promote the pursuit of equity in resource allocation within the county; and
- IV. Provide a platform for unifying planning, budgeting, financing, programme implementation and performance review.

The main challenge faced in financing intermediary cities is inadequate budgetary allocation from the exchequer and the influence of domineering agricultural hinterland.

Position:

Kenya is committed to planning, financing and development of intermediary cities through implementation of the National Urban Development policy, Urban Support Programme, Kenya Urban Support Programme, Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plans, and Urban Areas and cities Act, 2011 (revised 2019).

3.1.4.2 Management and Governance of Intermediary Cities

Intermediary Cities if well managed potends significant contributions to the overall GDP of the Country and well being of the populace. Kenya has prioritised **institutional strengthening of urban institutions for improved services**. This was undertaken with the operationalization and implementation of the National Urban Development Policy (2016) for Kenya and Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011 (Amendment, 2019). The process involves delineation of urban boundaries, classification and establishment of Urban Institutions (Boards / Committees) as applicable. Some of the programmes that have had a successful footprint in Kenya’s urban space include; Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP) which currently supports establishment of urban boards and strengthening of urban governance in 59 municipalities and related services.

Position:

Kenya is implementing Urban Institutional Reforms through support of the World Bank and the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP) to build governance structures and infrastructural development in intermediary cities.

3.1.4.3 Investment opportunities and the growth of intermediary cities

Intermediary cities provide lots of investment opportunities and opportunities for growth. They are key nodes of the global economy, a supply pool for skilled labour, and provide a reliable

market for goods and services. They offer access to land for investment at low cost; benefit from government tax incentives for industrial and commercial developments; and may be located near raw materials. The low cost of living in the intermediary cities often attract migrants, including tourists, from capitals and rural areas leading to their rapid urban growth. They attract investments in all spheres including housing, industry, commerce, social services and recreation. Intermediary cities growth is also triggered by decentralisation of resources and services in a country, as they headquarter decentralised administrations and units.

Even though intermediate cities present high investment opportunities, they have never benefited in terms of investments as much as the national capitals from agglomeration economies. According to European Investment Banks, even Europe is groped with the skewed investments in favour of the capitals. This state of affairs results in less competitive and attractive medium cities for investments. By investing in technology, infrastructure, facilities and services and financing smart cities; the intermediary cities can attract more business and investments.

In Kenya, domestic resource mobilisation constitutes over 70 percent of financing needed to support the implementation of the SDGs. Efforts undertaken to strengthen local revenues at Local Governments have included rapid own source revenue analysis programs supported by UNHABITAT, modern market facilities and local economic development initiatives supported by the WB through KUSP etc.

Kenya Position:

The Kenyan Government holds that cities and indeed intermediary cities are the new attractions for investment and is redirecting its efforts to ensure they indeed live up to their investment attraction capacity. To this end, the Government has developed policies, plans, legislations and programmes such as the National Urban Development policy, Urban Support Programme, Kenya Urban Support Programme, Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plans, and Urban Areas and cities Act, 2011 (revised 2019) as a way of affirming its commitment and position.

3.1.5 African intermediary cities in the urban social and cultural fabric

Intermediary cities are often a melting pot of cultural mix, with this expression comes real opportunities for a blend of creativity on matters of culture. Culture and creativity have

untapped potential to deliver social, economic, and spatial benefits for cities and communities. Cultural and creative industries are key drivers of the creative economy and represent important sources of employment, economic growth, and innovation, thus contributing to city competitiveness and sustainability. The intermediary cities are hubs of the creative economy and have a critical role to play in harnessing the transformative potential of cultural and creative industries through policies and enabling environments at the local level.

3.1.5.1 The Culture in Intermediate Cities of Africa

While cities as hubs for migrations have been enriched by a more culturally diverse population, social and spatial segregation have become a key issue in intermediary cities. The city therefore has been a space that bears increased fragmentation, social polarisation and inequalities, particularly for vulnerable populations and for those already at the edges of society. Cities need to be designed for social interaction and cohesion, which counter spatial segregation.

Safeguarding cultural heritage and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions is instrumental to the social cohesion of societies, peace-building and the sustainability of intermediary cities. In addition, an escalation in tensions among communities of different cultural backgrounds, religions and beliefs has often been accompanied by an incitement to violence that, perversely, seizes culture as its justification.

Cities, as administrative, judicial and economic centres, have a strong bearing on the way people live in terms of the degree of freedom of expression and access to the opportunities. Recognizing the dynamism of cities, it is vital that planning is prioritised towards conducive access to basic services including public spaces (including streets, monuments, cultural institutions, parks, etc.) which play a crucial role in inclusive processes, strengthening forms of solidarity, integration and joint action in communities. The safeguarding of the physical environment of the urban setting, such as the public spaces where intangible heritage is performed, is an important issue for communities, and needs to be a consideration at the intermediate city level.

Kenyan Position

The Government is committed to making intermediary cities into melting pots of culture, social cohesion and economic interactions. For instance, Kisumu City is in the process of

recreating itself as a Cultural City by harnessing the Annual Kisumu Food Festival, Kit Mikayi Cultural Site and Traditional Genre.

3.1.5.2 Liveability within Intermediate Cities

Promoting liveability in the intermediary cities takes cognizance of the Sustainable Development Goals, SDG 1 on eradication of poverty, target 1.4 on access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of poverty, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate technologies and financial services, including microfinance. Such services include drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, energy, mobility, waste collection, healthcare, education and information. Access implies sufficient and affordable service is reliably available with satisfactory or adequate quality. Physical infrastructure - safe and affordable drinking water, informed sanitation, waste collection, mobility and transport, modern energy, public open space, ICT, healthcare, education.

Kenya is promoting access to basic infrastructure and social amenities in the intermediary cities through key programmes including; Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement programme (KISIP) focuses on strengthening institutions, building capacity and training, enhancing tenure security, investing in infrastructure and service delivery, and urban planning. The other key programme under the coordination of the Government is the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP) which contributes towards better urban governance and planning, provision of urban services including solid and liquid waste management, drainage, road infrastructure inclusive of sidewalks and street lights, urban economic infrastructure as well as creation and management of public spaces

Position:

The Government has stepped up efforts towards service delivery and prevention of proliferation of slums and informal settlements in intermediary cities through key programmes notably; Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Programme, Kenya Urban Support Programme and the Slum Upgrading.

3.1.5.3 Social Inclusion in the Intermediary Cities

The developing countries are in a time when achieving gender equality and equity has never been so urgent. Women are responsible for 60% of work done globally yet earn just 10% income and 1% of property. In Africa, 70% of women are excluded financially. The continent

has a US\$42 billion financing gap between men and women. The International Labour Organisation in its report (2019) states that women are disproportionately laden with the responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work. It highlights this issue to make the case for economic empowerment of women. Africa, therefore, must prepare itself for reaping the socio-economic benefits of its demographic dividend and leverage forces of urbanisation to deliver the much-needed job creation and structural transformation of African economies. With these statistics, it is imperative for African cities to quickly think around means of eliminating structural impediments, and allow women to participate in decision making.

Building a culture of Gender equity and sustainable urbanisation are crucial not only for the survival of cities, but for the realisation of global commitments and targets such as the Africa Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030. To design cities for Women and to understand how they should look, requires understanding how they experience their cities. The constitution of 2010 is progress and rights-based thereby providing the legal framework for the government to fulfil basic rights for the vulnerable groups including women and children. However, women still face challenges including the ability to participate effectively in decision making and leadership. The situation is compounded by the absence of a credible and vibrant women's movement to advocate for constitutional gender equality gains.

It has long been recognised that women's empowerment is a precondition for sustained economic development and poverty reduction; and that it is inexorably linked to social transformation. Empowerment of women and girls has therefore been incorporated in numerous policy and legal instruments like the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Maputo Protocol amongst others. In addition to signing and ratifying these documents, the Government of Kenya mainstreamed women's empowerment through several articles in its 2010 Constitution. The topic holds an important place in the country's key development policy and strategy documents.

Progress in monitoring Kenya's achievements in enhancing women's empowerment has been slower in the absence of an official measure. The Kenya Women's Empowerment Index (2020) shows that 29 percent of women aged 15-49 years in Kenya are empowered. Women in urban areas are nearly twice as likely to be empowered compared to those in rural areas, with incidence rates of 40 and 22 percent, respectively. This Women's Empowerment Index represents a major landmark in Kenya's evidence-based policy making for setting the baseline

and monitoring the country's progress in achieving SDG 5 on gender equality and empower girls and women with specific focus on equal right and inclusivity in cities as well as safe and secure use of public spaces.

SDG Goal 11.7 specifically calls on governments to provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular, for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities by 2030. Key consideration by authorities towards social inclusion of women affairs in the intermediate cities include;

- I. Consideration of equal access to secure land tenure for grassroots women;
- II. Making cities zero tolerant to violence against women and girls;
- III. Making cities friendly to women economic empowerment;
- IV. Prioritization of the place of women in local governance;
- V. Establishment of a Kenyan REFELA chapter.

Social inclusion of youths is a key factor of considerations for the majority of the intermediary cities in the developing world, given the scenario that the youth population is growing at an explosive rate. Between 2000 and 2030, Africa's urban population, which is to a great percentage youth, will grow from 294 million to 742 million, an increase of 152%; Asia's by 94%, and Latin America's by 55% (UNFPA, 2007). Should these youth transition into adulthood in an environment that supports equal opportunities, representation in governance, education, and secure employment opportunities, then they can become the engine for the creation of the economic and social capital that is needed to jump-start development in many regions of the world.

Investing in appropriate programming for poor, marginalised youth in cities is both a crime prevention and conflict mitigation strategy, resulting in the reduction of urban crime levels and a significantly enhanced security. When youth become active, they can catalyse positive change in the settings in which they live, learn, work and play. The main ways to undertake social inclusion of youths in intermediate cities include;

- I. Participatory democracy that will provide for the participation of youth as important Stakeholders in the life of the city.
- II. Establishment of a Kenyan YELO chapter.
- III. Investment in Vocational training centres for skill development.
- IV. Talents Development and Promotion.

Position:

Kenya is committed to improving advocacy on the use of gender index to inform legislative, policy and resource allocation towards gender equality, youth and grassroots women empowerment in intermediary cities. To this end, Kenya remains committed to the implementation frameworks and plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, 1888, 1820 and 2250, Maputo protocol and UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women.

3.1.5.4 Housing Needs of the Intermediary Cities

Housing is a basic human right which authorities are required to facilitate their citizenry to access. As such, supporting the delivery of affordable housing to meet the needs of intermediary cities populace is key in the realization of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, Particularly, SDG 11 (target 11.1) on access to adequate, safe and affordable housing, and basic services as well as slum upgrading. The understanding of key housing aspects is that;

Slums: Areas that experience inadequacy in safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, sufficient living area, housing durability and security of tenure

Informal settlements; Such areas ordinarily lack basic services including access to water and sanitation; inadequacy in structural quality, durability and location; and security of tenure.

Inadequate Housing; Is a housing condition that is characterised by the absence / or lack of the following parameters: safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, sufficient living area / overcrowding, structural quality / durability and location, security of tenure, affordability, accessibility and cultural adequacy. The aspect of affordability in this context implies facilitation of access to a house by households at an expenditure that does not exceed 30% of the total monthly income of the household.

A key observation is that most intermediate cities in Africa suffer the burden of female and children-headed households who occupy the urban poor space and due to their disadvantageous position, such groups are confronted with a situation of housing inadequacy.

In an effort to address the mathematics of housing in Kenya in terms of the demand viz-a-viz supply, the Government has rolled out the Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) as part of

the implementation of the ***Big Four Agenda*** that targets the delivery of 500, 000 Affordable Homes to meet the supply deficit by various socio-economic groups in Kenyan Intermediary Cities. This is supported by an Affordable Housing Development Framework which details the guidelines on the delivery of this mandate which is premised on tapping into the private sector investor platform through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) among other delivery strategies.

Position:

Kenya's position is to support access to affordable finance, application of appropriate building designs and technologies, as well as enhancing PPPs arrangements in the delivery of affordable housing with priority to the vulnerable population in the intermediary cities.

3.1.6 Linking Africities Outcome to Other Global Discourses (WUF 11 and COP 27)

The world is experiencing unprecedented weather patterns that are characterised by record breaking temperatures, extreme rainfall, and severe droughts. The effects of these weather patterns are exacerbated in urban centres where large populations are concentrated in small areas. More than half of the world's population of 7.9 billion people lives in towns and cities, and this is expected to increase to 60% by 2030. Cities and towns have thus become major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions as they account for about 75% of the world's energy consumption, and over 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions. By 2030, 600 million urban poor will be directly exposed to climate change risk and as emphasised by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, risks are concentrated in informal settlements. Local governments and urban planners therefore have a critical role to play in addressing climate change.

Local Governments are responsible for cities and urban areas to create and sustain value. The value of sustainable urbanisation is defined as the totality of a city's economic, environmental, social and intangible conditions that have the potential to improve the quality of life of residents in meaningful, visible and concrete ways. The intangible conditions include institutional, governance, political, cultural and civic perception. This definition recognizes the multi-dimensional and cross-sectoral nature of sustainable urbanisation.

The values are unpacked into four strands as follows;

- I. Economic value is depicted through the lens of the national economy, property development and prosperity across the urban-rural continuum.

- II. Environmental value is depicted through the lens of cities and climate change, the built and natural environment and ecosystem services.
- III. Social value is depicted through a city's quality of life and focus on inclusivity and equity.
- IV. Intangible value is depicted through its governance systems, political institutions, cultural production and multi-level policy coherence.

Kenya is committed to reducing the impacts of Climate Change as enacted in the Climate Change Act (Number 11 of 2016) which provides a framework for mainstreaming climate change across sectors. It targets to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 32 percent by 2030, in line with its commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Kenya recognizes the need for a long-term strategy and participates in the East African Community Climate Change Policy, Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change Master Plan along with other East African countries. This regional approach aims to provide a guide for governments as to how to deal with the specific aspects of climate change that affect East Africa, including; Adaptation and Building Resilience, Mitigation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Enabling Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework, and Addressing Cross-cutting Issues that Adversely Impact Climate-Smart Agriculture.

Kenya's specific policy response is guided by the National Climate Change Framework Policy and the Kenyan development strategy known as 'Vision 2030'. These policies are led by many different groups, including both the Kenyan government and international agencies such as the United Nations. Under the co-ordination of these policies, Kenya is engaged in several efforts that aim to reduce the impacts of climate change such as introduction of mass rapid transport (MRT) to ease congestion and reduce carbon footprint in cities, and restoration of Kenya's green spaces.

Kenya has increased her Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) from 30 percent to 32 percent. Kenya has a "Green Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan (2016-2030)," which will enable us to achieve a higher economic growth and support a low carbon development path.

Kenya will continue to champion the Building Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor Initiative. The Multilateral initiative seeks to build climate resilience among 600 million vulnerable people by 2030.

Kenya has further committed to implement the Building Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor Initiative (BCRUP), which H.E. The President launched at the UN Climate Action Summit (2019) in New York on behalf of the global community. (Outcomes include – Hotspot mapping of vulnerable urban areas; Climate resilient spatial plans; Human settlements and resilient infrastructure; green urban economy and livelihood strategies; NDC urban dimensions). Kenya is seeking to conduct the BCRUP national launch at the Africities summit.

Position:

Kenya's position is to continue with the conversation on key outcomes of the Africities at the World Urban Forum (WUF 11) and to build momentum for the 27th Edition of the Conference Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 27) which is dubbed the "Africa COP" to be hosted in Egypt.

3.2 Pre-Conference Activities

The pre-conference events are activities proposed to be undertaken countrywide as build-up events two months before the Summit is held in May 2022. The proposed activities include;

3.2.1 Innovation and practical Solutions Forum

This Pre-Conference Event will share experiences and drive National conversations on emerging innovations in addressing challenges facing intermediary cities. It targets innovation hubs, youth fora and institutions of higher learning like Universities, Colleges and TVET to converge innovative and creative skills that would offer solutions to –day-to-day living within Intermediary cities.

3.2.2. Marathon

Dubbed *Jang’uech* Marathon, this activity intends to bring together both professional and non-professional runners, bikers and skaters willing and able to participate in the marathon.

3.2.3. Cultural/Artist & Entertainment Extravaganza

The activity is meant to put a spotlight on the Kenyan Culture in the form of Music festivals, traditional musician collaborations, spoken word competition and Art displays competition bearing the theme of the conference in Mind.

3.3 Sides Events and Exhibitions

3.3.1 Local Governments Investment Forum (Lgif) (Deal-Room)

The Side event will provide an avenue for knowledge exchange amongst participating local governments on matters of investment through sharing experiences, innovations and good practices. The conference will enable them to position themselves as investment hubs and pitch their investment profiles to partners.

3.3.2 The Rural Urban Linkages for Sustainable Development Expert Group Meeting-Side Event.

The forum will provide a forum for a panel of experts to share knowledge and experience on Rural Urban Linkages in accelerating Sustainable Development. Participants will share experiences on mainstreaming urban-rural linkages among stakeholders. in national urban

policies (NUP), rural development policy, food security and nutrition plans, social protection and public infrastructure plans.

3.3.3 Building Back Better -Safe, Productive and Inclusive Cities for Women

The event will drive conversations for the creation of spaces for Women voices to be represented in governance in the development of intermediary cities, sharing knowledge, experiences, innovations and aspirations on the cities and communities they want.

3.3.4. Invest in Kisumu Africities

This side event is created with the aim of opening up investment opportunities and triggering partnerships for a sustainable future. The event will showcase Kisumu's investor projects taking advantage of potential investors who will be attending the Africities Conference in the month of May 2022 as the audience.

3.3.5 City To City, Peer Learning Forum - (The African Experience).

The City to City Peer learning forum will present an opportunity to share knowledge on contemporary Urban Practices and approaches on Urban Solutions. The forum will demystify approaches in mobilizing finance on Urban innovative projects in legislation and City Governance.

3.3.6 Building Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor (BCRUP) - A Global and National Presidential Initiative in Kenya.

Building Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor is a global initiative that was inaugurated in 2019 by President Uhuru Kenyatta at the occasion of the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit in New York. It has become a National Presidential Initiative for Kenya as well and has the ambition to step-up climate action for the most vulnerable. It focuses on addressing key challenges and seeks to catalyze transformative change for the urban poor, fortifying marginalized settlements against the dangers of climate change, and boosting the sustainable development efforts of partner cities and nations alike. The side event is to be jointly hosted with UNHabitat and BCRUP Partners.

3.3.7 Kenya Urban Support Programme within Intermediary Cities

The side event will showcase the success stories from participating intermediary cities in Kenya. The exercise is being coordinated by the State Department for Housing and Urban Development; Council of Governors; and the Association of Urban, Cities and Municipal Managers & Authorities of Kenya (AUCIMMAK).

3.4 Exhibition

3.4.1 Kenyan Pavillion

During the Africities Exhibition, Kenya shall have one pavilion that brings together the national government and the 47 County Governments and other MDAs. This will enable participants to get all round information on the prospects of Kenya's intermediary cities within one pavilion.

Kenya will exhibit visual content (videos, reports, fliers) that showcase some of the progress and achievements made since the inception of Devolution. Examples include the Kenya Constitution, Compendium of Covid-19 response in Kenya, Report on localisation of Covid-19 in Kenya Counties.

4. Conclusion

The position of the Government of Kenya is to encourage all key stakeholders and participants to the 9th Edition of the Africities Summit to commit to the realisation of the main summit themes and sub-thematic areas that include;

- I. The State and dynamics of intermediary cities in Africa's urbanisation
 - ❖ The Nature and Growth of Intermediary Cities
 - ❖ African renaissance towards inclusive and sustainable development – Africa Agenda 2063
 - ❖ Integration of Intermediary Cities within the Metropolitan Development Framework
- II. The role of intermediary cities in wealth creation and economic development of Africa
 - ❖ Significance of intermediate cities in contributing to a better future
 - ❖ The Role of Intermediary Cities in the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement

- ❖ Contributions of the Diaspora in Growth and Development of Intermediary Cities
 - ❖ Twinning of Africities for Better Economic Prosperity
- III. African intermediary cities facing the COVID 19 pandemic and the climate and biodiversity crisis
- ❖ Intermediary Cities and Pandemic / COVID 19
 - ❖ Cities and Climate Change
 - ❖ Building Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor (BCRUP)
 - ❖ The decade of action towards realization of the UN Agenda 2030
- IV. The challenge of financial and human resources in the management of intermediary cities in Africa
- ❖ Planning, Financing and Development of Africa's Intermediary Cities
 - ❖ Management and Governance of Intermediary Cities
 - ❖ Investment opportunities and the Growth of intermediate cities
- V. African intermediary cities in the urban social and cultural fabric
- ❖ The Culture of Intermediate Cities
 - ❖ Livability within the Intermediate Cities of Africa
 - ❖ Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups within the Intermediary Cities
 - ❖ Housing Needs of the Intermediary Cities
- VI. Linking Africities Outcome to Other Global Discourses
- ❖ The 11th Edition of the World Urban Forum (WUF 11)
 - ❖ The 27th Edition of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27)

5.0 Annexures

- I. Pre-Conference Activities
- II. Side Events
- III. Exhibitions
- IV. Position Papers
- V. Conference Program

