



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

HIGH LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE

"Urbanisation and industrialisation in the service of Africa's transformation"

Closing Remarks

by

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Dear Representatives of member States, experts and colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to close the High Level Policy Dialogue on the theme of the 2017 edition of ECA's flagship publication, the Economic Report on Africa under the theme: *“Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation”*.

1. Even though I was not present all the time, I had a very good feedback from my colleagues on the quality of the presentations and deliberations.

2. I would like to reassure you that your insights and recommendations will constitute the backbone of our road map in supporting member States to better harness the potential of urbanization.

3. We all know that our member States have many competing priorities. What we are saying here is that by addressing urbanization in relation to economic development, many priorities could be addressed in synergy, including: job creation, poverty reduction, and sustained economic growth. We are offering a systemic theory of change that moves beyond the short term and sectoral approach to a more strategic and multi-sectoral one.

4. We also know that financial resources are limited and choices have to be made. However, we have seen that cities can be a good source of finance. UN-Habitat has already demonstrated that is possible to increase revenues generated by cities.

5. As ECA we are committed not to leave this report in a shelf, but ensure it is on the table of all decision makers and planners of the continent. We have already started and as indicated this morning by my colleagues, more will come in the future. We count on your guidance and requests to be made to ECA to provide technical assistance and training.

6. Let me insist that ECA is suggesting a theory of change to inform your national development plans. As you know “if you are not in the cooking, you are the menu”. So, Africa, needs to own its narrative and develop its priorities and approaches. We hope to be able to contribute to that journey.

7. I would like to deeply thank Karima for her initiative and usual dynamism.

Finally, let me acknowledge the participation of our colleagues who came from UN-Habitat and UNCTAD. Thank you for being with us.

I wish you a safe return to your respective capitals.