



# FUTA NEWS

## **UN-HABITAT UNFOLDS NEW URBAN AGENDA AT LAUNCH OF 2016 WORLD CITIES REPORT IN FUTA**

In order to promote economic development, enhance wealth creation, attract investments and maintain law and order, cities must be adequately planned in advance to make them sustainable for population growth. This was emphasized at the Launch Programme of the 2016 World Cities Report Organized by the United Nations-Habitat at the Federal University of Technology, Akure with the theme, 'Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures'. Chief presenter and Director of the Nairobi, Kenya based Regional Office for Africa, UN-Habitat, Professor Oyebanji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka said while rural to urban migration was inevitable, it should not be chaotic if cities are well planned to accommodate the drift whenever it occurs. He said urbanization includes the provision of good roads, drainage systems and Housing Units for the teeming population. However, he lamented that many cities in the world still rely on out dated modes of planning and unsustainable forms of urbanization. The Director noted that planning regulations are often too detailed and inflexible making compliance so challenging that people tend to bypass them altogether. He further said that genuine accountability and administrative capacity to implement public policies based on accurate information entails a new urban agenda.

The UN Envoy canvasses that the New Urban Agenda should have a clear means of implementation, adopt a city-wide approach, concrete strategies and actions and be flexible to integrate regional differences. He said the role of planning is to make cities more productive and this is made possible by establishing transparent laws that govern the operations of these cities with special attention to Housing. Speaking further the presenter said the link between planning, laws and economic development policies

for cities must be integrated across all levels of government adding that cities must find a way to strengthen their finances citing London as an example of a city that has reinforced development through public private partnerships land taxes and user charges. The Don recommended the promotion and adoption of policies to stimulate high growth of manufacturing output which will raise shares of employment in industry; design and plan urban clusters and adopt sustainable urban plans and legislations to regulate orderly rural-urban transitions and growth of cities. Summing up the Director said planned urbanization will lead to rising living standards and better quality of life; higher economic productivity, improvements in municipal finance of local authorities reduces poverty, creates new consumer class and raised living standards. He said of the Report, “The UN\_habitat 2016 World Cities Report is a product of a 20 year intensive research which employed technical discussions, expert consultations and critical review on urbanization in the world.

It took stock and centres on how ways of production and consumption changed drastically since the UN-Habitat Conference in 1996” In his address Vice-Chancellor and chief host of the event, Professor Adebisi Daramola said the event is very significant in many respects as it is part of concerted efforts of the University to promote research, to create awareness and sensitize the general public on the need for a change in order to better respond to contemporary challenges. Professor Daramola further said the event is also designed to foster collaboration between FUTA and the UN-Habitat to address some of the challenges associated with lack of adequate preparation for urbanization in Nigeria as in other countries of the world such as insecurity and increasing risk of terrorism, urban warfare, disease and pandemics. In addition the Vice-Chancellor said the event is also designed to call attention of Government at all levels to the significant role that the World Cities Report play in informing policies and actions taken by cities and their leaders to make a positive impact on housing and slums, risk reduction and basic urban services. Also speaking Honorable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu who was represented by Mrs.

Rakiya Gambo Ilyasu commended the Federal University of Technology, Akure for taking the lead in the Nigerian education sector and indeed Nigeria as a whole, for the initiative and giant step to host the launch of the all-important report. The Minister said Nigeria has come a long way in urban development but there is room to do better by creating a new urban agenda that will give cities the ability to prepare for the challenges that are associated with or urbanization. The World Cities report 2016 was launched by the Osemawe of Ondo Kingdom, Oba Victor Kiladejo who expressed delight at the relevance of the event to the actualization of a new urban agenda which promote cities that are environmentally sustainable.