

## Declaration on Sustainable Urbanisation

1. **Acknowledging** that CHOGM 2022 is taking place against the backdrop of the global COVID-19 pandemic that has had significant consequences for cities and local governments across all Commonwealth member countries;
2. **Noting** that the long-term trajectory of urbanisation across Commonwealth members will have important consequences for national economies and that by 2050, an additional 2.5 billion people will be living in the world's towns and cities, almost 50 percent of them in the Commonwealth;<sup>1</sup>
3. **Highlighting** that rapid urbanisation requires some Commonwealth members to effectively plan for urban expansion to ensure the equitable provision of municipal services and to this end, improved land governance and integrated urban planning is essential in providing access to land and to infrastructure;
4. **Emphasising** that urban areas are a key contributor to rising greenhouse gas emissions and that cities are also where many of the solutions to climate change will be realised;
5. **Highlighting** the potential role of technology and use of data in enhancing the quality of urban governance and the provision of municipal services, particularly with regards to urban transport and mobility, water resource management and municipal finance;
6. **Recognising** that city governments' access to finance will be crucial in supporting their ability to undertake effective urban planning and enhanced climate action;
7. We, the Commonwealth Heads of Government:
  - 7.1. **Acknowledge** the need for integrated strategies for safe and sustainable urban development that enhance community wellbeing and security;
  - 7.2. **Support** cities, municipalities, and other urban authorities to mobilise resources to develop comprehensive, scalable programmes to address key challenges of sustainable urbanisation and build climate resilience to reduce risk and vulnerability;
  - 7.3. **Encourage** cities to create an enabling environment that support local economic development, job creation, and attract investment; and
  - 7.4. **Encourage** sharing of knowledge and experience including through Commonwealth dialogue; twinning of cities, and increased opportunities for professional training in urban development, including town planning.

Republic of Rwanda  
25 June 2022

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<sup>1</sup> UN- Habitat, 2020. Planning for Climate Change and Rapid Urbanisation.  
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