



Ministry of Federal Capital Territory Administration



ABUJA RESILIENT CITY PROJECT

Making Abuja Cleaner, Safer and more attractive



Proposal Submitted To:

**MINISTRY OF FEDERAL CAPITAL
TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION**

Technical Operator

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ABUJA RESILIENT CITY PROJECT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Making Abuja Cleaner, Safer and more attractive



The Abuja Resilient City Project is a citizen sensitization and mobilization agenda designed to be implemented by the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) with the Peace Corp of Nigeria (PCN) as a partner or technical operator. The project largely focuses on tackling the environmental, social and behavioral components of the Resilient City principles while complementing the security component through mass awareness exercises, information gathering on actionable intelligence and transmission of same to the appropriate quarters for rapid response within the context of neighbourhood vigilance framework.

It is rare that a modern city like Abuja with a fast-growing population experiences just one type of challenge at a time. Modern cities are confronted with combinations of acute shocks and chronic stresses. The identified social and environmental challenges in Abuja include street trading (hawking), street begging, road littering, indiscriminate dumping of refuse, air and noise pollutions, public defecation/ urination, petty theft in neighborhoods by refuse scavengers (Baban Bola Boys), extortion of passengers by taxi drivers (one chance) and street roaming by psychiatric patients /mentally derailed persons. The above-mentioned challenges have been extensively cataloged and understudied by the PCN with practicable, sustainable and cost-effective solutions articulated in a more preventive and proactive manner other than the reactionary and crude methodology usually applied by conventional establishments of Government which has yielded little or no results despite the huge implementation costs.

All over the FCT today, these identified threats and challenges prevail in almost every District and Area, without sparing even the highbrow reserved areas such as Aso Drive, Maitama, Asokoro, Guzape etc. Worse still, the densely populated suburbs and environs of the Federal Capital Territory are beginning to mount unbearable pressure on the original purpose and master plan of Abuja as the daily traffic is getting out of control and almost assuming a status of social emergencies if not handled urgently and strategically. The Abuja Resilient City Project has been carefully designed to adequately address and drastically reduce all these threats and potential shock elements existing in the FCT and its environs.

OVERVIEW:

The Concept of Resilient City is a global agenda currently pursued vigorously by the United Nations and widely embraced by both developed and developing nations owing to its relevance in solving contemporary challenges and meeting emerging needs faced by Urban Settlements across the world. Many Governments are executing the City Resilience Programmes (CRP) which has the support/backing of international donors and global trust funds.

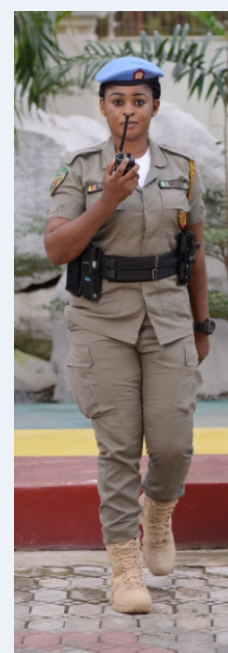
Resilient cities are cities that have the ability to prevent, absorb, recover and prepare for future shocks/challenges (economic, environmental, social & institutional). Resilient cities promote sustainable development, well-being and inclusive growth. In other words, Urban Resilience entails the capacity of a city's systems, businesses, institutions, communities, and individuals to survive, adapt, and thrive, under chronic stress and acute shocks they may experience. By strengthening its underlying fabric and deepening its understanding of the risks that threaten its stability, a city can improve its overall trajectory and the well-being of its citizens it can prosper in the middle of rising challenges.

Urban Resilience responds to three converging global mega-trends namely: Climate Change, Urbanization, and Globalization. Abuja, being the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria, and the Centre of Unity of the Nation that houses the seat of power of the Federation with almost all Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of Government is an outstanding mega-city in Africa and one of the most populated urban settlements in the world. These attributes of Abuja makes it a preferred habitation for both the political and business class as it attracts diverse individuals, organisations and businesses on daily basis. The city is placed under enormous environmental, security and social pressure owing to its fast-growing population and now discovered town planning shortcomings with the root cause traced to the non-adherence to the original master plan by some estate developers and sundry businesses.

Some of the major threats to the designation of Abuja as an ultramodern city are street trading (hawking), street begging, littering and indiscriminate dumping of refuse, vandalism of critical infrastructures, unauthorized parking, noise and air pollution, robbery, kidnappings, cab-passenger snatching (One Chance) etc. While there are existing Government Agencies set up to tackle some of these menaces, the approach to curbing them are more of reactionary and primitive than proactive and civil. Worse still, some of those aforementioned challenges have no institutional mechanism whatsoever put in place to address them effectively.

Hence, the hitherto serene, beautiful, secured and safe capital territory of Nigeria is gradually deteriorating and losing its original plan and purpose, while falling short of International standards for a Resilient City in one breath. With the pedigree of the new Government of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, coupled with the track records of the present Honourable Minister of the FCT, His Excellency, Nyesom Wike, Esq, it is no longer business-as-usual. There are high expectations and hope for the recovery of Abuja and further transformation of the FCT into a very serene, clean, safe, beautiful and thriving city of global repute as it is supposed to be.

The Abuja Resilient City Project is proposed to upgrade the FCT to one of harmonious urbanized city in line with the UN Habitat Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. As it stands today in Nigeria, there is no better volunteer organisational platform more suitable to address these challenges and achieve these objectives of national importance than the Peace Corps of Nigeria (PCN). The PCN commands a membership demography of over eight Thousand well-trained officers and men in Abuja alone and about one hundred and eighty-seven thousand officers and volunteers across the Federation spread across all Local Government Areas and Area Councils. These young people already possess developed capacities in tackling environmental, social and security challenges at various scales, hence, they are ready to be engaged to execute the Abuja Resilient City Project.



PEACE CORPS OF NIGERIA – IN BRIEF:

Peace Corps of Nigeria (PCN) is a voluntary uniformed youth Organization committed to achieving National Creativity, Peace and Youth Development. Founded on the 10th of July 1998 in Kaduna State by a youth development advocate and strategist; Dr Dickson A.O. Akoh, FCITr, FCPA, FNSIS, fnli and having met all requirements in accordance with the extant laws of Nigeria, PCN with registration number: CAC/IT/14589 was duly registered under Part “C” of the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA), LFN 2004 (now part “F” of CAMA 2020) on 1st May, 2002.

In view of the well accepted ideology behind its establishment, the Corps is fully licensed to operate in Nigeria as a Non-Governmental Organization by the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning. The Corps is also a notable member of the National Youth Council of Nigeria which serves as the umbrella body of all voluntary youth organizations in Nigeria. It is also in active partnership with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to assist in the areas of emergency relief services and rehabilitation of internally displaced persons across the country.

The PCN has its motto as “Discipline and Patriotic Services”. The Corps envisions a Nigeria where young people are adequately inspired and equipped to achieve their desired goals which lays credence to its primary mission to connect young people with opportunities in a bid to transforming their lives and creating a more peaceful society for all.



Amongst other related matters, the core mandate of the PCN is to empower, develop and provide gainful employment for the youths; facilitate peace, volunteerism, community services, neighborhood watch and nation-building. The PCN's core mandate is guided by the following 5 (five) i-values of the Corps which all members are required to strictly adhere to viz:



In line with the National Policy on Youth Development, PCN is duly accorded government recognition through the Federal Ministry of Youth Development and the Federal Ministry of Education which licensed all of its activities in Federal Government Colleges in Nigeria. To demonstrate its acceptance across the nation, the Governments of all the 36 States of the Federation gave their approval for the establishment of the Corps' scheme in their schools and colleges.

The PCN also enjoys a special consultative Status and recognition by the United Nations and the African Union, thus, an affiliate of their respective Economic and Social Councils (ECOSOC). Aside its registration and recognition by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the PCN is Nigeria's foremost voluntary youth organization committed to encouraging national creativity, peace and youth development which aligns with international best practices on humanitarian and social development activities. It has over the years partnered with United Nations Environmental Programmes (UNEP), Global Compact and Global Network of Civil Society organizations for disaster reduction and management.



As an organized body with its roots well spread across the nation, PCN has a well-structured network of branch offices in the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. Membership of the Corps is open to all Nigerian youths within the ages of 18-35 irrespective of religion, tribe, sex, political affiliations or status. Thus far, PCN has a membership strength of over One Hundred and Eighty Thousand (187,000) youths comprising of very well-trained officers, regular members and volunteers (mostly graduates of different disciplines). In view of the value-driven programmes of the PCN over the years and to effectively mobilize the Nigerian youth for volunteerism, community services, nation building and to garnish all activities of the Corps with statutory flavor, a Bill for an Act to establish the Nigerian Peace Corps is currently before the National Assembly of Nigeria. While the House of Representatives has overwhelmingly passed the Bill, same awaits its concurrence by the Senate.

It is interesting to note that since coming into existence more than two decades ago, the PCN has been self-funding all of its structures and activities nationwide. The Corps has self-funded all of its volunteerism and humanitarian activities, including the sponsorship of members of the Corps to several Meetings and Conferences of the United Nations and the African Union in the United States of America (USA), Brazil, Switzerland and Kenya. Presently, the income of the PCN at all levels is solely derived from all or any of the following:

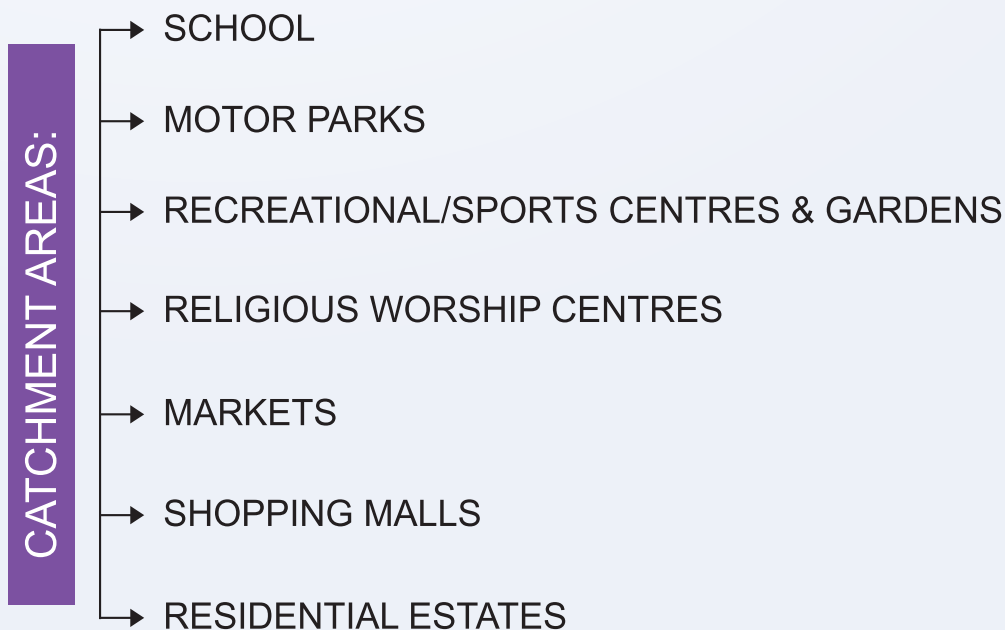
1. Membership form fee;
2. Camp registration fee;
3. Annual ID Card renewal fee;
4. Periodic dues and levies;
5. Fund fair; and
6. Gifts or bequests.

In support of all of the above enumerated points, find annexed relevant documents authenticating the corporate existence of the PCN including some local and international affiliations. Also annexed are images evincing the participation of the PCN in several United Nations programmes, Government functions, peace and awareness campaigns as well as empowerment activities and humanitarian intervention.



PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ To identify and proffer solutions to the threats and challenges preventing Abuja from emerging as one of the major resilient cities of the world;
- ❖ To develop a more proactive and preventive mechanism rather than a reactionary framework to address the identified threats and challenges to the beauty, serenity and security of Abuja as an urban city;
- ❖ To forecast and set up preventive mechanisms against possible shocks and acute stresses that may engulf the city of Abuja;
- ❖ To complement the efforts of the security agencies through prompt and accurate information gathering on actionable intelligence and transmission;
- ❖ To establish a standby and well-trained volunteer mechanism for emergencies and to complement the works of response agencies in the FCT;
- ❖ To ensure the enlistment of Abuja in the international records of resilient cities of the World.



The Project is subdivided into four implementation phases, namely:

Evaluation and Need Accessment Phase:

This stage entails the assessment of possible risk factors and their magnitude of impact on the city and the evaluation of possible interventions with specific locations. It is at this phase that mappings are done on knowledge-awareness, available information and statistics.

Sensitization and Mobilization Phase:

Most Government intervention programmes fail to achieve expected outcomes owing to inadequate sensitization and mobilization of the target group to understand, own-up and participate in its implementations.

Confrontation and Programming Phase:

This is the actual and active practical implementation stage where all identified threats and challenges are confronted and addressed squarely through articulated strategies and mechanisms.

Progression and Expansion Phase:

The project has to be sustainable and continuous, hence, the overall framework and mechanisms have been designed to expand progressively commencing from Central Business District of Abuja to other districts and areas. It will subsequently extend to the rest of the Area Councils and finally penetrate the suburbs and environs of the FCT.

Paying attention to the environs of a city is crucial while planning its resilience as sudden and acute shocks or disasters in any of these areas can automatically spill to the main city hence, the Abuja Resilient City strategies include the environs and suburbs at the final stages of implementation.

Planning for a resilient urban future requires tackling challenges and creating solutions in a place-based, integrated, inclusive, risk-aware, and forward-looking manner. The Abuja Resilient City Project has taken all these into consideration.

CAPACITY STATEMENT

Resilience is the next corporate attribute for which the Peace Corps of Nigeria is known for discipline and patriotism. For over two decades, the PCN has undergone daunting challenges and existential threats that would naturally snuff life out of any ordinary/common Organization. However, the Peace Corps has emerged stronger and better in the face of this life-threatening battles, while taking advantage of the moment to instill courage, resilience and a never-say-die spirit in the entire membership. With no funding from both Government and the organized private sector, PCN has risen to become one of the most revered and impactful voluntary uniformed youth-centered organizations in Africa.

The PCN has a membership capacity of over eight thousand officers, men and volunteers in Abuja alone. Every one of these young persons is well trained and equipped with necessary tools and tactical skills in tackling diverse social, environmental, and domestic security challenges and well-grounded in the fundamentals of open-source intelligence (OSI). Most of the ranking officers have participated in several international conferences and capacity building programmes across the world. Peace Corps has been involved in many States of the Federation in joint task forces on security and volunteer works on disaster management at critical times. Many government and private sector organisations have equally engaged the services of officers and men of the Corps in events and programmes to maintain orderliness and excellent protocol, with good commendations and testimonials at all times.



STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION – IDENTIFIED GAPS & THREATS

The Management of the Peace Corps of Nigeria has identified the following threats and challenges as major mitigating factors to the resilience of Abuja as a mega city of repute:

- STREET TRADING/HAWKING
- STREET BEGGING
- LITTERING & INDISCRIMINATE DUMPING OF REFUSE
- VANDALIZATION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURES
- NEIGHBOURHOOD SCAVENGERS/ PETTY THEFT
- UNAUTHORIZED PARKING
- NOISE AND AIR POLLUTION
- EXTORTION OF PASSENGERS BY TAXI DRIVERS (ONE CHANCE)

Street Trading (Hawking): Street Trading or Hawking is the public and nomadic sale of goods in open and unauthorized places like streets and roads of which has become a major menace in Abuja. Street trading does not only cause chaos and interrupt free flow of traffic but also endangers the lives of the petty traders who risk being hit by fast moving vehicles. Till date, all efforts to combat hawking and street trading has proved abortive even at the heart of the city owing to the reactionary and primitive approaches.



Street Begging: All over Abuja city, people (male, female, adults and children) are found roaming the streets begging for money, food and sometimes clothing. This constitutes nuisance and embarrassment which must not be allowed to continue as it not only defaces Abuja but reduces its bid to emerge as a world Class Resilient City.



Littering and Indiscriminate Dumping of Refuse: The challenge of waste management in the FCT is not solely to be blamed on the relevant authorities but rests more on the bad habits and poor orientation of residents who do not understand the environmental, health and social hazards posed by such acts. Many of the habitants do not see the direct and indirect consequences of their actions. To compound the matter, these indiscriminate dumping of refuse in unauthorized places and littering of the streets are done at night and at odd hours when the eyes of the conventional authorities are off guard.



Vandalization of Critical Infrastructures: One of the major challenges faced by the Federal Capital Development Authorities is the vandalization and theft of critical public infrastructures such as manholes, electricity cables, metallic rails on bridges etc. This ugly development has assumed a subject of serious concern as the costs of replacement and funds spent on vigilance gulps huge chunk of the annual budgetary provision hence, the dire need for a more preventive and proactive measure to curb this trend.



Neighbourhood Scavengers/Petty Theft: The Baban-bola boys syndrome which is petty theft around neighbourhoods of the FCT perpetrated by the refuse scavengers who roam around the nooks and crannies of the city in search of recyclable wastes has fast emerged as a major threat to residents, especially in suburbs and ghetto areas of Abuja. These young boys roam neighbourhood and steal all manner of useful items from unsuspecting persons who at that time are mostly at work. Millions are lost daily to this syndrome which must be confronted strategically if Abuja must emerge as a Resilient City.



Unauthorized Parking: The parking of vehicles in unauthorized places and obstruction of streets and roads by motorists longer than is convenient thereby causing heavy traffic and sometimes avoidable accidents is equally a hazardous situation requiring urgent and proactive measures. It is very possible to radically reduce the occurrences by properly manning strategic locations of the city prone to these incidents with Peace Corps Volunteers.



Noise and Air Pollution: Noise and air pollution are beginning to rear their ugly heads in the streets of Abuja owing to population explosion. The unnecessary honking by motorists, public use of loud speakers and megaphones by religious centres constitute noise pollution. Equally, the burning of large refuse sites and fumes from exhaust pipes of vehicles and chimneys of factories combine forces to pollute the air. Serious preventive measures need to be put in place to eliminate these from the streets and neighbourhoods of the Federal Capital Territory.



Extortion of Passengers by Taxi Drivers (One Chance): The notorious one-chance syndrome which leads to extortion and robbery of unsuspecting passengers by fake and criminal taxi drivers has become rampant in the city of Abuja and environs. These false cab operators pick up commuters along the streets mostly in the evenings and late hours of the night with their cohorts or gang members onboard. They move with weapons to threaten and frighten their victims into releasing their hard earned monies and other valuables. These criminals have even gone to the extent of moving with ATM devices (POS) to force their victims into transferring monies from their own accounts into theirs. To effectively tackle this crime, the FCT administration will require a highly unconventional and open-source intelligence methodologies that engage the people and citizenry more directly. This can only be achieved by a structure like the Peace Corps having the conventional security agencies as buffers.



The PCN has done thorough and extensive research and adequately prepared to successfully execute the Abuja Resilient City Project primarily aimed at fighting street trading (hawking), eliminating street begging, checking littering and indiscriminate dumping of refuse, preventing vandalism of critical infrastructures, stopping unauthorized parking, reducing noise and air pollution, forestalling kidnappings, eradicating extortion of passengers by taxi driver (one chance), and wiping out neighbourhood scavengers/petty theft (Baban-Bola Boys)

STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION – THE DELIVERABLES

- Neighbourhood sensitization and peer orientation outreaches;
- Street watch and patrol to forestall littering, begging, road obstruction, indiscriminate dumping of refuse, noise and air pollution.
- Manning of all major streets for hazard prevention and vigilance;
- Prompt and accurate information and intelligence transmission to the security agencies;
- Adequate volunteers and ready-trained manpower for emergencies to complement emergency response agencies;
- Cheaper and reliable labour for neighbourhood watch;
- Radical reduction in cost of implementing all projects and programmes bothering on environmental protection and security;
- Provision of waste bin or trash cans at different locations within the city and enforcing monthly environmental sanitation within the neighbourhood, especially the suburb areas.

STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION – NETWORKING & SYNERGY

The challenges to city resilience is multi-faceted hence, cannot be effectively confronted by one organisation or establishment. There has to be corporation, collaborations and partnership if Abuja Resilient City is to be meaningfully achieved within a reasonable time frame. This is again an area of advantage for the Peace Corps of Nigeria which has very strong relationship/influence over many youth organisations and also some Government institutions and with strategic players in the organised private sector. PCN hopes to effectively network this relationship and build synergies to implement the Abuja Resilient City.

The existing Government establishments relevant to environmental, security, social, behavioural and disaster management must be properly coordinated to work in enhanced synergy in the project. The residents of Abuja must be networked and sensitized enough to willingly engage in the actualization of city resilience for the FCT.

The Peace Corps of Nigeria, in the course of realizing the passages of the Nigeria Peace Corps Bill, has succeeded in building strategic inter-institutional and organisational partnership over the years both within Abuja and across the Federation which can be deployed for the pursuit of the Resilient City project for the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION – CONTINUITY AND PROGRESSIONS

The Project is sustainable and continuous with potentials for expansion and progression. It is designed to commence with the Abuja Municipal Area Council and the most proximate Area Councils, then expand to the other Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory.

The Resilient City Programmes is tailored to progress to nearby communities of states sharing boundaries with the FCT, as sudden shocks and acute stress from those neighbouring cities can spill to Abuja. The planning of City Resilience Programmes (CRP) is usually integrated and forward looking. With time, the Abuja Resilient City Project will apply for international funding and grant from the global trust fund and other available funding opportunities available for urbanization programmes and local/community developments. The Project is intended to snowball and grow continuously progressing into a National Cities Resilience Programme.

ANALYSIS – COST / PROFITABILITY

The implementation of City Resilience Programme is relatively cost effective as the overall impact and benefits drastically reduces wastages and huge financial resources spent on reactionary disaster management. This validates the saying that a stitch in time saves nine.

More still, the engagement of the Peace Corps of Nigeria in this proposal for environmental management and security of the FCT will achieve so much results at the most minimal cost as PCN already has the philosophy of volunteerism and patriotism with all of its members endowed with the character and mentality to render selfless services to the society. This proposal guarantees optimization of budgets and funds and if approved, will turn out to achieve much more at same or even lesser resources in making Abuja a Resilient City.

Furthermore, there are available international grants and trust funds to support City Resilience Programmes (CRP) and some World Bank funds for harmonious urbanization.

The Abuja Resilient City Project as designed by the Peace Corps of Nigeria will not only reduce cost and optimize outcomes but also attract more international funding for the risk and shock reduction in the FCT.

ANALYSIS – COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

The Peace Corps of Nigeria has a comparative advantage over other organisations in the FCT for the implementation of a Resilient City Project considering the huge population of its membership in Abuja which runs to over eight thousand officers and men.

Again, the training and orientation already given and acquired by its officers aligns perfectly with the project objectives. The PCN is nationally renowned for resilience, patriotism, and volunteerism. The organisation having been self-funded for over two decades will gladly and readily serve the nation at a very low cost.

PCN already has established offices and leadership structures across all the Six Area Councils of the FCT hence, will effectively mobilize and implement the programme faster and more efficiently.

Key Assumptions

The Abuja Resilient City Project is designed upon the following assumptions:

- ❖ The nation will not be at war or any major political crisis that will destabilize its peaceful coexistence;
- ❖ That the present Administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is committed to uplifting the national image of the country and improving on the well-being of the people;
- ❖ That existing agencies will find this proposal complementary and not competitive as most of the activities are more proactive than reactionary. In fact, the action plan does not conflict with the functions of any agency but will complement and boost what is already on ground.
- ❖ That there will be reasonable cooperation from residents of Abuja in response to the consultation and sensitization phase of the project.

CONCLUSION

If approved as proposed, the Abuja Resilient City Projects guarantees to make the FCT resilient, cleaner, safer and more attractive at the most minimal cost while placing Abuja in the international list of resilient cities of the world and in the map of mega cities that have achieved the UN Habitat Harmonious Urbanization Agenda. The Peace Corps of Nigeria has full capacity and has done adequate research for national services of this nature. If granted the opportunity, PCN will leverage on this project to fulfill a long-time aspiration of contributing enormously and remarkably to national development.

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