

EXPERT MEETING ON LEVERAGING URBANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Venue: Kigali, Rwanda

Date: 2 – 4 November 2015

Concept Note

Introduction:

The inclusion of Goal 11 to “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” in the recently approved 2030 Sustainable Development Goals represents an important opportunity for the continent to get the ‘urbanization right’ by harnessing the transformative power of urbanization for development, people-centered urbanization where equity matters, and also the role of national and city leaders in defining the future of Africa which will become predominantly urban.

Africa has experienced the highest urban growth during the last two decades at 3.5% per year and this rate of growth is expected to hold into 2050. Projections also indicate that between 2010 and 2025, some African cities will account for up to 85% of the population. Right now, about 40 percent of African people live in urban environments, but by 2030, the number will exceed 50 percent as Africa ceases to be a predominantly rural continent and some cities swell by up to 85 percent of their current size.¹ This rapid expansion has changed the continent’s demographic landscape. Yet, urbanization in Africa has failed to bring about inclusive growth which, in turn, has resulted in proliferation of slums, urban poverty and rising inequality. Inequality in African cities remains the second highest in the world with an average Gini coefficient of about 0.58, well above the average of 0.4. Rural-urban migration and natural population growth rates in cities are the major causes of the increasing rate of urban growth and slum proliferation in Africa.²

This rapid urbanization presents new frontiers in the development challenge for many African countries, particularly in service delivery in informal settlements, capacities for effective planning at all levels, and insecurity. For instance, it is in slums that Ebola was for the first time urbanized, presenting a complex

1 Urbanization in Africa, African Development bank, available at <http://www.afdb.org/en/blogs/afdb-championing-inclusive-growth-across-africa/post/urbanization-in-africa-10143/>

2 ibid

challenge and overwhelming the already fragile health systems. While Africa experiences the largest growth of unplanned and unmanaged urbanization (as manifested by the high proportion of slum dwellers estimated to be around 62 percent of the total urban population),³ many young people devoid of opportunities in rural areas continue to migrate to urban areas with the hope of improving their lives.

The ongoing process of Habitat III provides another opportunity to highlight the role and contribution of urbanization to the Africa development. Under the auspices of the African Union Commission and inspired by the 2063 Africa development agenda, African governments are sharpening their common position for the Habitat 111. The common position could be finalized and adopted in Abuja in March 2015. In the current draft background documents and declarations, African countries underscore, amongst other, the rising inequity, urban poverty and economic growth with limited social development.

Today, cities have become critical entry points to address drivers of mega-trends of global environmental degradation: urbanization, rising middle class, rising inequity, and population growth. The role of cities for sustainable development cannot be overstated. Cities consume over two-thirds of global energy supply, and are responsible for 70% of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.⁴ The dual challenge of building sustainable urban cities while expanding rural opportunities has emerged as a fundamental development challenge of the 21st century.

The urban migration patterns underline the fact that urban areas in Africa are becoming drivers of socioeconomic transformation by virtue of their unique characteristics. They offer significant opportunities for the creation of prosperity, which in turn can be used for national development and poverty reduction.⁵ However, the endogenous and exogenous demands that accompany the growth of urban areas such as housing, education, healthcare, infrastructure, and basic services require a new way of planning, financing and governing cities from policy makers and practitioners in order to build sustainable cities. Realizing the potential gains of urbanization in Africa will depend on how well urban growth is managed and planned for, and the extent to which the benefits accruing from urbanization are equitably distributed. At the same time the challenges of urbanization could not be underestimated.

Recognizing the challenges and opportunities presented by the rapid urbanization, African governments are increasingly seeking to plan and manage the process in a more sustainable, productive and inclusive manner. The review of national urban policies (NUPs)⁶ suggests that governments are conscious of the need to mobilize active support across the different spheres and sectors of government to implement a coherent approach to planning and developing cities and towns. National urban policies are becoming a good framework to identify priorities and coordinated action at the local and national levels. The diversification of socio-political and economic opportunities with the development of intermediary cities, as seen in Rwanda, offers a powerful tool to strengthen the economy, reduce poverty, address inequity and environmental challenges. Upgrading and preventing slums as initiated by Kenya is seen as a priority for African countries undergoing rapid urbanization since it creates a healthier, more equitable, more stable, and stronger country. There is thus a renewed recognition that formulating the

³ African Urbanization: Alexandra Phillips, Harvard International Review, March 23, 2014

⁴ Cities for the future: Innovation and Sustainability, GEF, 10 December 2014

⁵ Sustainable and Inclusive Urbanization in Asia Pacific, UNDP 2013

⁶ The Evolution of National Urban Policies: A Global Overview, *First published in Nairobi in 2014 by UN-Habitat*

necessary policies, institutions and organizational change will therefore be crucial in managing Africa's urbanization.

To this effect, UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa, in collaboration with the UN-Habitat engaged in a process aimed to explore the urban accelerators to socio-economic transformation in Africa – including safety and security, equity, urban policy, planning, economy, municipal finances, youth and job creation, basic services, and governance - with a view to providing advice and guidance to national stakeholders on what could be changed with the way the urban sector is governed in Africa to bring about positive transformation on the continent. In other words, the initiative seeks to explore the development response to urbanization.

Justification of the Study and Expert Group Meeting:

Though the correlation between increased urbanization and economic growth has been demonstrated since the industrial revolution, recent studies show a strong surge in its positive impact on growth patterns as more and more cities have emerged as major contributors to GDP and countries with high rates of urbanization have been exhibiting high GDP growth rates as well. The continent's urbanization rate, the highest in the world, can lead to economic growth, transformation, and poverty reduction. Alternatively, it can lead to increased inequality, urban poverty, and the proliferation of slums. An understanding and review of the laws, policies, and actions needed to reap positive dividends from Africa's urbanization are therefore critical in the continent's transformation.

Therefore, by commissioning the development of a framing paper and policy paper, UNDP and UN Habitat seek to enrich the regional normative standards and understanding of urban accelerators to economic transformation in Africa.

The Expert Group Meeting will bring some of the most renowned thinkers and leaders on Africa's urbanization to Kigali. The EGM will also reveal insights from cutting-edge research done at the UN Habitat and UNDP pointing to lessons learned and areas where further investigation is necessary to meet the policy challenges of ensuring sustainable and inclusive urban growth. Experts and practitioners will debate, discuss and enunciate informed suggestions on the direction of the Development Response to Urbanization in Africa.

Objective of Expert Group Meeting

The EGM will review the framing paper, looking specifically at the different identifiers of the levers and entry points for supporting the transformation of urban centres for sustainable development in Africa.

Expected Output of EGM

The expected outputs of the meeting are: (i) to review the draft of the framing Paper; (ii) Refine the scope, objective and content of the prepositions highlighted by the framing paper and (iii) Chart the structure of the eventual Policy Paper on the Development Response to Urbanization in Africa, and (iv) provide cutting edge ideas and thinking based on the participants expertise as to inform the new urban environment in Africa.

EXPERT MEETING ON LEVERAGING URBANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Venue: Kigali, Rwanda

Date: 2 – 4 November 2015

AGENDA

<i>DAY ONE: Sunday 01 November 2015; Arrival</i>	
<i>TIME</i>	<i>AGENDA ITEM</i>
<i>DAY ONE: Monday 2nd November 2015: Framing the issues</i>	
<i>08:00 - 09:30</i>	<i>REGISTRATION & Security Briefing</i>
<i>09:30 – 10:00</i>	<u>OPENING SESSION</u> <i>Welcome and Introductions by Facilitators (Ozonnia Ojielo and Doudou Mbye)</i> <i>Opening Remarks (20 minutes):</i> Lammin Manneh – UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative, Rwanda <i>Dr. Adeyinka</i> – Director of Research, UNHABITAT <i>Lebogang Motlana</i> – Director, UNDP RSC

10:00- 10:50	<u>SESSION 1: Framing the Discussion</u> <u>Conceptualisation of the Study:</u> Presentation of the Framing Paper and interpretation of the TORs , Ms. Rana Amirtahmasebi, Development Consultant, Remarks: (15 minutes) Understanding the State and challenges of Urbanization in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities. Ben Arimah (UN Habitat) Remarks: (15 minutes) Understanding the imperatives and approaches to a development response to Urbanization in Africa: Mansour Ndiaye, (UNDP)
10:50 – 11:30	TEA/COFFEE/HEALTH BREAK/GROUP PHOTO
11:30 - 12:30	SESSION ONE CONTINUED: Plenary discussions and Q and A
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH BREAK
13:30 - 15:00	<u>SESSION TWO:</u> Urbanization and inclusive growth and sustainable development: What must we address and what approach should we Adopt (what are we missing)? Lead speaker: Aeneas Chuma, Africa Regional Director, ILO Discussants <i>Semia Solange Guermas de Tapia, (UNECA)</i> <i>Representative of UNCTAD,</i> <i>Prof. Robert Benjamin Kiunsi, Tanzania</i> Moderator: Dr Adeyinka
15.00-18.00	<i>Experiences from the Field:</i> <i>Kigali City Council</i> <i>Addis Ababa City</i> <i>Nairobi</i> Moderator: Kodjo Mensah-Abrampa, Ghana

DAY TWO: Tuesday 03 November 2015: Comparative Experiences	
<i>TIME</i>	<i>AGENDA ITEM</i>
09:00 – 09:30	<i>Recap Day One and Overview of Day Two, Facilitators</i>
09:30 – 11.00	<i>Presentation in plenary from framing discussions</i>
11.00 -12:30	<u>PLENARY SESSION THREE:</u> Urbanization and Environment/Climate Change: Challenges and opportunities Discussants <i>Excellent Hachileka, UNDP</i> <i>Doudou Mbye, HABITAT</i> <i>Prof. Daniel K.B. Inkoom,</i> Moderator: Aliou, UNDP
12:30-13:45	LUNCH BREAK
13:30 – 14:30	<u>PLENARY SESSION SIX:</u> Urban Governance and institutional strengthening (including national urban polices) and urbanization Lead speaker: Kodjo Mensah-Abrampa Discussants: <i>Leo Vinovezky, Isreal Embassy</i> <i>Remy Sietchiping, UN HABITAT</i> <i>Minerva Nivera, UNDP New York</i> <i>Oluwafemi Longe, Nigeria</i> Moderator: Rose Okoth-Akinyi, UNDP
14.30-15.00	Health break
15:00-16:45	<u>PLENARY SESSION FIVE:</u> Looking Forward;_Emerging Challenges and Opportunities. How do we capture and respond to new technology, and other new opportunities (what are we missing)? Lead speaker (15 mins): Femi Longe, Co-creation Hub Nigeria Discussants (5 mins each): <i>Njeri Cerere, Kenya</i> <i>Oumar Sow, Sengal</i> <i>Peter Waiganjo Wagacha</i> Moderator: Njoya Tikum
16:45-17:00	<u>Recap and end of Day two</u>

DAY 3: Wednesday 4th November 2015: Framing the Development Response

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
9.00-9.30	<i>Recap of day 2 and overview of day 3: Facilitators</i>
9.30-11.30	<i>Group work: Selecting Effective Criteria for Development Response</i> Group1: <i>Reviewing the draft of the framing Paper</i> Group2: <i>Refining the scope, objective and content of the prepositions highlighted by the framing paper</i> Group 3: <i>Proposing the structure of the eventual Policy Paper on the Development Response to Urbanization in Africa</i> Each group shall come up with a document that could be validated in plenary along with a roadmap for action.
11.30-12:00	Health break
12:00 to 13:00	<i>Presentations in plenary and discussions</i>
13.00-13.30	<i>Closing ceremony:</i> 1. <i>Director RSCA</i> 2. <i>Director of Research UN-HABITAT</i> 3. <i>RR/RC Rwanda</i>
PM	DEPARTURES