

IMPLEMENTING THE **NEW URBAN AGENDA**

Implementing the New Urban Agenda in Africa: A Harmonized Framework

Organized by AUC, ECA, UN-Habitat

Wednesday, 10 May 2017, Venue: Conference room 9
Time: 6pm to 7.30pm
Nairobi, Kenya

Background

The adoption of recent human settlements and urban development commitments such as the New Urban Agenda, the Common African Position towards the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development, (Habitat III), Africa's Vision Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goal 11 on cities and human settlements have necessitated a strategic framework for coherent and systematic implementing, monitoring and reporting of these commitments and priorities.

The effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires action from global to local levels. It also requires coordination and collaboration between regional and sub-regional stakeholders and actors for a collective approach towards sustainable urbanization which enables the desired structural transformation of the continent. Continuous dialogue and engagement between relevant stakeholders to define the main elements of a regional implementation framework for the New Urban Agenda in Africa is thus critical.

The mandate to develop this harmonized framework, was provided by the Second Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee (AU-STC 8) on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization, where Ministers and representatives called "upon the AUC (DPA-STC8 Secretariat) to lead in partnership with its partners, the development of a coherent framework for the follow-up of EX.CL/Dec.933(XXIX) regarding the Common African Position towards Habitat III.

Follow up of the above request is anchored specifically in the Sub Committee on Urban Development and Human Settlements (HUD SC) which is the main organ of the African Union composed of all African Ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development in Africa. Technical cooperation with relevant partners will further facilitate this process, including with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

The formulation of a harmonized regional implementation framework in Africa comes at a time when member States are also renewing their development plans with a focus of venturing into middle income by the next decade. It therefore presents an opportunity to articulate and underscore the role of urbanization in the acceleration of inclusive and sustainable structural transformation in Africa driven by industrialization.

Relevance to the GC26 theme

The event is of direct relevance to the thematic focus of the Governing Council on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and presents an avenue to identify means through which the sub-thematic focus areas of the Governing Council namely housing, financing and integrated planning can be mainstreamed into the regional implementation process in Africa.

Objectives

Specifically, the Side Event will provide the opportunity to:

- Gather collective reflections and experiences with stakeholders that will shape the harmonized implementation framework of urban planning and development commitments in Africa.
- Consider the key elements of the process for the development of a regional implementation, monitoring and reporting framework for the New Urban Agenda in Africa.
- Strengthen partnerships towards the effective implementation of urban development targets in Africa in order to accelerate inclusive growth and structural transformation.

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