

Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



Side Event 16

Building capacity and fiscal resilience of cities and local governments in Africa



5 JUNE 2023, 18:15-19:15



Conference Room 14

SUMMARY

As the world emerges from the global COVID-19 pandemic, the triple planetary crisis of climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss is affecting all regions of the world, with rapid and unplanned urbanization driving many of the adverse impacts. These crises coincide with the struggle of cities to recover from the dire impacts of the pandemic, with limited capacities within local governments and their fiscal space continuing to be constrained and therefore are trapped with dual challenges of fulfilling the service demand at the local level and resource mobilization to meet the demand. As a result, longstanding challenges such as urban inequalities and infrastructure gaps are continuing to increase, highlighting the need to strengthen institutional capacities to overcome these challenges and to lead on implementing sustainable urban solutions that generate social, economic and environmental co-benefits.

Africa's growing cities are important contributors to domestic resource mobilization necessary to not only recover from recent global shocks, but to finance their overall development. Africa's local governments are well positioned to tap into the growing revenue potential of cities, as they have the most proximity to urban taxpayers and their needs. Increased urbanization has the potential to raise tax-to-GDP ratio, if well planned and managed and local governments are capacitated to optimize their fiscal space and performance. Building resilience of Africa's local governments and cities contribution to DRM is highly constrained in Africa for several reasons such as limited fiscal and budgetary autonomy of local governments, high levels of informality and institutional capacity gaps of local governments.

Given the increasing importance of local governments in resource allocation, service provision and decentralization efforts, Capacitating cities and local governments is critical and timely to recover from the multiple crises and build resilient economy at the local level.

The objective of the side event is:

- To exchange experiences and showcase good practices, lessons, and tools to assess fiscal space and performance in African cities.





UN-HABITAT

ASSEMBLY

5 to 9 June 2023

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- To facilitate knowledge, skills, lessons learnt and best practice sharing among member states and stakeholders on building resilience of local governments.
- To exchange experiences and good practices on innovative financing mechanisms and systems for local governments in Africa.
- Identify possible collaborations to strengthen the resilience of local governments to existing and future shocks.

Organizer(s)

- Economic Commission for Africa
- FEICOM, Cameroon
- UN-Habitat
- UNCDF

Moderator

Mr. Lennart Fleck, programme Officer, Urban Economy and Finance Branch, UN-Habitat, Kenya

Speaker(s)

- **Honourable Celestine Ketcha Courtes**, Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Cameroon.
- **Mr. Jalal Abdel-Latif**, Senior Social Policy Advisor and OIC of Urbanization and Development Section, ECA.
- **Mr. Dmitry Pozhidaev**, Global Advisor on Local Government Finance, UNCDF.
- **Mr. Philippe Camille Akoa**, General Manager, FEICOM, Cameroon.
- **Dr. Abbi M Kedir**, Associate Professor in International Business Management School, University of Sheffield, UK.
- **Mr. Louis Carlos Velasquez Cardona**, Governor, Caldas Department, Colombia.

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