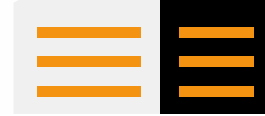


# Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



## Side Event 33

### *The State of Arab Cities, Towards Vibrant Cities*

 Thursday 8 JUNE 2023, 13:15 – 14:15

 Conference Room 9

#### SUMMARY

This joint side event, organized by UN-Habitat and the World Bank, focuses on two reports that put forward urbanization in the Arab World. Cities in the Arab world are transforming at a rapid pace; more than half of the region's population already resides in urban areas, and this number is expected to continue to grow in the coming years. Yet the region is facing many challenges, including COVID-19 pandemic, anemic growth, jobs and youth unemployment crisis. The region will be one of the most strongly impacted by climate change, with water and food scarcity and extreme heat.

UN-Habitat's recently launched *State of Arab Cities Report* provides a bird's eye view of the key observations and most common and acute challenges facing Arab cities. It identifies selected transformative actions to be undertaken by decision-makers and urban stakeholders in the region that are tailored to their specific contexts to achieve social inclusion, urban resilience and sustainability. The World Bank's upcoming report, *Vibrant Cities: Priorities for Green, Resilient and Inclusive Urban Development*, charts a course for today's developing cities to become tomorrow's vibrant cities, focusing on issues of resilience, climate change, inclusivity and growth. While spotlighting the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA), it offers insights for city and country leaders around the world.

Like cities that developed in the past, those that grow and thrive in the coming decades will need endowments, institutions, and infrastructure to boost the expectations for incomes and welfare. Acknowledging that urbanization in Arab Cities is not uniform, and with two flagship reports highlighting the Arab Region this year, an opportunity is presented to shed light on the path for urbanization in the Arab world. Through a various range of speakers representing national and subnational governments and report authors, the event will discuss and present new approaches to framing the challenges surrounding urban development in the Arab world and charting a way for green, resilient and inclusive futures.



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## Organizer(s)

[UN-Habitat; The World Bank;](#)

## Moderator

Rania Hedeya, Regional Representative a.i., UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States

## Speaker(s)

- Dr. Omar Ahmad, Director of Studies and Research, DERASAT (*Presenting the State of Arab Cities Report 2022*)
- Mr. Somik V. Lall, Economic Advisor, The World Bank (*Presenting the Vibrant Cities Report*)
- H.E Gen. Hesham Amna, Minister of Local Development OR Assistant Minister Hesham El-Hilbawy, Egypt
- Ms. Badria Benjelloun, Director of Urbanism in the Ministry of Territorial Planning, Urbanism, Housing and City Policy, Kingdom of Morocco
- Eng. Hussein Muhaidat, Secretary General, Ministry of Local Administration, Jordan



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