



Valuing our communities and cities

Concept Note for Roundtable 2
31 October 2020 | Nakuru, Kenya
12.45 – 14.45 (EAT)

Working together to build sustainable cities and communities

Today, the world is facing unprecedented economic, social, and environmental challenges with adverse impacts on sustainable development. This situation has been intensified by the COVID 19 pandemic, which has caused unimaginable disruptions to normal life, with cities and human settlements bearing the brunt, particularly putting a spotlight on the plight of the urban poor and minority communities. COVID 19 has tested national and local governments, diverse stakeholders, cities, and communities in worse affected areas to the core. However, this has also created opportunities for innovation and new partnerships to emerge with most actors thinking out of the box - the urbanists working closely with economists, health, and humanitarian specialists in a bid to find solutions and adapt to the new normal.

National, sub-national, cities and local governments have joined hands with the people, communities, private sector, civil society, academia, women, youth and children, people with disabilities, those taking care of older persons, prisoners, refugees and displaced persons, grassroots and informal settlements organizations, community leaders and volunteers and the UN system to fight the pandemic and its ramifications. Valuing cities and communities is about recognizing and harnessing the capacities, resilience, contribution, resourcefulness, and ingenuity of those at the forefront of promoting sustainable development.

This exemplifies the spirit of the High Level Political Forum in July 2020, when Member states acknowledged that implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development requires a strong commitment to partnerships at all levels of government, private sector, civil society, academia and other stakeholders. They committed to promote public engagement and innovative partnerships through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, regional and local mobilization and actions, and involvement of communities, people, civil society, academia, private sector, and other stakeholders.

The roundtable

The roundtable on Working together to build resilient and sustainable cities and communities aims to bring together multi stakeholders, especially community leaders, policy and decision-makers, and practitioners and those who strive on a daily basis to create innovative solutions and best practices to dialogue.

Emphasis will be placed on promoting success stories, assess what is working, the lessons learned and to consider policy implications and strategic direction for partnerships and stakeholder engagement at all levels in the post COVID-19 era and beyond. This is important as countries - all stakeholders, people, and communities learn to live with COVID 19 , embark on a decade of action towards 2030 to accelerate implementation and localization of the New Urban Agenda and other internationally agreed commitments and to build resilient cities and communities.

Speakers will include CSOs and representatives from communities, local and national governments, private sector, UN agency, and other stakeholders.

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