



Valuing our communities and cities

Concept Note for Roundtable 3

31 October 2020 | Nakuru, Kenya

15:00 – 16:30 (EAT)

Building Back Better Communities through Public Space

Introduction

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, public space has emerged as a critical lifeline for cities and their residents. It has proven to be a timeless risk-reducing infrastructure of opportunity especially in times of crisis and an essential urban service. From the favelas of Rio, the streets of New York, the neighbourhoods and informal settlements of Nairobi, and the inner city neighbourhoods of Johannesburg, it has revealed the resilience, solidarity and creativity of communities. It has underscored the potential of collective action to protect the most vulnerable, support local economies, break the chain of infections, re-imagine our collective future. Some of these innovative practices can be replicated and or taken to scale for a safer, prosperous and healthier post-COVID urban future. At the same time the pandemic has exposed stark inequalities in the accessibility, management, quality, and distribution of green and public spaces across the urban divide, both in developed cities and in cities of the emerging economies.

The Roundtable

This roundtable on Building Back better Communities through Public Space will focus on recovery and urban futures - solutions and development through innovations from governments, civil society, international organizations and the private sector with a focus on green, and public spaces, placemaking and Public, Private, People Partnerships (PPPPs).

The roundtable is envisioned as a learning exchange that brings together national and local government leaders, learning and implementing partners and new players, and will bring together urban development actors including local government leaders, community groups, academia and research institutions as well as the private sector to share their experiences and learnings, and chart a way forward on what the post-COVID city might look like, with a special emphasis on the placemaking-health-local economies nexus.

Expected outcomes



Innovative low-cost high impact practices, and experiences across policy, financing, legislative, and planning aspects on socio-economic protection, and COVID-19 recovery and adaptation.



Identify actionable commitments from national and local governments and stakeholders to tailor policies and leverage the opportunities of the COVID-19 pandemic for a greener and more inclusive future.

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

