



Concept note

6 October 2020

16:15 - 17:30
(Surabaya time)

World Habitat Day – Roundtable 2

Responding to resilient, inclusive, gender-equal and green economic recovery in informal settlements

Introduction

Today, one billion people live in slums and informal settlements. The population is set to increase by another 2 billion by 2050, with the largest proportion of slum dwellers residing in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Having been excluded from the urban fabric for decades, residents of slums and informal settlements, particularly women and children, bear a disproportionate burden of poverty. Marginalized from formal development processes, these communities have no access to formal housing, water, sanitation, waste management and other basic services. Without security of tenure and the capacity, skills, financing and productive assets required to make out a living, slum dwellers earn low incomes and lack employment opportunities. The COVID-19 crisis has evidenced these pre-existing vulnerabilities as inadequate standards of living have increased the negative impact of the pandemic for certain groups. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic and the responses have broadened inequalities and worsened the multidimensional poverty.

This double cause effect between COVID-19 and vulnerability calls for tailored solutions leaving no one and no place behind. In this sense, COVID-19 is an opportunity to identify entry points for innovative solutions for resilient recovery and to build a “new normality” which is green and affordable promoting resilience and inclusion.

The Roundtable

The session will focus on green economic recovery, solutions and development through innovations from governments, civil society, international organizations and the private sector.

There are many opportunities to scale up interventions and establish People Public Private Partnerships (PPPPs) for bringing in innovation and local ownership and bring about permanent change and sustainability. The opportunities and entry-points for providing a better urban future with a focus of a more people-centred and sustainable approach. Governments are to guide, coordinate, open new doors, communities to inspire, drive and private sector to develop new business cases for private sector investment and economic recovery in addressing housing, water, sanitation, waste management, transportation, energy, health services, education and economic infrastructure.

Expected outcomes of the Roundtable:

- Assess opportunities for a settlement-based integrated approach putting people at the centre;
- Assess potential innovations from different groups of stakeholders taking the full eco-system approach to contribute to resilient, inclusive, gender-equal and green economic recovery in informal settlements;
- Present entry points for partnerships and collaboration between diverse stakeholders including on urban agriculture and sustainable food security, green housing, services and infrastructure;
- Identify commitments from governments and stakeholders to tailor policies and leverage the opportunities of the COVID-19 pandemic for a greener and more inclusive future.