



## Fourth OACPS/EC/UN-Habitat International Tripartite Conference

‘Slum Upgrading and Prevention in the Decade of Action’

### WORKING SESSION 4:

### Integration for Upgrading and Preventing Informal Settlements and Slums

7<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 11:00-12:30 (EAT)

Venue: Online

#### About the Fourth OACPS/EC/UN-Habitat International Tripartite Conference

The three-day Fourth OACPS/EC/UN-Habitat International Tripartite Conference on Slum Upgrading and Prevention in the Decade of Action has been organized within the framework of the global policy dialogue of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP). PSUP was initiated by the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and has been implemented by UN-Habitat in 190 cities in 40 ACP countries since its inception in 2008, with funding from the European Commission (EC). The Tripartite Conference seeks to take stock of progress made in transforming living conditions in informal settlements and slums, and examine the lessons learnt, recommendations, commitments and next steps needed to meet the scale and implement the SDG and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

#### Description of the session

Rapid urbanisation has lifted millions out of poverty, but progress has been uneven. Cities are sites of new opportunities and inclusion as urbanisation fosters growth, productivity, opportunities and quality of life for all. However, the current model of urbanisation has generated multiple forms of inequality, exclusion and deprivation: 75 per cent of the world’s cities have higher levels of income inequalities than two decades ago<sup>1</sup>. This means that basic urban services, affordable housing and livelihood opportunities are not evenly distributed within cities. Multiple forms of exclusion manifest through the concentration of poverty and multiple deprivations in certain pockets of the city such as slum and informal settlements.

Deep-rooted inequalities in cities from both the global north and south have heavily influenced the degree and nature of COVID-19 impacts and are leading the pandemic to have a disproportional impact on groups that were already in a situation of greater vulnerability.<sup>2</sup> Indeed the pandemic is reversing decades of

<sup>1</sup> World Cities Report 2016, UN-Habitat

<sup>2</sup> Organization for Economic Cooperation (OECD), “OECD Policy Responses to Coronavirus (COVID-19)”, 13 May 2020, available at <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/cities-policy-responses-fd1053ff>; and Jillian



progress on poverty reduction and human development. This means that in 2020 alone, COVID-19 will push between 71 to 100 million people into extreme poverty. South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa will be among the most affected regions<sup>3</sup>. COVID/19 has laid bare the need for more equal cities and the integration of slums and informal settlements for the benefit of the whole society.

Exclusion, inequalities and poverty can only be systematically addressed when inclusive governance is given. Through a bottom up and participatory approach, communities are to work with other communities, with youth groups, with children, women, elderly, people with disabilities, different backgrounds and health challenges. Furthermore, to ensure access for all to basic services and to target the slum deprivations, integrated policies, city-wide approaches, innovative mechanisms to leverage investments are essential. Those approaches need to be framed in city and national development plans, policies, city-wide strategies as well as in spatial planning at neighbourhood level and enable incremental and community led transformation. Otherwise interventions will not be affordable, meet the needs and will not lead to the integration of slums and communities into the city from spatial and socioeconomic perspectives.

This session will bring together practitioners and decision-makers to discuss how integrated policies and citywide approaches for slum upgrading and prevention, inclusive governance and bottom up approaches for community led interventions can contribute to improve living conditions and reduce inequalities.

### Guiding Questions

The following questions will guide the discussion:

1. How to ensure the integration of slums and communities from physical and social perspectives in the broader city fabric and society without increasing inequalities?
2. What is the importance of participation and bottom up approaches and how to ensure of inclusive governance?

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Du, Robert King and Radha Chanchani, "Tackling Inequality in Cities is Essential for Fighting COVID-19", 14 April 2020, available at <https://www.wri.org/blog/2020/04/coronavirus-inequality-cities>.

<sup>3</sup> Based on the latest household survey data for 166 countries in PovcalNet, an online tool for estimating global poverty, with extrapolations using growth projections from the June 2020 edition of the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects. Sources:

- <http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/home.aspx>
- <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-economic-prospects>
- <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/updated-estimates-impact-covid-19-global-poverty>
- <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/765601591733806023/pdf/How-Much-Does-Reducing-Inequality-Matter-for-Global-Poverty.pdf>



3. How to achieve integration between policies, legislation, strategies, interventions on the ground and community led actions for slum upgrading and prevention?
4. What are the opportunities, entry points and challenges for financing citywide slum upgrading and prevention leveraging the integrated and incremental approach to avoid speculation?

### Expected Outcome

- The session will bring policy recommendations and actions to ensure the integration of slums and informal settlements and communities in the city from spatial and socioeconomic perspectives to reduce inequalities.

### Proposed Recommendations for the Declaration

- Reduce by at least a minimum threshold of 50% the proportion of slum dwellers in each country by 2030, and as much as possible beyond this, aiming at genuine access for all to clean water and improved sanitation, durable dwellings with sufficient living area, security of tenure and other basic services, and thereby to achieve SDG Target 11.1 through Indicator 11.1.1, and to make improvements related to each of the five slum deprivations.<sup>4</sup>
- Ensure equal access to all to the opportunities that the cities offer in terms of employment and economic opportunities, access to services and social protection – healthcare, education, etc., location, etc.
- Avoid investments that increase inequalities and exclusion by ensuring socioeconomic transformation along physical improvements and through incremental approaches.

### Proposed Actions for the Action Framework<sup>1</sup>

- Set nationally appropriate expenditure targets, and adopt a citywide approach, for upscaling quality investments in essential public services for all, including health, education, social protection, energy, water and sanitation.<sup>1</sup>
- Implement innovations such as e-tools to promote broad participation in decision-making and prioritization of actions at city level and localizing actions of strategies at neighbourhood level.<sup>1</sup>
- Incorporate incremental approaches to infrastructure provision and housing delivery.

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<sup>4</sup> Building on the recommendations and actions from the WORKING SESSION 2 of the Brussels Conference: *Integrated citywide approaches addressing the slum deprivations.*