



Leaving no one and no space behind
for inclusion, integration, and sustainable
urbanization for all



‘Slum Upgrading and Prevention in the Decade of Action’

The Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), the European Commission (EC), and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) are honoured to invite you to the **4th International Tripartite Conference on “Slum Upgrading and Prevention in the Decade of Action”**.

The conference will take place online from **6 to 8 July 2021** within the framework of the global policy dialogue of the **Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP)** implemented in **190 cities in 40 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries**, initiated by the **Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States** and financed by the **European Commission**.

Together, we will **take stock of progress made in transforming living conditions in informal settlements and slums in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and around the world**. We have 50 years of global learning on slum upgrading, 20 years of slums in the international development agenda, and now a new momentum globally. COVID-19 was a wake-up call to all of us. It has demonstrated the impact of spatial inequalities, how divided cities are, and how fundamental human rights are not met for many city dwellers. We have seen what it takes to **“leave no one and no space behind”**.

We will present learning and experiences from around the world following a **decade of implementing the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme**. We will invite global experts and researchers of sustainable urban development, and champion countries and communities of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme to share their experiences and expertise. We intend to establish a status quo to **1) make the case for slum upgrading and prevention in the Decade of Action, 2) evaluate lessons learnt and the evolution of approaches to be ‘fit for purpose’, and 3) assess the financial requirements to meet the scale to action Sustainable Development Goal Target 11.1, “by 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums”**.

We will assess if **we are ‘fit for purpose’ to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA)** in informal settlements and slums, transforming a billion lives in the Decade of Action and addressing the rapid growth expected to lead to a tripling of slum populations by 2050. We will **assess the setbacks and impacts of COVID-19**. We will describe inequalities, poverty and the momentum to leverage the **wake-up call of “building back better”**.

We will seek to assess lessons learnt, commitments, and the next steps needed to meet the scale of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda in informal settlements and slums. We will connect our elaborations to the **2021 United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development** starting from early July. We will **position sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**, promoting the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: **building an inclusive and effective path for achieving the 2030 Agenda in the context of the Decade of Action**.

The conference will bring **global, national, city and community leaders together in policy dialogues, practitioners in working sessions, and financing partners in round-tables**. We will seek to engage together in the **drive to overcoming alarming levels of poverty, inequalities and unmet fundamental human rights**. We would like to contribute to **giving a global direction to fairer, healthier, more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable cities**. All these and your contributions will be captured in a global publication on the **‘Status of Informal Settlements and Slums and Solutions for a Better Urban Future for All’**. This publication is a follow-up to the **2003 UN-Habitat Flagship Publication “The Challenge of Slums”**. Together, we will lay the foundation of the chapters of the global publication and design a pathway for a **better quality of life for all**.