



## Concept Note

### Context

The recent COVID-19 crisis made clear how **interconnected** global social, economic and environmental **challenges** are and highlighted **structural inequalities** in societies. It forced many to acknowledge the immediate need to better prepare our people – especially the most vulnerable – and our planet for the intertwined healthcare and climate change risks.

The bulk of the demographic growth is predicted to happen in the global south, and here in secondary cities and rather **informal**. By 2050, this will lead to a doubling of the total population living in informal settlements. Cities are hence central to the delivery of the climate commitments of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. And the urban poor are at the front line: climate change is taking away present and future livelihoods of slum dwellers and informal workers globally. This brings about key levers such as **climate justice**. However, examples of integrated policies of urban planning and management centered around local climate risks and the life of the urban poor are out there but still require significant leverage.

### Partners

Considering the relevance of the topic **Cities Alliance**, the **Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)** and **UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)** partnered to jointly address the complexity of the phenomena at stake. They are three membership based organizations with strong presence globally, their constituencies are composed of both practitioners and researchers with robust experience and knowledge about the urban sector. Together, they can bring not only critical voices to actively participate in the debate, but also a wide and diverse relevant audience of researchers, public servants, political leaders, community representatives, social organizations, international development organizations and the private sector.

### Event

On **Tuesday 12 October at 10:00 CEST**, during the virtual international conference [Innovate4Cities 2021](#), the partner organizations, Cities Alliance, the CLGF and UKRI will be hosting a session entitled [Innovation for Inclusive, Resilient and Climate-Neutral Cities](#) on the nexus between climate resilience and urban poverty and informality.

### Objectives

The main objectives of this joint-initiative are to

1. Strengthen the narrative on the relevance of addressing urban informality and inequality in tackling climate change challenges;
2. Identify priorities for action and collaborations among practitioners and researchers at the local level.

### Format

The session will include a panel discussion with sector experts, academic institutions,





government and local organizations representatives highlighting the realities of informality and inequality in cities and the opportunities of working with marginalised communities vulnerable to climate change to achieve climate justice. It will engage a multiplicity of members and partners focusing on the global south, and target a global audience. The considerations initiated during this event **will culminate in a high-level debate during the COP 26 in Glasgow, UK.**

### Programme

Opening Remarks (5 min)

- **Ms Anacláudia Rossbach**, Regional Manager LAC, Cities Alliance
- **Mr Arne Janssen**, Urban Environment Specialist, Cities Alliance

Panel session (35 min)

- **Ms Lucy Slack**, acting Secretary-General, Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)
- **Mr Maurice Makoloo**, Senior Director – Africa Hub, Habitat for Humanity International
- **Ms Sonia Dias**, Resident Waste Specialist, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)
- **Ms Vanesa Castan Broto**, Professor of Climate Urbanism, Urban Institute in the University of Sheffield (UK)
- **Ms Zoleka Sokopo**, Chief Director at National Department of Human Settlements, National Government of South Africa

Q&A from the audience and open discussion (30 min)

Closing remarks about priorities for action and research (10 min)

- **Mr Greg Munro**, Director of Cities Alliance

For more information about this session, please contact **Anacláudia Rossbach**, Cities Alliance's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at: [arossbach@citiesalliance.org](mailto:arossbach@citiesalliance.org) and **Roxanne Le Failler**, Project Associate for the Global Programme on Informality at: [roxannel@unops.org](mailto:roxannel@unops.org). You can also find this information on [Cities Alliance website](https://www.citiesalliance.org).

Register to the Innovate4Cities conference [here](#) or using the QR code below.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE **INNOVATE CITIES** VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

11-15 OCTOBER

or register via our website [innovate4cities.org/2021](https://innovate4cities.org/2021)

**#Innovate4Cities**

UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

GLOBAL COVENANT of MAYORS for CLIMATE & ENERGY

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER