



## **Fostering Equitable Economic Growth in Cities**

*Exploring challenges, partnerships and approaches  
to reducing inequalities and ensuring inclusive economic growth in cities*

**A Side Event of the Joint Work Programme**  
**Equitable Economic Growth in Cities**  
at the United Nations Conference on Housing and  
Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), Quito (Ecuador)

**Updated 10/10/2016**

As the international community meets to agree on the New Urban Agenda, its draft outcome document already highlights the great need to ensure equitable access to public goods, natural resources, basic services and the use of public spaces that are essential to the livelihoods of people, in particular the urban poor in both the informal and formal economy. It is highlighted that international and national partners will need to focus stronger on ways to increase and harness the capacity of both the formal and informal economy, as well as the opportunities offered by the diverse creative potential of cities to create an enabling and fair business environment and support innovations. Leaving no one behind in cities will therefore require Habitat Partners to shape economic growth paths in cities to be characterised by inclusiveness, equity and environmental sustainability.

In urbanising and low-income countries relatively few city administrations have institutional frameworks and governance arrangements to adequately respond to the equitable economic growth challenge. Not all have strong local revenue bases, and decentralisation systems typically do not devolve responsibilities with commensurate fiscal resources or authority. Growth-led urbanisation has not automatically led to lessening of disparities or better environmental conditions and may even hinder the very growth process it arises from. Similar concerns are being voiced in OECD countries. The quality of economic growth, inequality and poverty, the contributions and challenges arising from migrants in cities, are at the forefront of recent public and policy dialogue.

This side event will therefore focus on approaches available to city governments, organizations of informal workers and non-governmental organisations to create a supportive enabling institutional environment to ensure that public goods, including the use of public space, and public services are available to all. Such access could translate into reduced disparities and better inclusion of the working poor during cyclical upturns and downturns as well as structural growth over the long term. For these trajectories to be identified and supported, complementary policy actions will be discussed, to empower cities in the planning, financing and maintaining of local public goods.

The side event is hosted by the Joint Work Programme (JWP) on Equitable Economic Growth in Cities of the Cities Alliance Partnership. The JWP membership consists of the Department for International Development (DFID), UN-Habitat, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), Clare Short (Chair of the Cities Alliance Management Board), the Ford Foundation and the World Bank.

### **About the Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme on Equitable Economic Growth in Cities**

Cities Alliance is a global partnership bringing together organisations with different perspectives and expertise on city issues around common goals: well run, productive cities that provide opportunities for all residents. Our members include multilateral development organisations, national governments, local government associations, International NGOs, private sector and foundations, and academia. The Cities Alliance partnership has set up a four-year Joint Work Programme to better understand and address the relationship between the delivery of public goods and services and equitable economic growth in cities.

TIME	ITEMS AND SPEAKERS
<b>1. OPENING AND INTRODUCTIONS (10 minutes)</b>	
<b>5 Min</b>	<p><b>Opening of the Side Event:</b> Ms Clare Short, Chair of Cities Alliance Management Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and introduction to the session (presenting the format – panel discussion and Q&amp;A)</li> <li>• Presenting the panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Rubbina Karruna, Cities Advisor, DFID</li> <li>- Mr Vito Intini, Municipal Investment Finance Programme Manager, UNCDF</li> <li>- Ms. Lucy Slack, Deputy Secretary General, CLGF</li> <li>- Mr Young Moon, Senior Advisor with the Urban Economy Branch, UN-Habitat</li> <li>- Ms. Marty Chen, International Coordinator, WIEGO</li> <li>- Mr Sameh Wahba, Director of Urban Development, World Bank</li> <li>- Mr Jerry Maldonado, Senior Programme Officer, Ford Foundation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>5 min</b>	<p><b>Introduction to the JWP:</b> Ms Rubbina Karruna, Cities Advisor, DFID</p> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the JWP? The JWP is a four-year initiative set up by Cities Alliance, chaired by DFID, to jointly address the priority issue of how to promote equitable economic growth in cities. By working with cities and development partners, it aims to support growth trajectories increasingly characterized by equity, inclusion and environmental sustainability.</li> <li>• The JWP focus specifically on supporting greater access to local public goods and services by all citizens and formal and informal businesses in cities. The focus on access to public goods and services is based on the facts that 1) such access is essential to equitable economic growth – reducing inequalities and supporting productivity and job creation and 2) the planning and provision of local public goods and services often lies within the control of local governments themselves.</li> <li>• The three components: 1) Series of global policy dialogues (first in London in May, partnership with OECD Inclusive Growth in Cities Campaign) 2) Globally relevant knowledge production (e.g. on gender responsive access to local public goods and services, informality and the role of public space, the role of local governments and leadership in supporting equitable economic growth in cities) 3) Campaign Cities for Equitable Economic Growth – diagnostics and policy recommendations through local partnerships (the first campaign city partnerships will be formed in secondary cities in Uganda and Bangladesh).</li> </ul>
<b>2. HOW TO PROMOTE EQUITABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN CITIES? (30 MINUTES)</b>	
<b>30 min</b>	<p><b>Panel discussion moderated by Clare Short</b></p> <p><i>Each panelist gets 5 minutes to speak, including a <u>very brief and succinct statement</u> in response to the key question. Alignment to the two key themes is encouraged. The use of practical examples – of specific challenges and specific initiatives undertaken – is encouraged. One follow-up question may be posed by the moderator to explore the main themes.</i></p> <p><b>Key question:</b> What are the challenges to increased productivity and job creation in cities, and what are Joint Work Programme members doing to address them?</p> <p><b>Themes to be explored:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the role of <b>local public goods and services</b> to remove barriers to job creation and equitable growth in cities? How can greater access be supported?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Informality</b> – what is the role of the informal sector in urban economic transformation?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 5 min: Ms Lucy Slack, Deputy Secretary General, CLGF</li> <li>2. 5 min: Mr Vito Intini, Municipal Investment Finance Programme Manager, UNCDF</li> <li>3. 5 min: Mr Sameh Wahba, Director of Urban Development, World Bank</li> <li>4. 5 min: Ms Marty Chen, International Coordinator, WIEGO</li> <li>5. 5 min: Mr Young Moon, Senior Advisor with the Urban Economy Branch, UN-Habitat</li> <li>6. 5 min: Mr Jerry Maldonado, Senior Programme Officer, Ford Foundation</li> </ol>
<b>3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE FLOOR (15 MINUTES)</b>	
<b>15 min</b>	<p><b>Questions from the floor and discussion facilitated by the moderator</b></p> <p><i>Questions from the floor directed either at a single panelist or the panel as a whole. If no questions from the floor, the moderator will direct questions to the panel related to the key question and themes.</i></p>
<b>5. WRAP-UP AND CLOSING (5 MINUTES)</b>	
<b>5 min</b>	<b>Closing of the Side Event, Ms. Clare Short</b>

**Contact**

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