

Development cooperation for sustainable infrastructure asset management

(Virtual side event, Thursday, 6 May 2021, 11:30 AM-1 PM, EDT)

To achieve the SDGs, countries need to vastly overhaul the way governments build and maintain infrastructure—everything from water and sanitation systems to energy grids to transportation facilities—in order to reduce waste and costs, improve delivery of essential public services and ensure a sustainable future for all. In this connection, the side event will introduce and discuss a recent publication entitled “Managing Infrastructure Assets for Sustainable Development- handbook for local and national government” issued by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the UN Capital Development Fund, with support from UNOPS. The Handbook argues that sound infrastructure—and the systems that support it—are needed to achieve 92 percent of the Sustainable Development Goals. It provides concrete guidance on how to ensure the resilience, sustainability and accessibility of existing and planned infrastructure investments. Lead authors, editors and key contributors of the [Handbook](#) will discuss how the practical tools contained in the Handbook will help improve infrastructure asset management and how development partners can support developing countries in adapting these tools to the socio-economic and environmental challenges of our time.

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Navid Hanif, Director, Financing for Sustainable Development, UN DESA

Mr. David Jackson, Director, Local Development Finance, UNCDF

PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: **Ms. Caroline Lombardo**, Chief, Financing for Sustainable Development, UN DESA

Panelists:

- **Prof. Ajith Kumar Parlikad**, Head of Asset Management Research Group, University of Cambridge
- **Ms. Diana Lopez Caramazana**, Partnership Specialist on cities and urbanization, UNDP
- **Ms. Linda Newton**, Ph.D, Lead author of UN Handbook on infrastructure asset management
- **Mr. Francis Byabagambi**, Town Clerk, Masaka, Uganda
- **Mr. Jean Francois Habeau**, Executive Director, Global Fund for Cities
- **Mr. Dustin Carey**, Capacity Building Officer for Climate Innovation, Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Guiding questions:

- *What role for effective development cooperation in helping governments improve the resilience of public infrastructure assets to urbanization, public health crises and climate change?*
- *What are some examples of effective tools for infrastructure asset management in support of the SDGs at the local and national levels?*
- *How can data and information be most effectively used and leveraged for infrastructure asset management?*
- *What is the link between infrastructure finance and infrastructure asset management and how can it be strengthened at the local and national levels?*

Q AND A

CLOSING REMARKS:

Dr. Samantha Stratton-Short, Head of Strategic Initiatives, Infrastructure and Project Management Group, UNOPS



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