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**Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)**

**3rd Preparatory Committee Session**

**Side Event:**

**Highlighting the Sustainable Urbanization Gap in the FfD4 Agenda: Harnessing the Potential of Subnational Finance to Accelerate Investment in Urban Development**

**Organizer: UN-Habitat**

**Co-Organizers: World Bank, SDSN Global Commission for Urban SDG Finance**

**Co-Sponsors: Mexico, Spain, Brazil, Uganda**

**Date and time:**

Wednesday 12 February 2025 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Conference Room 8, UN Headquarters, New York City

**Zoom Meeting:** [https://upenn.zoom.us/j/95619829227](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fupenn.zoom.us%2Fj%2F95619829227&data=05%7C02%7Ckatharine.cotty%40un.org%7C2177f4a9b4e549603b4608dd455bebc3%7C0f9e35db544f4f60bdcc5ea416e6dc70%7C0%7C0%7C638742983284593726%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PxDwPIFbecP4PfDmndV%2Flpe3AUNVUkbOYidOK7gIeFo%3D&reserved=0)

Meeting ID: 956 1982 9227

Sustainable urbanization is a vital pathway for advancing progress toward achieving the SDGs. Cities, home to over half of the world’s population, are essential hubs for accessing critical services such as water, sanitation, transportation, and energy. They are also engines of economic growth and innovation, offering opportunities for livelihoods, wealth creation, and enhanced productivity that drive national, territorial, and local development while attracting both public and private investments. SDG localization, in turn, is increasingly recognized as a critical accelerator of the 2030 Agenda driving systemic transformation through a multilevel, multistakeholder approach that integrates global agendas into local policies and investments. However, realizing the full potential of cities and SDG localization as enablers of inclusive and sustainable development requires a significant scaling up of subnational finance to support investments in social and physical infrastructure and housing. Without this, urban areas risk being locked into unsustainable growth patterns that undermine productivity, exacerbate inequalities, and diminish the quality of life for their residents.

This event will unpack challenges and opportunities associated with financing sustainable urbanization and the role of sustainable urbanization in addressing gaps in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It will focus on how the FfD4 Agenda can enhance financial flows toward sustainable urbanization and SDG localization, by leveraging subnational actors and multi-level governance to deploy innovative funding and financing models that mobilize investments in social and physical urban infrastructure, housing, and local capacity development. The event will also examine how aligning financing and urban development planning frameworks can support integrated urban and territorial development, while highlighting the role of adequate housing and sustainable infrastructure in advancing local and national development goals.

**Speakers**

* Thomas Beloe, Director of the Sustainable Finance Hub, UNDP
* Ming Zhang, Global Director for Urban, Resilience and Land, World Bank
* Ambassador Antônio da Costa, Chief of International Relations Ministry of Cities, Brazil
* Judith Nabakooba, Minister Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Uganda
* Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener, Canada
* Sergio Colina, General Director of Development Policies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain
* Eugenie Birch, SDSN Global Commission for Urban SDG Finance
* Laura Petrella, UN-Habitat