



Financing Urban Development: the Millennium Challenge

Habitat III Thematic Meeting
Mexico City, 9 - 11 March 2016

Plenary Session 2

Sources and innovative financing mechanisms for urban development

DATE: Thursday March 10
TIME: 15:00 - 17:00
ROOM: Juárez (Centro Cultural Universitario Tlatelolco)

Context

Several studies suggest that financing urban infrastructure and services will double or triple in the coming decades. However, from a macroeconomic point of view, a growing gap between funding needs and priorities of investors is observed. This gap is particularly important in the financing process of urban infrastructures.

Despite the favorable conditions for long-term investments (low rates, abundant funds) and the increasing recognition of the role of cities in the development, large institutional investors do not prioritize urban investment, and public funding has decreased significantly in the last years.

To find new macroeconomic solutions and institutions it is essential to unlock the channeling of public and private savings into urban development if we are to achieve the SDGs and realize the New Urban Agenda.

Guiding questions

- How can cities better mobilize the local wealth produced within their territory in order to finance the city by the city?
- How can the global savings be channeled toward the local level to leverage investments? What financial mechanisms do we have to develop to respond to the urgency?
- What support can international organizations bring during the transition phase to a coherent, adjusted system of local finance that meets the needs?



Speakers

- Felipe de Jesús Gutiérrez Gutiérrez - Secretary of Urban Development and Housing, Mexico City Government, Mexico
- Peter Head - Ecological Sequestration Trust Executive Chairman and Member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN)
- Ana Claudia Marinheiro Centeno Rossbach, - Regional representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Cities Alliance
- George W. McCarthy - President and CEO of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
- Henry de Cazotte - Special advisor to the director for development and Global Public Goods, French Ministry of Foreign affairs and International Development
- Geoffrey Makhubo - Councillor at the Mayoral Committee of Finance of Johannesburg and President of the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV)

Moderator

Josep Roig - General Secretary, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Logistics of the session

- The moderator will briefly introduce the speakers.
- Each speaker will have up to 10 minutes for his/her presentation.
- We strongly encourage speakers to address the guiding questions indicated in this note in their presentations. The Thematic Conference is not intended to be a seminar on good practices exchange, but an opportunity for speakers to send key messages to be integrated in the New Urban Agenda to be adopted in Quito.
- If necessary, the moderator can come back to the speakers to address the questions, highlight or clarify information.
- The moderator will open the floor for the participation of the audience.
- If necessary, speakers can use audiovisual material. We discourage the use of long informative power point presentations. If strictly necessary presentations should be limited to a maximum of 10 slides.
- Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Spanish, English and French.