



Department
for International
Development

Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums



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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 Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme on
Equitable Economic Growth in Cities

17 October, Monday 12:30-1:30pm

Room MR12, Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana
Avenida 6 de Diciembre, Quito, Ecuador

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
I. OPENING AND INTRODUCTIONS	
12:30 pm	<p>Opening of the Side Event: Ms Clare Short, Chair of Cities Alliance Management Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introduction to the session (presenting the format – panel discussion and Q&A) • Presenting the panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Rubbina Karruna, Cities Advisor, DFID - Mr Vito Intini, Municipal Investment Finance Programme Manager, UNCDF - Ms Lucy Slack, Deputy Secretary General, CLGF - Mr Young Moon, Senior Advisor with the Urban Economy Branch, UN-Habitat - Ms Marty Chen, International Coordinator, WIEGO - Mr Sameh Wahba, Director of Urban Development, World Bank - Mr Jerry Maldonado, Senior Programme Officer, Ford Foundation
12:35 pm	Introduction to the JWP: Ms Rubbina Karruna, Cities Advisor, DFID
2. HOW TO PROMOTE EQUITABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN CITIES?	
12:40 pm	<p>Panel discussion moderated by Clare Short</p> <p><u>Key question:</u> 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><u>Themes to be explored:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the role of local public goods and services to remove barriers to job creation and equitable growth in cities? How can greater access be supported? • Informality – what is the role of the informal sector in urban economic transformation? <p><u>Speakers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms Lucy Slack, Deputy Secretary General, CLGF 2. Mr Vito Intini, Municipal Investment Finance Programme Manager, UNCDF 3. Mr Sameh Wahba, Director of Urban Development, World Bank 4. Ms Marty Chen, International Coordinator, WIEGO 5. Mr Young Moon, Senior Advisor with the Urban Economy Branch, UN-Habitat 6. Mr Jerry Maldonado, Senior Programme Officer, Ford Foundation
3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE FLOOR	
1:10 pm	Questions from the floor and discussion facilitated by the moderator
5. CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS AND CLOSING	
1:20 pm	Concluding reflections, Mr Mario Pezzini, Director OECD Development Centre
1:25 pm	Closing of the Side Event, Ms Clare Short