

## URBAN UPGRADING FOR POST-COVID SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN ISDB MEMBER COUNTRIES

**Date: 23 August 2021    Time: 13h30 - 15:30 Jeddah; 15h30 -17:30 Tashkent    Venue: Online**

COVID-19, declared a global pandemic by the WHO, is crippling the global economy and upsetting people's lives thereby threatening sustainable development across all its dimensions. Urban areas are the epi-centers of the pandemic and over 95 per cent of the confirmed COVID-19 cases are in urban areas. In just a few months, the pandemic has dramatically transformed the way people live, work, shop and socialize globally. In response to pandemics, such as COVID-19 virus, cities, particularly large, densely settled ones, will need to be supported by a new product line of assessment tools, planning guidelines, investments, and other disaster preparedness support that will help improve their resilience to and post-impact recovery from health-based natural disasters. A recent study from WHO/UN-Habitat has demonstrated the strong linkages between Health and Urban & Territorial Planning.

### **How to help human settlements against the pandemic?**

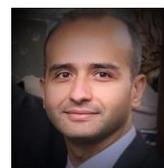
There are several ways of supporting cities, slums and informal settlements to be resilient against COVID-19. This resistance against the pandemic will include specially targeted measures to improve urban spacing, enhance health care facilities, and increase awareness of city populations of the actions to take to improve resilience against natural disasters, such as COVID-19. Achieving the “**healthy cities approach**” will require significant investments in our Member Countries (MC). Being a healthy city will rely upon a commitment to improve a city's environs and a willingness to forge the necessary connections in political, economic, and social arenas to i) provide a health-supportive environment ii) provide a good quality of life, iii) basic sanitation & hygiene needs, and iv) supply access to health care. In that regard, IsDB is well-positioned to be a supportive partner, bringing crucially needed technical know-how and financing to promote urban upgrading for post-COVID sustainable and inclusive development in its MCs.

### **KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED**

- 1) How best to respond, restore, restart: Post-COVID Resilience and Prosperity for All.
- 2) Promoting and developing urban upgrading for post-COVID resilience.
- 3) Financing programs for urban slums and informal settlements upgrading.
- 4) Building back better and provision of key basic services in small towns: lessons learnt from the pandemic.
- 5) Alternative financing from donors, multilateral and bilateral development agencies and international organizations.
- 6) De-risking private sector involvement in slums and informal settlements upgrading.

### **PANELISTS**

**Dr. Erfan Ali** is the Director of UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States. He possesses over 20 years of experience, and an extensive track record, in urban development, regional planning, urban crisis recovery and response, at both government and UN entities.



**Ms. Doris Andoni**, Ms. Andoni is Director of Housing Policy Department at the Ministry of Finance and Economy. Previously, she holds the position of General Director of the National Housing Agency. She is elected Chair of the UNECE Committee on Urban



Development, Housing and Land Management at the 79th Session of the Committee, in 2019.

**Mr. Julian Baskin** works at the Cities Alliance Secretariat based in Brussels as the Principal Urban Advisor. He is a Town and Regional Planner with some 35 years of practical experience in urban programming, with a focus on Africa cities. He has strong experience designing and managing urban programmes that include governance, participatory planning, slum upgrading and affordable housing.



**Dr. Gora Mboup** is the President & CEO of GORA Corp and Executive Partner of AUDI. He has more than 25 years of international development with 10 years with UN-Habitat (2004-2014). He is presently the international senior Coordinator of the Center for Excellence in Housing (World Bank, UN-Habitat, West Africa Monetary Union). Dr. Gora was the co-lead author of the Affordability Housing Whitepaper for the U20 published at the G20 meeting in Riyadh (September 2020).



**Mr. Ping Yeon Cheah** serves as lead officer for urban policy and strategy at AIIB. He is responsible for advocacy and supporting implementation of AIIB's Sustainable Cities Strategy, including policy co-ordination, upstream programming and partnerships. He has over 20 years of professional work experience with both public and private sectors in facilitating cross-border investments in special economic zones.



**Mr. Papa Abdoulaye SY (Moderator)** is the IsDB Global Lead Urban Development. He is a chartered engineer and member of CIWEM (UK). He has more than 20 years of experience in international development including 10 years in the UK Water Industry (2000 -2010) and 5 years with DFID and International NGOs in Senegal.

