



## 3<sup>rd</sup> World Forum of Local Economic Development

TORINO 2015 | 13 - 16 OCTOBER

### PANEL SESSION

**Title of the session:** Public Space as a Catalyst for LED

**Date & Time:** Thursday 15 October, 14.30-16.15

**Room:** Plenary Room

**Organizers:** United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and UN-Habitat

**Contact person:** Puvendra Akkiah ([puvendra.akkiah@durban.gov.za](mailto:puvendra.akkiah@durban.gov.za)), Sara Hoeflich ([s.hoeflich@uclg.org](mailto:s.hoeflich@uclg.org)) and Marco Kamiya ([Marco.Kamiya@unhabitat.org](mailto:Marco.Kamiya@unhabitat.org))

#### Concept note of the panel:

##### Urban development and public space management (UCLG/UN-Habitat)

Public space policies for inclusion and economic development.

Artisans, tourism, cultural activities, informal economy, homeworking, neighbourhood job creation, public assets.

Key messages of public space policies and intermediary cities for creating sustainable local economic development.

#### 1. NARRATIVE

Urban strategic planning and local governments are essential tools to implement local economic development. **Equity and inclusive development** can be enabled by using planning and policy tools at the local level. The panel will discuss two important subjects regarding 'public space' and 'intermediary cities' and their roles in implementing LED.

Public space is a concrete catalyst to be highlighted on the global agenda and in the processes towards Habitat III. Further, it is a key local level initiative to **provide quality space** for the local economy as well as sustainability, whereby it also **provides fiscal management space** to include informal activities.

Furthermore, open and public spaces within the city can serve a multitude of functions, including adaptation to climate change, and are considered an integral component when planning for resilience.

Thus they can enable a form of decentralization in territorial planning. However, it is essential to empower local governments to take decisions regarding specific economic potential that needs to be channelled so that the economy benefits the local citizens.



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### 2. POSSIBLE POLICY MESSAGES

- **Public space as an economic means for LED, providing sustainable and cultural benefits and enabling better quality/competitiveness of urban spaces and development.**
- **Public space as a tool to enable job creation with economic and fiscal management tools.**

Public spaces are essential planning tools for local governments to help local economic enterprises, particularly small vendors, and have a positive impact on land values and attract consumers.

The daily commercial exchange forms the heart of **public market** systems, from temporary markets and street vendors to open air markets where essential goods are circulated.

The scale of public spaces can vary greatly between the urban scale, peripheral scale and rural scale where they provide different services such as cultural activities and festivals, markets, food, the vending of essential goods, etc.

Public spaces can be an essential tool for:

- **The inclusion of formal and informal economic activity**
- **Creating fiscal management tools for local governments to maintain**
- **Economic activity and municipal policies (responsibility)**

Which policies can include the informal sector and link to public space? e.g. providing licences and public space to street vendors.

- **Public spaces are linked to health factors and quality urban environments**
  - **An important tool for improving less developed urban areas (extension)**
  - **Public space as an asset enabling the promotion of activities**
- **Intermediary cities: In the past few years, UCLG has focused on this group of cities and has a Working Group that is chaired by the Mayor of Chefchaouen.**

While most global investment focuses on large cities, intermediary cities' (i-Cities) economic strategies can mostly be built upon local resources oriented towards the local market. They have the potential to include strategic economic planning in physical planning. Job creation and economic growth provide the basis to expand decent work.

*Example: Tanzania showed that one in two individuals/households who exited poverty did so by transitioning from agriculture into the rural non-farm economy or secondary towns.*



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### Objective of the session:

To enrich the agenda related to SDG 11, Target 7 on Public Spaces. In particular, findings will be evolved around the theme: "Public space as a catalyst for LED and how each of them can mutually exist".

### Key points of discussion:

Public space policies that enable the flow of goods are linked to **sustainable development** and economic growth. **They can be a spatial means to regulate and provide income to local governments as well as create quality space for business; meanwhile citizens benefit from free and well-managed open spaces.**

This allows for a 45-minute structured session with minimal presentation, followed by an hour for discussion and debate between participants and the public.

Moderated by UCLG – Co-Chair of the UCLG Committee on Urban Strategic Planning, City of Durban.

During the panel session the moderator will take questions in written form and pose them to the panellists.

### List of invited speakers/moderator:

**Moderator:** Puvendra Akkiah, IDP Manager, Durban

**Keynote address:** Nelson Yovani Jimenez, Director, Defense of Public Space, Bogotá (15 Minutes)

**Key respondent:** Alison Brown, WIEGO (10 Minutes)

### **Panel(\*):**

- Jose Fernandez Santos, Vice-President of the Province of Huelva
- Marcelino Chumpi, Prefect of Morona
- Marco Kamiya, Unit Leader, Urban Economy and Finance, UN-Habitat
- Edmundo Werna, Jobs and Local Economic Development, ILO

### **Key responses from the floor will be taken from:**

- The Association of Basque Municipalities

(\*): If PowerPoint presentations are used, they should be a maximum of 5 slides.

