

<b>SESSION CODE:</b> <b>SOU65</b>	<b>Quality Urbanisation and Health for All in Intermediary Cities in Africa</b>
<b>Date:</b> 19 May  <b>Time:</b> 16h30-18h <b>Venue:</b> Room 13	<b>ORGANIZERS OF THE SESSION</b> <b>UN-Habitat and WHO AFRO</b> <b>Contact Person:</b> <i>Claude Ngomsi, Antonio Palazuelos</i> <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:claudio.ngomsi@un.org">claudio.ngomsi@un.org</a> , <a href="mailto:palazuelos@who.int">palazuelos@who.int</a>
<b>President:</b> Dr Adelheid Onyango, Director, WHO AFRO  <b>Opening remarks</b> -Oumar Sylla, Director Regional Office for Africa, UN-Habitat - Dr Adelheid Onyango, Director, WHO AFRO  <b>Moderator:</b> Antonio Palazuelos Prieto, WHO AFRO  <b>Rapporteurs:</b> -Gregoire Piller, WHO AFRO - Muhammad Gambo, PhD., Shelter Afrique -Jeremiah Ougo, UN-Habitat -Jemimah Mwakisha, WHO Kenya  <b>Speakers :</b> - Claude Ngomsi, UN-Habitat -Muhammad Gambo, PhD., Shelter Afrique -Ann Kananu Mwenda, Governor of Nairobi -Dieudonné Bantsimba, Mayor of Brazzaville	<b>Rationale of the session</b>  Africa has and will continue to have the fastest urban growth in the world, highlighting the importance of addressing population health in Africa for improving public health globally. 210 million Africans live in one of the continent's 1 400 intermediary cities. Moreover, by 2050, nearly 60% of the population of the continent is expected to be living in urban areas and 35–40% of children and adolescents globally are projected to be living in Africa. This urban shift offers great opportunities, but also challenges for African citizens, and governments. It is argued that urbanisation worsens the health status of the populations affected. If urbanisation is unplanned and rapid, it is prone to producing informal settlements with insufficient housing, poor sanitary conditions, and crowding, all of which can accelerate the spread of diseases. The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic that the world has experienced have taught us about the vital importance of quality urbanisation for people, with a particular focus on African cities.  The creation of the Specialized Technical Committee N°8 (AU-STC8) by the African Union guarantees that urban considerations are aligned with the AU's Agenda 2063, the long-term vision for continental transformation. At the global level, two stand-alone sustainable development goals to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" (SDG11) and to "ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages" (SDG3) emphasize the global consensus around the importance of urbanisation and health and reflects the central role of cities in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In Africa, intermediary cities and small towns are essential for structuring the urban network and linking the local and regional levels to the continental and global levels. There is an urgent need for socio-economic and financial policies to reflect the growing importance of intermediary cities in programming and planning decisions for quality and healthy urbanisation for all in a global perspective.  The 9 <sup>th</sup> Edition of Africities Summit will be held in Kisumu City, Kenya, presents an opportunity to strengthen the role of local and regional governments in the development of the continent and to build the integration and unity of Africa from its territories. The theme for the Summit is ' <i>the Role of Intermediary Cities of Africa in the implementation of the development Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and the African Union Agenda 2063</i> '. Africities movement recognises that good local governance is critical for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African
<b>Programme</b> <b>5 minutes</b>	

16h30: Session introduction by the Moderator

**10 minutes**

16h35: Opening Remarks  
-Oumar Sylla, Director Regional Office for Africa, UN-Habitat  
-Adelheid Onyango, Director, WHO AFRO

**30 minutes**

**Keynote addresses**

16h45

- Claude Ngomsi, UN-Habitat  
-Muhammad Gambo, Shelter Afrique  
-Ann Kananu Mwenda, Governor of Nairobi  
-Dieudonné Bantsimba, Mayor of Brazzaville

**25 minutes**

**17h15: Discussants**

-Mayors from Douala, Johannesburg, Gaborone, Libreville, Cotonou, Accra, Nouakchott, Machakos, Kiambu, Kisumu, Freetown, Lusaka, Bangui, Kinshasa, Goma, Durban, Tunis  
- Representatives of donors' partners

**10 minutes**

17h40: Discussions with participants (managed by the Moderator)

**10 minutes**

17h50 Wrap-up, adoption of the conclusions and recommendations, and

*Union Agenda 2063*. To achieve the two agendas, inequalities and inequities that are influenced by conditions in which people are born, live, grow, work, and age, must be tackled holistically involving a whole-of-society and multisectoral approach. There is also a need to address the wider socio-economic, spatial patterns, and structural factors, and underlying root causes of illness, inaccessibility to health care services, and availability of quality services in an effort to reduce avoidable and unfair inequities. This is in line with UN-Habitat vision and Pillar 3 of WHO's 13<sup>th</sup> Global Programme of Work (GPW13) goal of making 1 billion people healthier measured against three outcomes:

- safe and equitable societies created by addressing determinants of health (social, cultural, economic, environmental)
- risk factors reduced through multisectoral action; and
- healthy settings created using the Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach.

The time to act to achieve healthier populations is now as policy decisions were taken today will have lasting consequences for generations to come.

**Main issues to be discussed**

The event will discuss issues related to urbanisation and health in Africa's intermediary cities or municipalities located at the periphery of main cities, in order to support the development of evidence to inform urban development strategies and health programs to improve urban wellbeing through multi-level governance systems.

The key questions to guide the discussions and further recommendations are:

- i. What are the frequent health issues affecting the poor and low-income households in under serviced neighbourhoods?
- ii. What are the main initiatives and strategies implemented by local and subnational authorities to prevent infections and reduce morbidities in those localities?
- iii. What can be done and how to increase the quality of living environment and public hygiene for healthier and wealthier neighbourhoods for all?
- iv. How can public spaces (schools, health facilities, market places, streets, closes leisure's facilities and parks) served as vehicles for promoting healthier working environment and people wellbeing?

**Objectives of the session**

The event will facilitate the exchange of information on challenges, innovative practices, priorities and solutions on urban governance for health and wellbeing in African cities. It will enable a space for an open discussion and contribution to the global governance, urbanization and health agendas. Likewise, the session will

**way forward by the President**

**Institutions involved:**

- UN-Habitat
- WHO
- Shelter Afrique
- UNAids
- USAID
- UK AID/DFID
- EU
- SIDA
- CRDI/IDRC
- GIZ
- SDC
- AFD
- NORAD

facilitate discussions on the importance of actions that promote quality urbanisation on the African continent to achieve global public health targets. Specifically, a focus on urban governance for health and wellbeing in intermediary cities in Africa is urgently required in order to support progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global and regional public health targets, including Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the new Urban Agenda, the Partnership for Healthy Populations in Africa, and the African Union's Agenda 2063. The discussions will also contribute towards the WHO and UN-Habitat joint programme of work and the reinforcement of the Healthy Cities movement in Africa. Experiences from development organisations of the United Kingdom, France and Sweden will be useful to define future benchmarks.

**Means to achieve the objectives**

The session will bring together Mayors, national and international experts, private practitioners or health institutions, and CSOs/NGOs/FBOs from the social, urban planning and public health sectors, who will highlight the issues and challenges for achieving healthier cities based on their experience and propose measures to be taken to create an enabling, healthy and supportive environment in African intermediary and satellite cities. Participants will be given opportunities to recommend priorities, policy measures, awareness-raising, capacity building, financing, and other related issues.

**Contribution of the session and its recommendations to the overall objective of the Summit**

This event will create enabling environment to forge the necessary partnership for triangular cooperation for developing participatory solutions for sustainable urbanisation design with health as objective.