



## SPECIAL SESSION

# LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTIVITY AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN CITIES

### Key words

2030 Agenda; Employment Creation; Local Economic Development; New Urban Agenda; Sustainable Development Goals; Urban Productivity; Urban Informal Economy

### Objectives of the session

The objectives of this session are:

- To discuss challenges facing cities, particularly in developing countries, in promoting local economic development, urban economic productivity, creation of jobs and livelihood opportunities for youth, women and vulnerable groups in cities, including informal economy workers
- To share knowledge and experiences, from both developing and developed countries, on effective mechanisms and strategies that local and national authorities in developing countries can use to promote local economic development, urban productivity, employment creation for youth and women, and productivity of the urban informal economy
- To discuss strategies that can be used for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in areas of local economic development, urban productivity and employment creation for youth in cities.

### Introduction of the topic

The New Urban Agenda provides a roadmap for the achievement of sustainable urbanization. It is expected to contribute to the realization of the Agenda 2030, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 8 and 11, and other goals and targets. Achievement of these goals depends, to a large extent, on the ability of cities to effectively address their productive potential. The dynamic potential of cities depends on many factors and it needs to be well planned and managed.

Macroeconomic stability and investments in human capital are crucial. Implementation of effective economic development strategies can ensure robust local economies, which is the foundation for sustainable urban development. Mechanisms for supporting small businesses and the self-employed are also necessary.



Through collaborative efforts involving local governments and private and non-State actors, cities need to identify and capitalize upon their distinctive economic advantages. Local economic development is a potent strategy for achieving inclusive economic growth, territorial development and decent work for all. It is key to expanding the production of goods and services, deepening markets and broadening income and employment multipliers, while creating sustainability and supporting vulnerable groups including women, youth, and urban informal economy workers. Infrastructure is another important factor that contributes to long-term economic and social development and job creation.

Exchange of knowledge and experiences during this session will provide concrete and evidence-based insights into key strategic interventions that can improve local economic development, economic productivity of cities and the creation of jobs and livelihood opportunities for all its citizens. The session also provides a great opportunity to discuss strategies for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in areas of local economic development, urban economic efficiency, and employment creation for all in cities.

### Guiding questions

Q1: What key challenges do cities, towns and urban communities face in promoting inclusive local economic development, urban productivity, and creation of employment for all in cities in developing countries?

Q2: What are some of the opportunities associated with technology, urban planning and infrastructure investment for promoting inclusive local economic growth and transformation?

Q3: What are some of the most effective/innovative solutions to address these challenges and to leverage existing opportunities? What are the roles of local authorities and their partners in implementing these solutions?

Q4: What strategies/mechanisms/tools can you suggest for effective monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in areas of inclusive local economic development, urban productivity and employment ceation in cities?