



Urbanization Knowledge Exchange to Support MENA Stakeholders

“The Evolving Regional Urban Agenda: Focus on Municipal Finance”

MARCH 18-19, 2013 – RABAT, MOROCCO

AGENDA

During the September 2012 Urbanization Knowledge Platform (UKP) launch, city mayors from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon voiced the strong need for greater empowerment. Their main concern is to provide better services and to benefit from more efficient instruments to conduct urban planning, especially concerning urban land policies. Participants emphasized the value of such meetings as a means to exchange, learn from lessons from the MENA region, and draw from international experiences and create a community of practice that brings together city officials who share the same challenges and questions. The main objective of the UKP is indeed to bring knowledge closer to policy makers. To sustain and strengthen the momentum of this joint initiative, a regional conference will be held in Rabat on March 18-19 2013, at the invitation of Mayor Fathallah Oualalou. The objectives of the Rabat conference will be threefold:

- Present initiatives and products that the World Bank has to offer to facilitate urban knowledge exchange – including the Urbanization Knowledge Platform and other virtual tools – among policy makers and other key stakeholders;
- Delve into one specific theme of particular relevance to the MENA region, i.e., municipal finance;
- Create a community of practice that brings together officials and practitioners from countries of the MENA region including Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, West Bank Gaza, and Yemen.

Conference Facilitator: Mr. Farouk Tebbal, Senior Urban Specialist, former Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Algeria

Venue: National Library of Kingdom of Morocco, Rabat

DAY I

08:30 - 09:00 AM REGISTRATION

OPENING SESSION

09:00 – 09:30 AM INTRODUCTION

Mr. Fathallah Oualalou, Mayor of Rabat
Mr. Ahmed Al-Salloum, Director of the Arab Urban Development Institute
Mr. Mats Karlsson, Director of the Center for Mediterranean Integration
Mr. Franck Bousquet, Sector Manager, Urban, Social and Disaster Risk Management Unit, MENA Region,
The World Bank

09:30 – 10:30 AM THE MENA REGION CONTEXT: BUILDING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

Keynote speakers will present the main challenges at stake from national and local perspectives and the current trends in municipal finance.

H.E. Mr. Nabil Benabdallah, Minister of Housing, Urban Planning and City, Morocco
H.E. Mr. Mohamed Saifallah Lasram, Mayor of Tunis, Tunisia
H.E. Prof. Dr. Osama Kamal, Governor of Cairo, Egypt
H.E. Dr. Khaled Al-Qawasmi, Minister of Local Government, Palestinian Authority

10:30 – 11:00 AM COFFEE BREAK

**11:00 – 01:00 PM TAPPING INTO THE WORLD BANK KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS:
PRESENTATION OF THE URBANIZATION KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM**

How is the World Bank supporting stakeholders in MENA as they address urban challenges and exploit opportunities for urban development? The session will start with an overview of the urban challenges that MENA cities face. This will lay the ground for the presentation of the World Bank MENA Urban Action Plan, which outlines the World Bank's engagement on these issues. In addition, the World Bank Institute will give an overview of their proposed Municipal Finances e-Learning Program for Local Governments. This presentation will also touch upon the Municipal Finances Self-Assessment tool.

Mr. Franck Bousquet, Sector Manager, Urban, Social and DRM Unit, MENA Region, The World Bank
Dr. Mona Serageldin, Vice President at Institute for International Urban Development, Egypt
Ms. Catherine Farvacque-Vitkovic, Lead Urban Specialist, World Bank Institute

How can the MENA urban community jointly tackle common challenges and opportunities through collaborative solutions and shared learning? And how can the World Bank help connect the MENA urban community to global best practice? To answer these questions, the World Bank's Urban and Disaster Risk Management Department will present three pillars of the Urbanization Knowledge Platform: (i) Knowledge; (ii) Connections; and (iii) Data.

*Presentation by Ms. Zoubida Allaoua, Director of the Urban & Disaster Risk Management Department,
The World Bank*

*Discussants/Demonstrations:
Dr. Zaki Khoury, Regional Manager, International Organizations, Microsoft
Dr. Hosang Sakong, Director, Global Development Partnership Center, Korea Research Institute for
Human Settlements*

01:00 – 02:30 PM LUNCH

**02:30 – 05:00 PM FINANCING THE CITY OF TODAY AND TOMORROW: REVIEW OF
CURRENT CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PRIORITIES**

The experts will first provide an overview of the overall financing framework for cities. Then the panel will discuss the resources available for local authorities, pursuing the debate that has been initiated during the Marseille workshop in September 2012, in the current renewed regional context. Despite important differences in terms of municipal financing needs across the region, MENA countries share common constraints regarding their municipal systems and share a common need for reforming the legal and financial framework governing municipal finance, including the [intergovernmental fiscal framework](#). In addition, this session will further explore the issue of the [municipalities' own source generated revenues](#) and the practical ways to raise them in order to improve the performance and the accountability of the municipal tax system.

Objectives of the session: Prioritize the key strategic issues of municipal finance in the MENA region; take stock of the most relevant MENA experiences; discuss the information that would be useful to obtain through the UKP platform; lay the ground for follow up activities including a potential session during the United Cities and Local Governments annual conference (October 1-4 2013).

Chair: Mr. Fathallah Oualalou, Mayor of Rabat, President of Municipal Finance Commission, UCLG

*Experts Presentation: Mr. Philip van Ryneveld, former CFO of the City of Cape Town, South Africa
Ms. Anne Sinet, Municipal finance expert*

*Panel of representatives from Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen, Palestinian Authority
Open Discussion with participants*

08:00 PM DINNER will be hosted by the Mayor of Rabat

DAY II

09:00 – 11:30 AM MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS: SHARING LESSONS LEARNED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

The discussion will examine the experiences of various municipal banks and/or funds. In the MENA region, [municipal funds](#) play a critical role in ensuring subproject feasibility and providing complementary services like capacity building. Discussants will share the specific obstacles that can be encountered and draw on lessons learned and main outputs from the discussions with MENA participants during the first day. It will notably be the opportunity to learn from international experiences.

Objectives of the session: Share experiences from other regions; take stock of the most relevant international experiences; discuss the information that would be useful to obtain through the UKP platform.

Chair: Mr. Ahmed Al-Salloum, Director of the Arab Urban Development Institute

Expert Presentation: Mr. K. Rajivan, Consultant and Former Chief Executive Officer of the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Fund, India

Panel of municipal funds' representatives MENA and Latin America:

*Discussants: Caisse de Prêts et de Soutien aux Collectivités Locales, Tunisia
Fond d'Équipement Communal, Morocco*

Municipal Development and Lending Fund, Palestinian Authority

Cities and Villages Development Bank, Jordan

FINDETER, Columbia

Municipal Development Fund, Georgia

11:30 – 12:00 PM COFFEE BREAK

12:00 – 01:00 PM CLOSING SESSION

Mr. Fathallah Oualalou, Mayor of Rabat

Mr. Ahmed Al-Salloum, Director of the Arab Urban Development Institute

Mr. Mats Karlsson, Director of the Center for Mediterranean Integration

*Mr. Franck Bousquet, Sector Manager, Urban, Social and Disaster Risk Management Unit, MENA Region,
The World Bank*

01:00 PM LUNCH