

## Launch of the *Inter-regional cooperation for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda* project for Almaty

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**Date:** 18 February 2021

**Location:** Zoom

**Time:** 9:00 – 12:00 CET

**Languages:** English, Russian

**Meeting Type:** Online workshop to launch the project in Almaty

**Moderator:** Nadiia Yeremenko, UNECE Consultant

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### Agenda Items

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Time:	Topic & Presenters:
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09:00-09:15	Opening and kick-off <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Mr. Ilyas Userov</b>, Deputy Mayor of Almaty</li><li>- <b>Ms. Michaela Friberg-Storey</b>, UN Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan</li><li>- <b>Ms. Gulnara Roll</b>, Secretary to the UNECE Committee of Urban Development, Housing and Land Management</li><li>- <b>Mr. Curt Garrigan</b>, Chief, Sustainable Urban Development Section, ESCAP</li><li>- <b>Ms. Katja Schaefer</b>, Inter-regional Adviser UN Habitat</li></ul>
09:15-09:45	Key objectives and challenges for the development of Almaty in 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Mr. Bayan Konirbayev</b>, Head of Almaty Department of Digitalization and Urban Data Processing</li><li>- <b>Mr. Yerkebulan Orazalin</b>, Head of Almaty Urban Investment Department</li><li>- <b>Mr. Almas Batanov</b>, Head of Almaty Strategy and Budget Department</li><li>- <b>Ms. Aida Darmenova</b>, Head of Almaty Data Management, Digitization Department</li><li>- <b>Mr. Serik Bayganin</b>, Head of Almaty Smart City Project Management Department</li></ul>
09:45-10:30	Planning of cooperative activities for 2021 in Almaty <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Ms. Nadiia Yeremenko</b>, UNECE Consultant, Project Coordinator - <i>Overview of the scope of the "Inter-regional cooperation for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda" project for Almaty</i></li><li>- <b>Ms. Agata Krause</b>, Expert on urban development and data analysis - <i>Development of Sustainable Smart City Profile; Overview of U4SSC KPI Collection Methodology and KPI Assessment Protocol; KPI Benchmarking; and Structure of the Profile</i></li><li>- <b>Mr. Pedro Neves</b>, Expert on smart sustainable city project financing - <i>Tools for creating a list of investable sustainable smart city projects</i></li><li>- <b>Mr. Olzhas Sartayev</b>, Chief Executive Officer, "Park of Innovative Technologies" SEZ – <i>Examples of public and private cooperation for urban development</i></li></ul>
10:30-11:00	Questions and discussion
11:00-11:10	Summary and mapping of next steps - <b>Ms. Nadiia Yeremenko</b> , UNECE Consultant, Project Coordinator

11:10-  
11:30

Closing remarks

- **Mr. Ilyas Userov**, Deputy Mayor of Almaty
- **Mr. Curt Garrigan**, Chief of ESCAP Sustainable Urban Development Section
- **Ms. Gulnara Roll**, Secretary to the UNECE Committee of Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

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## Concept Note

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### Background:

Through this project, UN Regional Economic Commissions and UN-Habitat will: support national governments and selected cities in consolidating their role in achieving sustainable development; increase policy coherence amongst member States across the regions; and promote the improved capacities of institutions and “human agents of change” in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA). This requires a greater integration of various dimensions (regional, national, and local) of the programme through a variety of activities, including:

- (i) building the capacity of national- and local-level decision makers in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the NUA and urban SDGs;
- (ii) establishing mechanisms for the sharing of information and successful practices; and
- (iii) facilitating an inclusive process of knowledge generation and dissemination through regional monitoring and reporting on sustainable urbanization.

The project will be piloted in at least nine target countries across the globe, in one city in each of these countries. The planned results of the project will be:

- (i) improved capacity among national and local policymakers and decision makers in selected countries to develop integrated urban plans and coherent urban policies for sustainable urban development in line with the implementation, monitoring and reporting requirements for the NUA, and the localization of SDGs; and
- (ii) increased inter-regional cooperation and sharing of best practices, allowing for the regionalization and subsequent localization of globally set agendas and commitments.

Kazakhstan is the most urbanized country in Central Asia. Major urban challenges include issues associated with high infrastructure deterioration, poor transport connectivity, and lack of affordable housing. Strategy Kazakhstan-2050 defines the long-term strategic goals for the country’s development. Additionally, the country launched the “Strong Regions and Urbanization” reform, within the 2025 Strategic Plan. UNECE prepared a Country Profile on the Housing Sector during 2016-2018, which highlighted the national achievements in housing and urban development. Kazakhstan launched an ambitious programme, “100 Concrete Steps, a Modern State for All”, in May 2015, to implement institutional and structural reforms.

There is a need to engage national partners, public and private international partners, and organizations in the design of local innovation strategies. Additionally, sectoral silos continue, and there is a need for enhanced collaboration to foster an integrated approach to promote NUA implementation.

UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit (HLM), jointly with its partners UN-Habitat, UN ESCAP, and UNDP Kazakhstan, conducted several workshops in Kazakhstan to support the Government in implementing Country Profile recommendations. The city of Almaty is very active in promoting sustainable urban development solutions; it established a Smart City Lab to manage smart city projects at the City Government. A number of projects to address the environmental and social aspects of urban development have been implemented.

In December 2020, UNECE received the request from the Government of Kazakhstan, through the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the UNOG, indicating Almaty's readiness to start cooperation on the project.

The objectives of the project for Almaty will be achieved via supporting the implementation of the [2050 Kazakhstan vision](#) in line with Agenda 2030. This will be possible through sustainable smart city development, which engages public and private actors with the help of:

- (i) the evaluation of the city's performance as sustainable and smart, using the [U4SSC KPI Collection Methodology](#); and
- (ii) the development of an investment proposal to attract potential private sector partners to further develop the city as sustainable and smart.

### **Objectives of the Workshop:**

After the workshop, the participants are expected to:

- (i) explore challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially SDG 11 to "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" and its targets, in the city of Almaty;
- (ii) provide information on the "Inter-regional cooperation for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda" project to workshop participants, and discuss the next steps of the project implementation;
- (iii) introduce the U4SSC "KPI Collection Methodology for Sustainable Smart Cities", and agree on a plan for the collection of data for the assessment of Almaty's sustainable and smart development; and
- (iv) introduce tools for innovative financing that could be used to attract external funds for Almaty's urban development projects and to support its smart, sustainable development.