

Concept Note

Side Event - Global South-South Development Expo 2022¹

13 September 2022 from 2:20-3.35 p.m. Bangkok time (9:20-10.35 a.m. CET)

Organized in person at the UN Conference Centre, Conference Room 3, Bangkok, Thailand, with online participation in [Ms Teams](#)

In English only

“Promoting urban economic resilience in cities globally during and after COVID-19 through building knowledge base and interregional cooperation”

Thematic focus and SDGs

Background information

Cities and urban areas have been at the epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic which has drastically impacted the urban economy, including public services, employment and use of the infrastructure, affecting all, but foremost the most vulnerable groups of the population. To support cities in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience, in 2020-2022, the UN Regional Economic Commissions, UN-Habitat and the UN Capital Development Fund have implemented the *Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19* project (<https://urbaneconomicresilience.org>). The Project supported efforts of city governments in sixteen cities globally to analyse the impact of the pandemic on cities' economies and assist them in developing economic recovery and resilience plans, including identifying possible funding sources for economic development and infrastructure projects supporting the urban economic recovery.² The project pilot countries/cities included: Albania (Tirana); Cameroon (Yaoundé); Ecuador (Guayaquil); Egypt (Alexandria); Fiji (Suva); Ghana (Accra); India (Pune); Kuwait (Kuwait); Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek); Lebanon (Beirut); Malaysia (Subang Jaya); Perú (Lima); República Dominicana (Santo Domingo); Ukraine (Kharkiv); Viet Nam (Hoi An); and Zimbabwe (Harare).

Implemented project activities

For each of the sixteen pilot cities, the following activities were implemented:

- An assessment of the city government's capacity to address the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic was conducted using the [Urban Economic Recovery and Resilience Diagnostic and Planning Tool](#) developed within the project. The Diagnostic and Planning Tool is aimed to help city governments to understand the strengths and weaknesses of their institutional and operating arrangements from the perspective of economic recovery and resilience building and to formulate recommendations for the design and implementation of recovery plans/strategies.
- Based on the assessment, an economic resilience building plan was developed.
- Local trainings were held to build capacity for the implementation of the action plans.
- Regional and global forums were organized to promote the exchange of experiences.
- A global compendium of best practices for promoting urban economic resilience and five regional policy briefs were elaborated on and published.

¹ Please see the programme at <https://virtual-expo.southsouth-galaxy.org/>

² The project was supported by the United Nations Development Account residual funds. More information on the project is available at <https://urbaneconomicresilience.org>

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➤ A global online training programme on urban economic resilience was developed.

Thematic focus

The side event will focus on the experience of the implementation of the above global project; approaches of the pilot cities to promote urban economic resilience; and the tools developed within the project - the diagnostic analysis and the online training programme. The side event will launch the online training programme on urban economic resilience developed within the project.

SDGs

The side event will focus on achieving SDG 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, including its targets:

- By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

In addition, the side event will address the following SDGs:

SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all

SDG 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Key Focus:

The side event focus is on building resilience to natural and man-made disasters at the city level through the development of a knowledge base and interregional exchange.

Direct Ms Teams link to participate online: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

For more information on the side event, please contact:

- Omar Siddique, ESCAP, omar.siddique@un.org
- Gulnara Roll, UNECE, gulnara.roll@un.org

Potential Partners/Panellists/Speakers:

The project partners are the five UN Regional Economic Commissions, UN-Habitat and UN Capital Development Fund. The side event speakers will be representatives of the project partner organizations and of the project pilot cities.

Draft programme

2:20 p.m.-2:30 pm Opening (10 minutes):

- Sangmin Nam, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP (*in person*)
- Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE (*online*)

2:30-2:55 Presentations by the cities on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and cities' activities to promote urban economic resilience:

- ESCAP region - Kamarul Hisham, Counsellor, Subang Jaya City Council, Subang Jaya, Malaysia (*online*)
- ECLAC region – Claudia Sarante, Head of the Technical Secretariat of the San Domingo City Council, San Domingo, the Dominican Republic (*pre-recorded video presentation*)
- ECE region – Almazbek Usenbekov, Director, Agency for Urban Development and Investment Promotion, City Government of Bishkek, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (*pre-recorded video presentation*)
- ESCWA region – Yusra Sidani Balaa, Beirut Municipality Council Member, City of Beirut, Lebanon (*pre-recorded video presentation*)
- ECA region – Jackson Murimi, Principal Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, City of Harare, Zimbabwe (*pre-recorded video presentation*)

2:55-3:10 Panel discussion of partners: “Lessons learned and next steps in building urban economic resilience during and after COVID-19 pandemic” (15 minutes)

Moderator: Omar Siddique, Economic Affairs Office, ESCAP

- Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Advisor, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE (*in person*)
- Sukaina Al-Nasrawi, Social Affairs Officer, Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster, ESCWA (*online*)
- Dmitry Pozhidaev, Regional Technical Advisor at United Nations Capital Development Fund (*online*)

3:10-3:20 Launch of the E-learning Course on Building Economic Resilience (10 minutes)

- Esteban Leon, Head, City Resilience Global Programme (CRGP), UN-Habitat (*online*)

3:20-3:30 Questions and answers

3:30-3:35 Conclusions by the Moderator

South-South and Triangular Solutions:

The side event will focus on bringing the successful cooperation between sixteen project pilot cities globally, the five UN Regional Economic Commissions, UN-Habitat and UNCDF as part of the project “Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19”. The side event sessions will feature solutions for building knowledge base and developing capacities of local authorities globally for promoting urban economic resilience. Given cities are in all the global regions, the side event will inform on South-South and Triangular Solutions.

Concrete outcome from the session:

The concrete outcome will be the launch of the “E-learning course on urban economic and financial recovery and rebuilding” (<https://urbanresiliencehub.org/economicresilience/>) produced as part of

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project “Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19”
(<https://urbaneconomicresilience.org/>).

The project has already produced a variety of knowledge and capacity-building resources used by the project cities in the development of their city diagnosis and future recovery strategies. To ensure that these are not left limited to the project cities and their current administrations and have further reaching impacts, the e-learning course was created so that it would combine the different resources developed throughout this project in a medium that is accessible to a wider audience. The e-learning course could either be self-paced for independent learning or conducted in a set time span if integrated within a larger initiative. Participants of this e-learning course would be able to understand the concepts of urban economic resilience and learn how to diagnose and plan for resilience in their cities, with a focus on recovery and rebuilding from COVID-19.
