



## Private Sector Partnership Forum

Innovative Solutions to Challenges in Slums & Informal Settlements in Africa  
24 to 26 June 2020, eConference

**FINANCING PARTNER ROUNDTABLE: Opportunities for Financing Innovation**  
Thursday, 25 June 2020, 1315-1415h

### Themes Explored

1. Global Development Finance: A Trends Analysis
2. Opportunities for Private Sector Participation in Sustainable Development
3. The Fourth Industrial Revolution & Digitization: Financing Economic Disruption in the COVID-19 Context
4. Achieving Scale: Leveraging Private Sector Capital
5. Strategies for Attracting Development Finance & Investment
6. Inclusive Investment: Leaving No One Behind
7. Recommendations and Way Forward

### Moderator

Moderator – Christine Knudsen, Director, External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge and Innovation, UN-Habitat

### Panel Discussions

1. European Commission
2. Elaine A. Tinsley, World Bank
3. Felix Osok, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
4. Charles Masika, Danida
5. William Asiko/Wadzanayi Muchenje, Rockefeller Foundation
6. Debra Erb, US International Development Finance Corporation
7. IFC/DFID/FEICOM

### About the Private Sector Partnership Forum

The three-day Private Sector Partnership Forum has been organized in recognition of the critical roles played by the private sector in innovating and piloting novel solutions to development challenges, and the public sector in scaling up successful innovations. To this end, the Forum seeks to facilitate partnership between national governments and municipalities with private sector companies, specifically investors and innovators with low-cost innovative solutions to development challenges.

### Description of the Session

With the chronic lack of access to basic infrastructure and services, numerous opportunities for public private partnership and financing exist in Africa. However, many African countries have struggled to attract sufficient development finance and investment to meet the access challenges in key sectors due to legal, political, institutional and economic barriers that have remained unresolved for decades.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which is causing significant negative impacts across all economic sectors globally, and particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, now presents numerous development financing opportunities not only for governments but also the private sector. The pandemic has stimulated innovation and accelerated the adoption of digital and novel technologies for remote service delivery in key sectors including health, finance and education, adapting to the next normal.

The session panellists will discuss their strategic directions, the financing and partnership opportunities available to mSME, investors and governments, the trends in development financing including the impacts of COVID-19, and take stock of what has worked and what hasn't in terms of partnership with the private sector in delivering on the SDG, and

- ✓ What are the prevailing barriers to development finance and investment in key sectors in Africa? What are some of the actions that governments have taken and need to take to eliminate these barriers?
- ✓ What are some of the opportunities (financing, partnership) available to mSME and investors interested in venturing into low-income markets in Africa to support the realization of the SDG?
- ✓ What are some of the partnerships or innovative financing models in Africa (and beyond) that have been successful in mobilizing public (development finance, government) and private resources and need replicating?
- ✓ How can development financing partners incentivize or reduce the risks to investors and mSME willing to venture into the low-income markets to provide low-cost development solutions to the BOP?
- ✓ What are some of the key sector reforms that would accelerate development finance and private sector investment in the SDG? What has been the impact of recent policy reforms, and government plans and strategies on development finance and private sector investment in Africa?
- ✓ What are some of the key considerations that development financing partners make before funding private sector ventures? What strategies, competencies, business models and experiences do financing partners look for in a social enterprise worthy of support?
- ✓ What does a conducive economic climate look like for the financing partners considering supporting private sector participation in key sectors in Africa? What leverage are financing partners looking for from the private and public sectors before funding development ventures in low-income markets in Africa?
- ✓ What critical role can communities living in informal settlements play in the realization of the SDG?

#### **Expected Outcomes**

The Forum is among a series of events organized by UN-Habitat to strengthen partnership with the business community to support sustainable and inclusive urban development and the New Urban Agenda. It provides a platform for matching the needs of informal settlements residents and demands of cities with innovative private sector solutions. The session is expected to have:

1. Demonstrated the business potential and identified opportunities to develop and deploy low-cost innovative housing and construction solutions in informal settlements
2. Identified opportunities for partnership and matched governments and investors with investable innovative solutions and models are explored
3. Identified bankable and investment-ready projects to be piloted in slums and informal settlements.