



## PwC – Networking Event

# Financing and Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda in Cities

**When and where? – Wednesday, 12 Feb 2020, 3pm – 4pm, “SDGs in Action”**

### Objective

The objective of the session is to create a new community of practice for SDG and NUA implementation financing by addressing a “global-to-local-to-global” value chain from cascading the SDGs to the city level and co-creating innovative business and investment models to collaborating with their action ecosystems and closing the investment gap and mainstreaming the approach on global platforms as well as city-level implementation. To this end, the session brings together globally leading experts from local government, business, academia and international organizations and engage the participants in an interactive discussion of the following questions:

- 1) **Cascading SDGs and NUA:** How can the SDGs and NUA be localized, customized and mainstreamed in cities? Through which processes can the SDGs be turned from a general global agenda into meaningful, tangible and actionable in projects and opportunities their local context?
- 2) **Co-Creating investment opportunities:** How can cities co-create innovative finance models that unlock investments to create a dense pipeline of impactful city projects, ready for investment? Which top innovations and best practices are available to break out of the usual finance investment barriers?
- 3) **Collaborating with stakeholders:** How can city-level action be driven by innovation ecosystems rather than individuals? How can local government, business, academia and international organizations all be convinced to transcend sectoral siloes for financing and SDG implementation? How can city diplomacy platforms connect local innovation and global investment actors and give legitimacy to local action?
- 4) **Closing the investment Gap:** What kinds of reforms should be promoted at the international financial architecture to overcome current investment obstacles and enhance the accessibility of cities to finance? How can increasingly relevant city diplomacy mechanisms be leveraged for this purpose?

### Speakers:

- **Alice Charles**, Lead, Cities, Infrastructure & Urban Services, World Economic Forum, Geneva Switzerland
- **Aziza Akhmouch**, Head of Division on Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development, OECD, Paris
- **Eugenie Birch**, Director of Penn Institute for Urban Research, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA
- **Mauricio Rodas**, Former Mayor of the City of Quito, Ecuador, and former World Co-President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and former Global Executive Committee Member at ICLEI; Current lecturer at Penn Institute for Urban Research, University of Pennsylvania
- **Nicolas Buchoud**, Founding Principal, Renaissance Urbaine, Paris, France

### Moderator:

- **Hazem Galal**, Cities and Local Government Global Leader, PwC Middle East, Dubai, UAE

## Background

Cities are at the forefront of all the most pressing challenges of the 21st century are at the centre implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Given that 80 percent of the global population is expected to live in urban environments by 2050, humanity will additionally develop the same amount of urban infrastructure as it has constructed over the last 4000 years of human civilization history in just the next three decades. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will therefore depend on how well cities are equipped to follow the standards and principles for the planning, construction, development, management, and improvement of urban areas provided by the New Urban Agenda (NUA) along its five main pillars of implementation: national urban policies, urban legislation and regulations, urban planning and design, local economy and municipal finance, and local implementation. This requires collaborative action of local and global stakeholders, but also significant investments that yet have to be unlocked to finance local action.

The World Bank estimates that financing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals requires global investments of 4 trillion US dollars or more every year by 2030, with a current investment gap of at least 2.5 trillion missing in reality. While there is a tremendous amount of potential capital available urban challenges and cities localized SDG targets need to be turned into a global pipeline of viable investment opportunities and financeable projects. The implementation of the SDGs in cities by 2030 will stand and fall with how well global urban growth and development is aligned to the NUA standards and principles.

This session creates a community of practice, dedicated to adopting the “4C” approach (Cascading, Co-Creating, Collaborating and Closing the Gap) to collaborate on SDG and NUA implementation beyond the WUF10, calling for session participants to actively engage.

## Methodology

Event Section	Format and Description	Time
<b>Panel discussion</b> (30 minutes)	Each panellist will comment on one of the “4C” topics (Cascading, Co-Creating, Collaborating and Closing the Gap) in a moderated dialogue	<b>3.00-3.30pm</b>
<b>Interaction</b> (20 minutes)	The Audience will be invited to ask questions and share their own answers and practical experience on the guiding questions.	<b>3.30-3.50pm</b>
<b>Call to action</b> (10 minutes)	The panellists will each invite the session participants to contribute to one concrete initiative in line with the session topic.	<b>3.50-4.00pm</b>

### Contact at PwC Middle East

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