

## **Inter-regional Cooperation on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda Project Launch Meeting in Jordan**

**15-16 FEBRUARY 2021**

**From 10:00 to 13:00 Beirut/Amman Time (GMT +2)**

### **Concept Note**

#### **Introduction**

The implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a concerted effort to rethink urban development and planning. The ability of national and local governments to develop strategies and action plans on the topic is one of the most important pillars for implementing both agendas. Accordingly, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is implementing the global project “Inter-Regional Cooperation to Implement the New Urban Agenda” in the Arab region in cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN Habitat).

This project is being implemented in nine countries globally. Countries are participating through one of their main cities to review horizontal and vertical synergies between the national and local urban policies within a country and across countries in the region to enhance policy which highly impacts the safety and security of communities and sustainability of cities. The project is being implemented in Jordan (Amman), Ecuador (Quito), the Philippines, Kazakhstan (Almaty), Cambodia (Battambang), Cuba (Havana), Costa Rica (San Jose), Lesotho (Maseru) and Morocco (Rabat). Participating countries were chosen for considering urban development as priorities for achieving sustainable development. The project will focus on strengthening the capacity of policymakers and stakeholders at the national and local levels to develop national and local urban plans and evidence-based urban policies. It also aspires to strengthen the capabilities to follow up and review the progress made in implementing the NUA and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to cities, to enhance regional cooperation between cities, and to share experiences and knowledge on the subject.

The meeting is one of the first activities of the Project in Jordan as it will officially launch it on the national level and local level through the city of Amman. The meeting will be inclusive and will seek to engage all stakeholders related to urban development and urban policies in Jordan and in Amman; thus, directing the implementation of the Project towards the priorities of urban development in the country.

#### **Objectives**

The meeting aims to launch the Project at the national and local levels and expose the urban development stakeholders to its objectives, activities, expected outputs, and its implementation



time frame. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of Goal 11 of the SDGs and the NUA will also be discussed. The meeting will also identify the challenges of urban development in Jordan and in Amman; the related national and local urban policies will be discussed so as to agree on the Project outputs.

### **Participants**

Participants will include representatives from Greater Amman Municipality, Ministry of Local Administration, relevant governmental institutions working on sustainable urban development, and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, civil society, academia and relevant stakeholders.

### **Venue, Date, and Time**

The meeting will be held in Greater Amman Municipality in the presence of a limited number of participants due to the COVID-19 pandemic safety restrictions; the participation of the remaining invitees will be arranged through an online platform during the period 15-16 February 2021, where two sessions will be held daily for a duration of three hours.