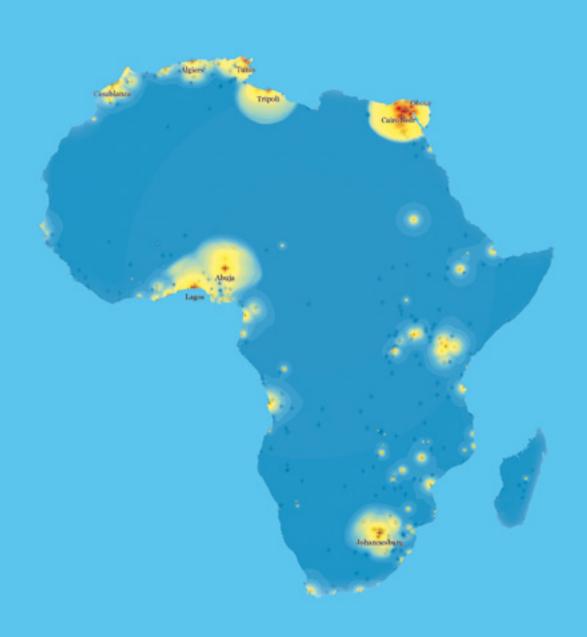
The State of African Cities 2018

The geography of African investment













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At UN-Habitat, the publication was coordinated by Joseph Maseland, Mathias Spaliviero, Katharina Rochell and Paula Pennanen-Rebeiro-Hargrave, who were assisted by Monica Gakindi and Jessica Mundia.

Lead author, Professor Dr. Ronald Wall, of IHS Erasmus University and the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, coordinated and carried out the research and the drafting of the chapters.

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Foreword

UN-Habitat



This *State of African Cities 2018* report is the fourth publication on Africa in UN-Habitat's Regional State of the Cities report series. It follows a first report, published

urban dimension of Africa's structural transformation with industrialization as the main vehicle for inclusive growth.

The research conducted for this report is highly empirical, rigorously evidence-based and provides neverbefore seen data and information. It links urbanization to sustainable national development by providing credible options for poverty and unemployment alleviation, highlighting the role of FDI in creating new economic activities, and the contribution of partnerships between the public and private sectors to urban investment and the creation of decent jobs.

At the same time, the report shows that FDI can exacerbate inequality unless governments harness it correctly. In this regard, the report critically considers the benefits of FDI into job-rich and higher productivity sectors (e.g. IT and manufacturing) compared to capital intensive sectors with limited value addition (e.g. resources). The report also shows that African governments need to connect FDI attraction to sustainable urbanisation by underpinning it with robust national urban policies, urban planning, and financial and legal systems.

I have no doubt that this report will make an important contribution to our understanding of the current and potential economic role of cities in African sustainable development by providing a perspective on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

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