



FINANCE FOR

**CITY
LEADERS**

HANDBOOK

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United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

P. O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi GPO KENYA

Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office)

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Editors: Marco Kamiya, Le-Yin Zhang

External leading contributors: Lars Andersson, Dominic Burbidge, Greg Clark, Doug Carr, Nic Cheeseman, Skye d'Almeida, Lourdes German, Pavel Kochanov, Leonardo Letelier, Tim Moonen, Armando Morales, Miquel Morell, Daniel Platz, Dmitry Pozhidaev, Yasuo Konishi, Devashree Saha, Yoel Siegel, Lawrence Walters

UN-Habitat Contributors: Katja Dietrich, Muhammad Farid, Elizabeth Glass, Liz Paterson Gauntner, Melissa Permezel, Douglas Ragan, Kerstin Sommer, Younghoon Moon

Project Coordinator: Elizabeth Glass

Editorial Consultant: Michael McCarthy

Design and Layout: Eric Omay

Partners: International City Leaders, Oxford University, University College London

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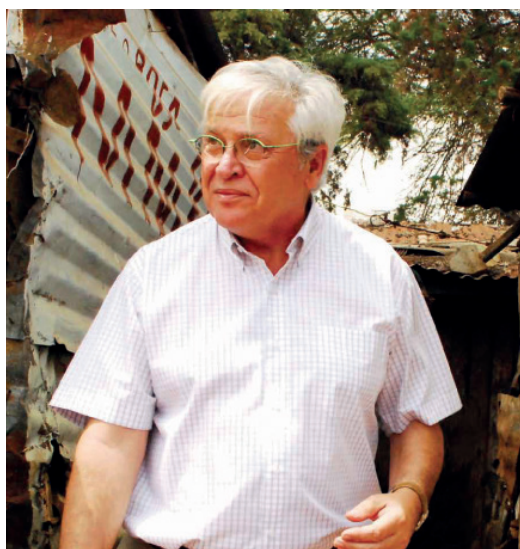
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Foreword

The rapid growth of cities across the globe, and cities' essential role as drivers of economic development, require that city leaders from both the public and private sectors come together in the financing, design, and implementation of urban policies that ensure sustainable and inclusive urbanization. Providing city leaders with adequate financing mechanisms and frameworks that fit the economic, social, and regulatory context is the foundation on which city leaders will achieve the goals of the New Urban Agenda.

A study on financing sustainable urbanization cannot come at a better moment as world leaders are discussing the New Urban Agenda that will be adopted at Habitat III in Quito. The New Urban Agenda is an action-oriented plan that aims at effectively addressing the complex challenges of urbanization, including its financing. It is a set of five strategies consisting of National Urban Policies, Urban Legislation, Urban Planning and Design, Planned City Extensions, and Financing Urbanization. The Habitat III process offers an exceptional opportunity to build a new model of urban development promoting equity, welfare, and shared prosperity.

Finance for City Leaders presents an up-to-date, comprehensive, and in-depth analysis of the challenges posed by rapid urbanization and the various financing tools municipalities have at their disposal. By providing city leaders with a wide array of financing solutions that emphasize sustainability, inclusion, and financial autonomy, this publica-



tion contributes to the growing conversation on how cities can look inward to finance major capital expenditures, infrastructure maintenance and operation, and public services.

It is essential that the new approach to urbanization put forth at Habitat III rises to the challenge presented by changing urban dynamics. It is with enormous pride and a united voice that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) presents Finance for City Leaders—a landmark publication that draws on the combined expertise of over 30 contributing authors from more than 15 public, private, and multilateral institutions all working towards equipping cities with the tools they need to build and sustain urban prosperity.

Dr. Joan Clos

*Secretary-General of Habitat III
Executive Director, UN-Habitat*

About the editors and contributors

Editors

Marco Kamiya is head of the Urban Economy and Finance Branch of UN-Habitat, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. In addition to working on field projects with UN-Habitat, Kamiya conducts research on municipal finance, the economics of urban expansion, and local infrastructure investment policy. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, he worked at the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the Inter-American Development Bank, and was director of international development projects with PADECO Co., Ltd., a consulting firm based in Tokyo. He studied international development at Harvard University.

Le-Yin Zhang is a senior lecturer and course director of M.Sc. Urban Economic Development at the Bartlett Development Planning Unit of University College London. Specialized in the management of city economies, she has a wide range of research

External leading contributors

Lars M. Andersson is a local government finance expert. In 1986 he started the Swedish Local Government Funding Agency (Kommuninvest). He currently sits on the board of the Agence France Locale (LGFA) and the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) and is global advisor for several governments and institutions.

Dominic Burbidge is departmental lecturer in the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies at Oxford University and a researcher in the Department of Politics & International Relations. He is author of *The Shadow of Kenyan Democracy: Widespread Expectations of Widespread Corruption* (Routledge, 2016), and has published numerous journal articles relating to social trust, local government, and constitutional design. In addition, he lectures in law at Strathmore University in Kenya.

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