



GP4U

Glocal Platform
for Urban Finance

A joint venture by Aragon Enterprise Corp
& Urban Economy Forum



CONNECTING CITIES TO INVESTMENT AND INVESTORS TO URBAN INITIATIVES.

-GLOBAL

-REGIONAL

-NATIONAL

-LOCAL

-Bringing them to the local level where they can have
the high benefits and opportunities

Cities home of prosperity, but also the place of poverty & inequality

Urbanization is a mega-trend of our epoch. It is a visible and sometimes invisible stream that connects everything. It is a transformative force that drives prosperity, quality of life, and sustainability. It is a well-known vector that is a transformational force needed to achieve the Global Development Agendas and United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Cities and urban areas are today the home of more than 55% of the world population. It is expected that by 2050 nearly 7 out of 10 people will be living in urban settings. The homo sapiens, the wise human, has become a homo urbanus, and cities are today the engines of growth and development. For instance, they produce 70% of global economic output, and they are the place where societal, institutional, and political development takes place. Cities also grow with negative externalities. If they are not well planned and managed, they can be the place where inequalities, poverty, and marginalization is manifested and reproduced. Therefore, cities can be the source for global energy but at the same time generate up to 60% of greenhouse gas emissions. It is therefore, in our hands, to maximize the benefit and opportunities that cities offer, but also to minimize or offset the negative impact they can generate.

Cities at the forefront of the Pandemic

The global pandemic has proven the important role cities and communities can play in responding to this and other major global challenges, such as climate change. However, COVID-19, also showed that cities were the most affected by the pandemic, in their economic, health of the citizens, quality of life, and in general, many other urban areas.. Studies on city responses to the pandemic have shown that each locality has their own challenges but also their own possibilities to overcome problems connected to the overall city, and therefore to the region and country. The crisis of our time can better be understood and addressed at the local level.

Cities are also often ill supported at the global level and financial mechanisms are designed to be implemented, in most cases, at the national level, with little or no participation of local governments.

The World has not provided appropriate responses to the lack of financial markets for cities.



The commitment made by developed nations to fund the climate change agenda by \$100 Billion / year, has been suffering from limited contributions that OECD estimated that less than \$80 Billion in total had been raised, but also very little of these resources to be channeled directly to cities. Studies have shown, for instance, that less than 20% of global funds had been used at the local level.

Financial mechanisms are limited to support cities to address many of the global and local challenges. From the 500 largest cities in developing countries, only 4% can access international financial markets and 20% on local markets.

A Glocal Platform for Urban Finance

The platform will create the conditions to have access to the necessary financial mechanisms. Cities need an urban finance platform that operates glocally.

- Connecting the dots - This global/local (glocal) platform will connect the dots of local responses that address local and global problems with these financial mechanisms.
- Accessing and Navigating financial mechanisms - Advocate the strong role that cities play and bringing key stakeholders together.
- Providing technical advisory services - To localize global and national agendas with proper funding, testing, and adopting innovative solutions on urban finance.
- Facilitate and lead dialogue - On how cities can provide adequate solutions to their own problems, but also to global challenges.

Glocal Platform

- Glocal Platform will create the necessary networks and mechanisms to catalyze knowledge and share practices, lobby for the needs and understanding of cities with national governments and international organizations.
- The Glocal Platform a very efficient way to connect ideas with resources that are based on the demands of cities and backed by urban assessment and evidence-based decision making.
- The Glocal Platform will create a solid foundation to produce evidence-based information to support decision-making and to identify transformative solutions. It will be designed as a cohesive platform to create specific urban projects with an emphasis on the diverse approaches to financing.
- Create to enhance public-private partnerships between the municipalities and financial institutions to facilitate sustainable development.
- Enrich the interaction between cities, urban development, and financing to facilitate and provide innovative, bold, and efficient solutions for the future of urban development.
- Support cities by localizing national and global agendas in local strategies and policies.
- produce tailor made and specific investments for each and every city, using the plethora of financial mechanisms and existing knowledge.

UEF has created the Glocal Platform through a multi-stakeholder network in a continuum that goes from:



The Glocal Platform WILL:

- HAVE the most significant economic, environmental, and social impacts.
- ENSURE investors have the knowledge and certitude that their financial contributions contribute to the sustainable development agenda.
- BRING major stakeholders together that for some reason are not interacting and sitting together at the same table for solutions.
- LEAD specific dialogue on urban finance and consolidate a global network to discuss urban finance.
- ADVOCATE for adopting more city-friendly financing mechanisms while also providing a hub to test new financial tools, models, and approaches.
- It will be designed as a cohesive platform to create specific urban projects with an emphasis on the diverse approaches to financing.

The Glocal Platform Goals:

- To adapt existing financial mechanisms and tools for urban finance to be implemented initially in selected cities
- To enhance international collaboration for a common benefit and the public good.
- To provide urban finance models and tools for cities to realize pilot projects and development.
- To form interactive dialogue between urban actors toward a common and shared understanding on financing the sustainable growth of cities.
- To disseminate the practices developed and achievements in the selected cities and produce a knowledge product to transfer knowledge and inspire good practices.
- To create and/or adapt a smart and efficient urban financial mechanism to streamline the process for all stakeholders.
- To support the World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park and to act as an important mechanism for the Urban Economy Forum.

Urban Economy Forum Efforts to Promote Sustainable Urban Economies

UEF is working with its global network to identify solutions and mobilize new resources that can support the existing and future projects and programs of cities. UEF's main mandate is to create global conversations on practical, innovative, and transformative solutions for urban economy and finance. Solutions that will facilitate new alternatives and will create the building blocks for cities to be better prepared to respond to the crisis of today and the possibilities of tomorrow. The UEF is organizing conversations between urban actors to form a flexible and efficient financial platform to support cities in achieving a sustainable urban economy. This is a platform based on knowledge

An aerial view of a city skyline, likely New York City, featuring prominent skyscrapers like the Empire State Building. The image is overlaid with large, semi-transparent geometric shapes: a blue triangle in the top right, a green triangle in the top right, and a red triangle in the bottom left. The text is positioned in the center-left area of the image.

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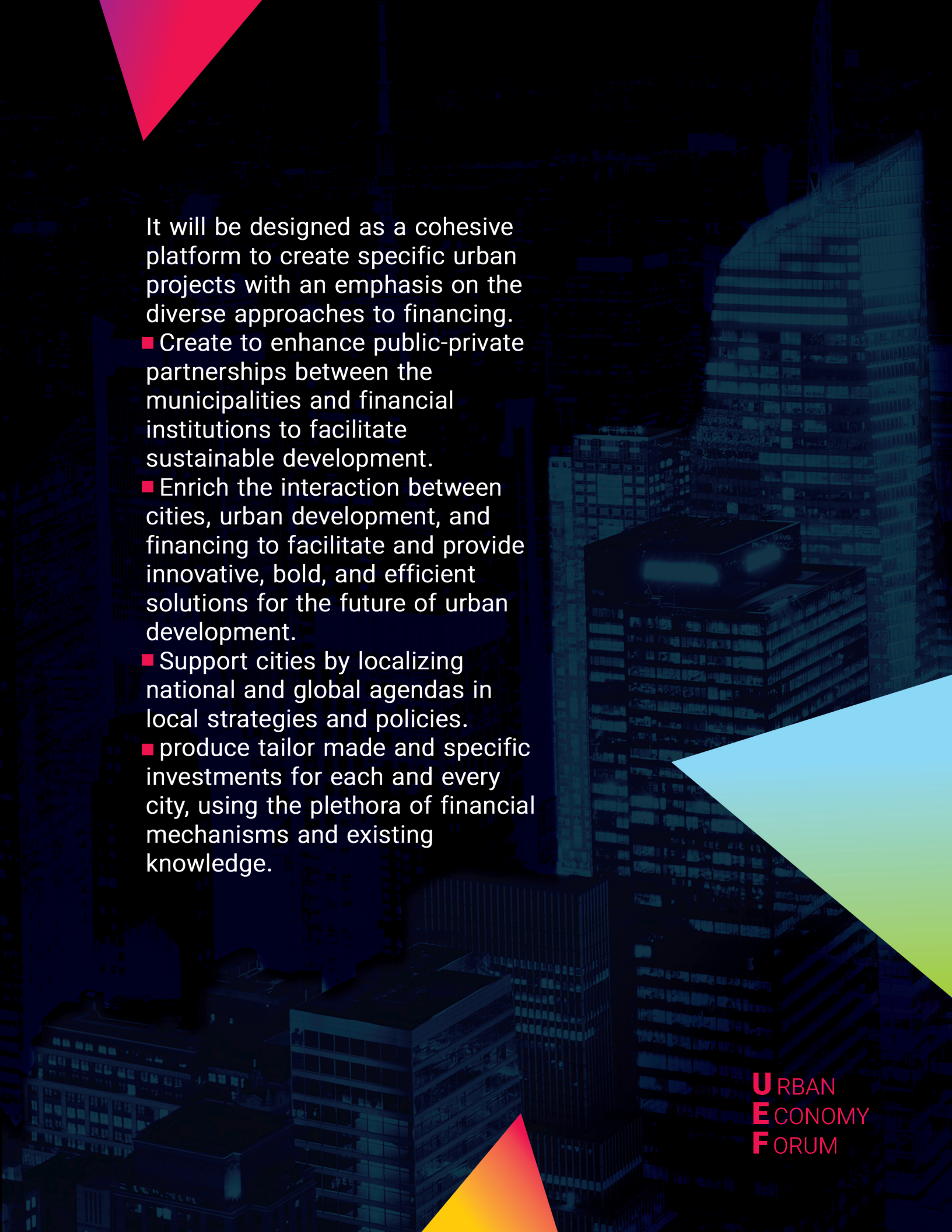
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