Building Sustainable Cities, One Neighbourhood at a Time

1. Background and rationale

African cities are experiencing rapid urbanization, demographic growth and spatial transformation, creating opportunities for economic development while placing increasing pressure on housing, infrastructure, essential services and ecosystems. Climate risks and socio-economic inequalities further compound these challenges, which are interconnected and cannot be effectively addressed through isolated, sector-based interventions.

Integrated planning offers a framework for understanding cities as interconnected systems and translating evidence into coordinated spatial and investment decisions. Combining multi-scalar analysis with spatial, demographic, socio-economic and environmental data, participatory processes and cross-sectoral coordination, could help to identify priorities, anticipate wider impacts and develop coherent solutions.

Ultimately, regardless of how smart or innovative a plan may be, its value depends on whether it can be implemented. Plans risk remaining aspirational when strategic objectives are disconnected from evidence, institutional coordination, realistic investment priorities and available resources. Bridging the gap between vision and implementation requires an integrated, evidence-based approach that links spatial strategies with capital investment planning and feasible projects.

Drawing on UN-Habitat projects and methodologies, this webinar will explore how such approaches connect territorial and city-wide strategies with neighborhood-level action. Through practical examples of resilience planning and neighborhood design, participants will examine how evidence-based diagnosis and spatial planning can inform project prioritization and translate broader development objectives into tangible improvements in public spaces, infrastructure, essential services and local resilience.

2. Expected outcomes

After completing this webinar, participants will have an understanding of:

- The rationale for integrated planning and the limitations of sector-based approaches in addressing complex urban development challenges.
- The importance of a multi-scalar perspective, connecting territorial dynamics and city-wide strategies with neighbourhood planning and local interventions.
- How to translate diagnosis into coordinated spatial strategies that address interconnected issues, including urban resilience, service provision, public space, mobility, environmental sustainability and socio-economic inclusion.
- The role of participatory planning, stakeholder engagement and institutional coordination in developing context-specific and locally grounded solutions.
- How to connect spatial strategies with evidence-based capital investment planning, project prioritisation and resource allocation to support implementation.

3. **Speakers:**

- **Moderator: Ms. Catherine Lalyre**, Course Focal Point, Assistant Training Officer, Training and Research Division, African Institute for Economic Development and Planning / United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- **Speaker: Yassine Moustandjidi**, Urban Planning Expert at Urban Lab, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Nairobi.
- **Discussant: Dr. Stephen Appiah Takyi**, Senior Lecturer, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana.

4. **Format and date:**

- Live online session, 11 November 2026
- Time: 10.00 am to 12.00 pm (GMT/UTC, Dakar time)

5. **Registration link:**

https://un-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Do4ySxCISSS9uVfLOLcc1g

6. **Contact person (coordinator):**

- Ms. Catherine Lalyre, Training and Research Division | IDEP | catherine.lalyre@un.org

WEBINAR PROGRAMME

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
10.05 am – 10.10 am	Opening remarks	Ms. Catherine LALYRE
10.10 am – 10.40 am	Presentation of the day	Mr. Yassine Moustandjidi
10.40 am – 11.00 am	Comments & reflections on the presentation	Dr. Stephen Appiah Takyi
11.00 am – 11.55 am	Question and answer session	Participants / Speakers
11.55 am – 12.00 pm	Conclusion & Overview of next steps	Ms. Catherine LALYRE