

CONCEPT NOTE

Global Observance of the World Cities Day 2023

September 2023

Overview:

The global economic outlook remains fragile amid a convergence of crises that are threatening to further reverse progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023 projects that global growth will decelerate to 1.9 per cent in 2023.

It is also estimated by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and IEA, that roughly \$2.6 trillion dollars is required every year until 2030 to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and stay on course towards a net-zero society by 2050. (UnitedNations, 2023)

This amount may appear huge but compared to annual global savings and other large financing markets, it is achievable. The availability of capital is large enough to solve global infrastructure needs. (WorldBank, 2022)

To unlock this capital, a paradigm shift is essential to inform the way efforts toward sustainable development is deployed in low-to-middle income countries. A significant drop in development grant funding and an increase in public investment is a clear signal that a change from a **granting model** to a **financing model** is crucial in keeping up the pace towards attaining the SDGs. (UN-HabitatCIF, 2023)

While the financing model is not entirely new for public authorities, this period of economic downturn has not only elevated the urgency of scaling up investments for development but has also provided an opportunity for **transformative innovative finance** to be prioritized in public discourse.

Such a discourse will be held on Monday, 31 October 2023. It will be a culmination of month-long global deliberations on financing sustainable urban development in a high-level segment at the of the World Cities Day in Istanbul, Türkiye. This session will bring together leaders of sovereign wealth funds, development finance institutions, private sector and governments.

References

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