



Side Event

**Investing Together: Working Effectively across Levels of Government to
implement the New Urban Agenda**

Date: 19 october 2016, from 01:00 a 01:45 p.m.
Place: Room "Urban Future", Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana Benjamín Carrión, Habitat III Conference – Quito
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Other: **Organizadores:** side event co-organised by Department of National Planning (Colombia) and OECD
Language: english

Cities and regions are the drivers of public investment throughout the world. Most of this local public investment goes to infrastructure, an area of critical importance for future economic growth, sustainable development and citizens' well-being. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda urges for greater coordination and partnerships across levels of government. Countries, cities and regions throughout the world need to be able to learn from innovative governance instruments and good practices to know how to best "invest together".

The panel will focus on the good practices and recommendations to help cities and governments join forces to invest together to implement the New Urban Agenda.

This importance of this governance dimension for public investment is often neglected or underestimated. However, the challenges of urban investment go well beyond the financing dimension, as even when funding is available, different levels of government may lack the appropriate governance arrangements to make the best use of investment funds. In particular, a series of coordination failures across levels of government often impede effective public investment.

Major bottlenecks for effective investment in cities are the lack of or inefficient horizontal coordination and vertical coordination mechanisms within (e.g. inter-municipal cooperation) and across levels of government (between central government and cities) as well as across sectors (e.g. between education, transport and housing for example). Another key obstacle for investing efficiently is the lack of technical capacities and human resources in subnational governments as well as the inadequate or insufficient mobilisation of private actors and financing institutions.

The OECD has adopted in 2014 a Recommendation on Effective Public Investment across Levels of Government. All countries can adhere to these Principles and be included in the Implementation Toolkit developed by the OECD.

Colombia adhered to this instrument in 2014. The side event will include the launch of the OECD report on Colombia: "Making the most of public investment across levels of government in Colombia", as well as the launch of Colombian National Program for Modern Land Use Plans, which provides technical tools and support to sub-national institutions that are in the process of formulating and implementing their Land Use Plans (POT) and Department Use Plans (POD). Better connecting improved planning tools and public investment systems in a systemic approach is a priority to implement the New Urban Agenda.

Questions for the panel:

- How to make the most of limited resources for public investment, to implement the New Urban Agenda?
- How to overcome the coordination obstacles – across cities, sectors or levels of government - that often impede effective public investment strategies?
- How to better connect planning instruments to public investment and budgeting systems?

Panel:

- Manuel Fernando Castro, Deputy Director, Department of National Planning, Colombia
- Joaquim Oliveira Martins, Head of the Regional Development Policy Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD
- Ricardo Carvajal González, Regional Secretary of Housing and Urbanism for the Tarapacá Region, Chile.
- Nathalie Le Denmat, Executive Secretary of the Local Finances Commission, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).