



*"AFRICA'S URBANISATION DYNAMICS 2020: AFRICAPOLIS, MAPPING A NEW URBAN GEOGRAPHY" LAUNCH*

## Media Advisory

# AFRICA'S URBANISATION DYNAMICS 2020: A NEW LOOK INTO THE URBAN REALITIES OF THE CONTINENT

Africa will continue to have the fastest urban growth in the world. The continent's population is projected to double between now and 2050 and two-thirds of this growth will be absorbed by urban areas. This means that in the next 30 years Africa's cities will be home to an additional 950 million people. This urban transition is profoundly transforming the social, economic, environmental and political geography of the continent. This offers great opportunities, but also challenges for African citizens, businesses and governments.

**The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC/OECD) are co-organising an event on "Africa's Urban Realities: Better Cities for an Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Continent."**

Held on the margins of the 33<sup>rd</sup> African Union Summit, the event will launch the new flagship report, *Africa's Urbanisation Dynamics 2020: Africapolis, Mapping a New Urban Geography*. Produced by SWAC/OECD, the report highlights the diverse and multifaceted nature of Africa's contemporary urban transition — a diversity which is rarely captured in existing analyses and narratives.

**When:** 7 February 2020

**Time:** 10h00 to 12h30

**Where:** Radisson Blu Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Kazanchis Business District Kirkos Subcity 17/18)

### Speakers:

The launch of the report will be followed by a high-level panel session with government representatives and local authorities as well as stakeholders from international organisations. Speakers will include:

- Dr Ibrahim Mayaki – CEO of the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD
- H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko – Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission
- H.E. Vincent Biruta – Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rwanda
- Mr Philipp Heinrigs – Senior Economist, Sahel and West Africa Club
- H.E. Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi – Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Government Africa
- Mr Ahmed Aziz Diallo – MP, Mayor of Dori, Burkina Faso
- Ms Wanjira Mathai – Vice President and Regional Director for Africa, World Resources Institute

To register for the event, please send an email to [africapolis@oecd.org](mailto:africapolis@oecd.org)



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## BACKGROUND

The pace of urbanisation in Africa is without precedent. In 2015, 567 million Africans lived in an urban agglomeration, compared to 27 million in 1950. Africa will continue to have the fastest urban growth in the world. The continent's population is projected to double between now and 2050 and two-thirds of this growth will be absorbed by urban areas. This means that in the next 30 years Africa's cities will be home to an additional 950 million people. This urban transition is profoundly transforming the social, economic, environmental and political geography of the continent. This offers great opportunities, but also challenges for African citizens, businesses and governments. Urban agglomerations are developing most often without the benefit of policies or investments as well as the data and evidence able to meet these challenges. Urban planning and management are therefore key development issues. Understanding urbanisation, its drivers, dynamics and impacts is essential for designing policies that are connected to the realities of urban Africa.

SWAC/OECD's new report, *Africa's Urbanisation Dynamics 2020: Africapolis, Mapping a New Urban Geography*, highlights Africa's urban realities and diversities rarely captured in existing analyses, official statistics and narratives. The continent-wide analysis is based on the Africapolis database ([www.africapolis.org](http://www.africapolis.org)) that maps 7 600 urban agglomerations across 50 countries from 1950 to 2015. Combining census data, satellite and aerial imagery and other cartographic sources, it is designed to enable comparative and long-term understanding of Africa's urban dynamics. *Africa's Urbanisation Dynamics 2020* offers a novel perspective that aims to contribute to the African Union's Agenda 2063 for Africa's transformation, SDG 11 ("Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable") and UN Habitat's New Urban Agenda.

## KEY INFORMATION

The report will be available online on 7 February at [www.oecd.org/swac/](http://www.oecd.org/swac/) and [www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org)

Advance copies will be available for media upon request.

**Social media hashtags:** #RealUrbanAfrica, #Africapolis, #AUSummit and #AfUD2020

### Media contacts:

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