

# Roundtable Discussion: Towards an urban policy agenda in Somalia

*Somalia Urban Roundtable*

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# More inclusive urban development

- tie urban infrastructure investment to inclusive development
- clarify and improve economic and political rights of non-locals including IDPs in urban centers (-> citizenship)
- include IDPs and less powerful groups in local decision-making
- expansion of representative local government on proportional basis across Somali cities

# Strengthening city administrations

- focus on 'low-hanging fruits' for service delivery
- local government to develop policy keeping rampant land commodification in check
- clarify fiscal and policy roles: local (city) – regional (state) – federal/national
- establish integrated agencies responsible for a particular public good and/or service (e.g. urban transport authority)
- strengthen city administrations' ability to oversee contractors and partners

# Improve *de facto* private sector regulation

- inventories existing rules, regulations and standards by private companies providing public goods
- modify and improve rules governing private service delivery in view of greater equity, access and transparency (-> new legislation or new private sector standards)
- Encourage and support local government in endorsing, legalizing and policing private sector standards and regulations

# Develop urban public revenues

- seek out city administrations (municipalities & district govs) as counterparts for future aid & investment
- promote meaningful fiscal federalism including fiscal transfers
- support city administrations in developing their fiscal & financial management & planning capacities
- explore partial appropriation & the making public of lucrative land speculation and transaction rents
- develop tax regimes incentivizing more equitable service delivery (e.g. water taxation regime)

# Produce more and better data

Mechanism for long-term, open-access research on urbanisation in Somalia, namely with regards to:

- *urban economies and livelihoods*
- *urban inequality and social stratification*
- *gender and built environment*
- *migration and urbanization*

Individual studies on *environmental risk and hazards; vulnerabilities in urban space; comparison of water PPPs; diaspora role in urbanization* etc.