

URBANIZATION: CALLS FOR CLEAR STRATEGIES AND PLANNING TO CONTROL URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICAN CITIES



The Director General of the Institute for Development and Leadership in Africa (IDEA) Mr. Denise A.O.Kodhe who is also the immediate Past Presiding Officer (President in French) of the African Union Economic Social and Cultural Council (AU ECOSOCC) attended a High-level Expert Group Meeting on the validation of the report on the State of Urbanization in Africa.

The meeting took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Scholars and Experts on Urbanization and Spatial planning from Africa and across the world attended the meeting.

Issues discussed included setting the Stage for the African Urban Forum to be held in 2024 and challenges facing Urbanization and Spatial planning in Africa among others.

Professor Garth Meyers of Trinity University College, USA made an overview of the report flagging out areas such as Approach and Methodology, Rapid Urbanization Trends as key issues that need to be looked into critically.

Mr. Kodhe observed that African countries are already in a crisis and experiencing lots of challenges in urban development and human settlement because of a lack of planning and clear strategies.

According to Mr. Kodhe Cities are developing rapidly and Informal settlement areas are increasing alarmingly therefore urgent measures are required to be undertaken through sound policies to provide direction on these urban development trends.

Ms. Kabelo Lethunya, an expert on Housing and Urban Development explained steps and actions being taken by the African Union on urban development and as stipulated in the agenda 2063 of the continental body.

Ms. Sweta Saxena, Chief of Staff and Acting Director, GPSPD, UNECA, Jalal Abdel-Latif Acting Section Chief of Urban Development (UNECA) and Mr. Oumar Sylla, Director- of UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa attended. Others in attendance include Professor Mohammed Salih, and Ms. Kabelo Lethunya, a Housing and Development Expert in the African Union (AU) among others.