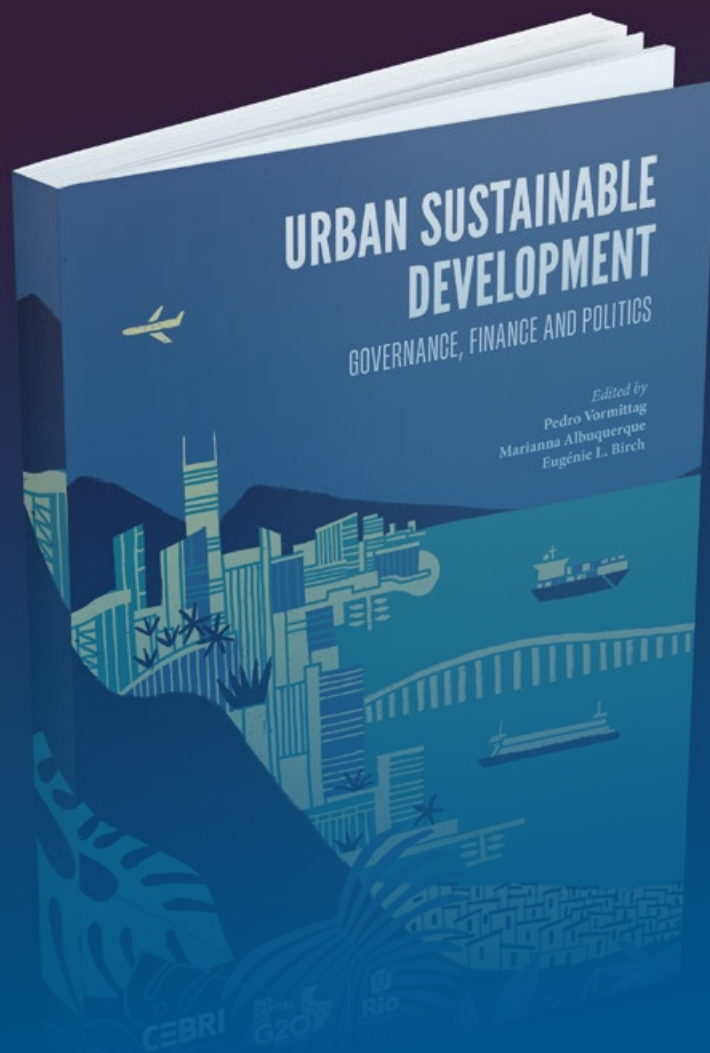


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POLICY BRIEF

A CONVERSATION WITH POLICYMAKERS, MAYORS, AND URBAN SPECIALISTS: AN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE G20

ARKEBE OQUBAY

 POLICY CENTER
FOR THE NEW SOUTH



14.

A Conversation with Policymakers, Mayors, and Urban Specialists: An African Perspective on Sustainable Urban Development and the G20

Arkebe Oqubay

A Dialogue on Sustainable Urban Development

Sustainable urban development is vital for Africa, offering opportunities for a better future that requires political commitment and a collective response to global challenges. A shared perspective and productive debate on Africa's challenges and future are essential to enhance economic transformation, urban sustainability, and the transition to a carbon-neutral economy. This commentary presents a compelling conversation among African policymakers, leaders, practitioners, and specialists on this pressing theme conducted in September 2024.

The conversation was based on a semi-structured qualitative survey featuring a qualitative format, targeted at a spectrum of African mayors, national policymakers, leaders of continental organizations,

and development practitioners—urban specialists. The respondents play a critical role in shaping public policy and practice and include Prime Ministers and the African Union Commission Chairperson, offering a snapshot of their perspectives and concerns. Of the fifty invited participants, nearly 50% completed the survey, including eight ministers, seven officials of continental organizations, five development and urban experts, and the mayors of Rabat, Freetown, Windhoek, and Cape Town.

Cities are vital in attaining the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the net-zero goals endorsed in 2015 under the Paris Agreement. The questionnaire comprised questions underpinned by cities' contributions as innovation and economic growth engines, as well as Africa's commitment to the common aspiration of the global community. African countries made a significant stride by unanimously adopting Agenda 2063, a 50-year road map with a theme of "Africa We Want," which places sustainable urban development at its core. Most recently, in September 2024, the African Union Commission successfully organized an African Urban Forum in Addis Ababa. This pivotal forum delved into African urbanization and the challenges of financing to achieve sustainable and resilient urban development.

The survey focused on a few selected core issues, namely perspectives on sustainable and productive cities, challenges of cities, and the role of G20 in addressing the challenges, crafted into 8 specific questions:

1. How do you understand sustainable/green cities and sustainable urban development?
2. What examples do you present of sustainable and productive

- cities (economic contribution) in your country's context?
3. What should cities do to create jobs and attract productive investment?
 4. What are the three primary challenges of building sustainable and productive cities in developing and emerging economies?
 5. What governance reforms are essential in cities?
 6. What is the role of G20 and the global community in achieving sustainable urban development?
 7. How can the G20 and global partnerships assist in addressing the financial constraints of cities?
 8. Any other reflections and opinions?

In the survey, former Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn underscored the scale of urban transformation and the depth of the challenge:

In the next three decades, African cities and towns will be developed, and how they are built will significantly impact the continent's future and global sustainability. Establishing new multi-level governance arrangements and continent-wide programs to leverage urbanization for economic diversification, cost-effective service delivery, and climate-resilient development is crucial. Africans need to participate in reshaping this process within the G20 framework as one critical platform. Reforming African urban development should be a key priority within the G20 agenda. We need to seek support from the G20 to address this issue.

The following section summarizes the diverse respondents' views on the challenges and strategies for productive and sustainable cities. The final section presented the selected case that illustrates the journey of African cities.

Perspectives on Productive and Sustainable Cities

On Productive Cities

There is a common consensus on the perspectives of African policymakers and leadership at continental, national governments, and city levels. Regarding perspectives on sustainable cities, respondents emphasize the need for a comprehensive approach, including environmental, economic, and social dimensions, and a focus on renewable energy, efficient urban infrastructure, and inclusive growth. However, respondents show their concerns that African cities are not sustainable in the true sense of the concept, and a lot needs to be done if cities are to cope with a bulging population and rapid urbanization. However, a few cities have been mentioned as prioritizing urban development sustainability, such as Cape Town, Rabat, and Addis Ababa. In terms of perspectives on productive cities, the responses emphasized the need for cities to focus on economic growth, expand infrastructure and affordable housing, promote productive investment, improve the business environment and employment creation, and expand industrial ecosystems.

However, the responses were less bold and broad than those on sustainable cities. This implies that more discussions are essential to show how sustainable and productive cities can go hand in hand, as highlighted in the other chapter of the same authorship

in this publication. More conversations and dialogue are crucial to enable key players to shape the direction of Africa's sustainable urban development path. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, former Chairperson of the African Union Commission, stressed the productive role of cities: "Cities should have programs that support jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities in the city's primary economic sectors. Space must be created for people to work, learn, and start their businesses."

Productive cities are the foundation for sustainability and require strategic focus, and Prime Minister Hailemariam further highlights:

What steps should cities take to create jobs and attract productive investment? African cities should focus on creating employment opportunities, primarily through rapid and inclusive industrialization. This requires well-planned industrial development policies for urban centers. Our experience in Ethiopia has shown that addressing housing shortages is crucial for successful industrialization in developing countries since it takes time for industrialization to take hold in cities. Housing shortages lead to increased living costs for city dwellers. Infrastructure and effective governance are also essential for efficient urban industrialization. Poor governance in African cities is obstructing development and deterring investment. Therefore, attracting more investment to African cities across the continent is essential.

The South African minister, Ebrahim Patel, emphasizes the prioritization and targeting support for the green transition and focus on new industries. Andrew Dabalen, World Bank's Africa

Region Chief Economist, underscores concrete actions related to urban land policy, “provision of cheap, abundant and reliable infrastructure,” and “mechanisms for supporting firms” in response to urban planning challenges, infrastructure constraints, and weak municipal governance to stimulate productive investment. Tishilidzi Marwala, the Rector of the United Nations University and the former Vice Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg, highlights the importance of technology in building productive cities:

In this era, what is required is a modernized city that prioritizes the injection of technology into city planning. This is not to say that cities with a longer road to becoming “smart” are not poised to create jobs or attract productive investment, but there has to be a certain way of thinking and approach. We are looking at the emergence of economic hubs.

On Sustainable Cities

The most frequent terms mentioned in this survey were sustainable cities, renewable energy, and infrastructure. Moderately mentioned terms were productive cities, green space, and urban development. The understanding of sustainable cities is not uniform among respondents. KY Amoako, Former United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Executive Secretary and United Nations Undersecretary highlights that “Sustainable or green cities are urban settlements that rely on renewable energy, manage waste to produce energy, promote sustainable transport, maintain green spaces and air quality, and manage and use their natural resources efficiently.” Amoako adds that it is done

through urban planning and management, which address the social, environmental, and economic impacts of population growth in the urban setting. Green cities have specific characteristics regarding public transport, buildings, water conservation, public spaces, and citizens' participation. There are no examples of green cities in Ghana. Cape Town could be considered an example of a green city.

Professor Evan Turok, an urban specialist, argues the concept is

conventionally defined mainly by environmental objectives like lower carbon emissions, less pollution and other forms of environmental degradation. But I don't think we can ignore fundamental social and economic objectives, like poverty reduction, more and better jobs/livelihoods, and greater social inclusion and spatial integration.

Andrew Dabalen also highlighted the need to differentiate “sustainable” as a broader socio-economic concept from “green” cities that focus on transitioning to green energy. He suggests that a green/sustainable city is characterized by using renewable energy, sustainable mobility, sustainable buildings and households, and an economy resilient to economic and climate shocks. He acknowledges that “there are no obvious examples right now of sustainable, productive cities.” Marwala further notes:

The lack of access and inclusivity, urbanization, and funding are the key challenges of African cities. I will use the example of Johannesburg, where I previously

lived. While there has been investment in strategic infrastructure, the vestiges of apartheid still present spatial challenges. As a result, access to this infrastructure does not encompass the entire city despite its rapid rate of urbanization.

As these conversations vividly show, there is recognition that inclusivity is vital to ensuring sustainable urban development.

Challenges of African Cities

Respondents highlight that the binding constraints of African cities are primarily growing unemployment, financial constraints, rapid urbanization and inadequate response, inadequate infrastructure and housing finance, and pressures from climate adaptation needs. There is a consensus that these challenges are directly linked to urban governance. Respondents emphasized that cities should be responsible for economic growth, financial autonomy, decentralization of decision-making to cities, and public engagement. Cities also lack city administration capacity, and city plans are not executed. Addressing the urban governance issues calls for a political commitment by national governments to ensure synergy between national, provincial, and city levels to maximize cities' contribution. Secondary cities and the polycentric urban policy approach are essential to ensure that several growth poles drive growth.

The challenges of African cities are compounded and multifaceted. Yvonne Aki-Sawyer, the Mayor of Freetown, maintains that:

Investments in clean technology and clean cooking are a significant issue for us in Freetown, where 82% of cooking fuel is wood-based, which increases pressure on deforestation. In governance, our biggest challenge in Freetown is land use planning and building permits. If we want a better response to the climate crisis, then cities must be given more opportunities and powers because they are the closest to the people, the closest to the issues, and at the front line. Developing secondary cities will reduce the massive population pressure on the capital city.

Mayors and other respondents have highlighted the lack of financial resources and the inability to develop urban infrastructure, housing, and services. This is coupled with a lack of decentralization of power to cities to boost economic growth and generate revenue. African Union Commissioner Albert Muchanga underscored that “central governments may need to reconsider the roles of mayors, to make them responsible for economic growth and not limited to service delivery.”

Former Minister of Finance of Ethiopia, Sufian Ahmed noted that city planning and urban administration, the influx from rural areas to cities, financing infrastructure, and the lack of autonomy (power) to raise taxes are critical challenges to sustainable cities. He recommended that governments decentralize city services and be empowered to boost revenues and property taxes. Still, the G20 must also share the financial responsibility for supporting African cities and display solid political commitment.

While many African countries have the primacy of capital cities, we

observe economic growth generated by several urban hubs, such as in Morocco (Rabat, Tangier, Casablanca, Marrakech) and South Africa (Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban). An important observation was provided from the South African context that city plans and land use should enhance mixed settlement rather than the apartheid and colonial legacy of segregation and discrimination in many African cities.

Chairperson of the African Union, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma stated that:

Some of the biggest challenges include the rapid migration of citizens into the cities and the inability of many cities to expand infrastructure and economic opportunities to meet the citizens' demands. Limited resources are available for developing sustainably, particularly in the developing world. However, the lack of political will in allocating resources towards sustainable development is a significant hurdle that needs to be addressed.

Most respondents highlight the enormous pressure of rapid urbanization, which burdens cities significantly. Amoako maintained that:

Rapid urban development has occurred due to a high rate of rural-urban migration, leading to air and water pollution, depletion of cultivated land, and urban sprawl. Urban planning and infrastructure development have yet to keep up with these population movements. Building sustainable and productive African cities presents many challenges, but my top three are environmental quality, transport, and housing.

Cities like Windhoek have invested in waste management as a priority. Windhoek Mayor Queen Kamati highlighted: “For the past decade, Windhoek has been investing in waste management programs and recently launched its first solid waste buy-back center to reduce waste to the landfills by monetizing waste and making it a source of income.”

Respondents emphasized that urban governance remains a critical challenge. Amoako highlighted the depth of governance challenges and reform priorities:

There is a need for integrated and holistic city planning. In most cities, the approach is top-down. Decisions are made without significant stakeholder consultations and very little community participation. Outdated legislation exists in several cities. The Town and Country Planning Acts must be reviewed to align with modern trends. In some cases, legislation exists, but there are little or no implementation and enforcement mechanisms. There is often a lack of resources for enforcement and monitoring. City administrations often mirror national administrations and are subject to similar governance challenges, such as corruption and mismanagement of public financial resources. Codes of good governance are needed to address these issues and improve public financial management. Reforms are also required to enhance and maintain the revenue and tax base.

Mayors' Perspective and Sustainable Urban Development Practices

In this section, we highlight the inner voice of mayors by presenting cases to illustrate efforts being made by African cities. The mayors of Rabat, Freetown, and Windhoek, the capital cities of Morocco, Sierra Leone, and Namibia, respectively, and South Africa's Cape Town provide a diverse but exciting live experience on the roles and challenges of African cities. Several insights can be drawn from these cases. In addition, the role of the national government is vital for developing sustainable and productive cities. Mrs. Lelise Neme, the Director General of the Ethiopian Investment Authority, underscores "maximizing collaboration between cities and countries to address common challenges."

First, it shows that African cities are putting in effort despite the huge constraints in their peculiar context and enormous challenges. All mayors highlighted the importance of fostering their roles as engines of the economy and sustainability.

Second, the mayors showed the importance of mediating between historical and cultural roles, inclusiveness and segregation, the constraints on not delegating cities to play prominent economic roles, and the urgency for focusing on secondary cities. The mayors described how their cities promote sustainable solutions, such as renewable energy, improving land use and afforestation, and reducing pollution. The Mayor of Freetown underlined the necessity of reducing the pressure of urbanization on capital cities and that secondary cities play a vital role in sustainable urban development, as many of the challenges of urban development are also governance issues.

Third, national-level development strategies (such as green economy, industrial, and urban development policies) and policies are critical for attaining sustainable urban development. The coordination and synergy at the national, provincial, and city levels condition the level of success.

Finally, the mayors highlighted the role of G20, primarily in addressing financial resources and knowledge sharing. We hope the story of Rabat, Freetown, and Cape Town will inspire policymakers, mayors, and experts to be committed to shaping the future of African cities. However, a realistic expectation of the G20's role is in order, and a more profound emphasis is critical on how cities and national governments can mobilize domestic resources and put them in highly targeted manners.

The Case of Rabat as a Sustainable City

By Dr. Fathallah Oualalou, Former Mayor of Rabat and former Minister of Finance and Economy of Morocco:

I belong to a city that has been evolving positively for 20 years. Rabat has one of the world's highest rates of green space per square meter per capita. This focus on sustainability is linked to the city's heritage and geographical position. A forest surrounds the city, the world's largest natural cork oak forest, which is a significant asset.

Greening cities through urban green spaces is critical, and Rabat has one of the world's highest rates of green spaces. This has been a long tradition since the early 20th century, but it has been strengthened recently, especially with the "Rabat, City of Light, Cultural Capital" vision. Here in Rabat, there is a dialectical link between interest in history, culture, and the environment.

The environment concerns both the past and the future. Still, if we connect it to culture and root it, it gives a kind of essential legitimacy to any pro-environmental policy.

Rabat has an environmental and historical dimension, and as a capital, it promotes partnerships with other cities. Since its designation as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Heritage Site in 2012, Rabat has had a dual obligation: to safeguard its cultural heritage—Roman, Almohad, Marinid, and Alawite—and to preserve its space. Rabat has always tried to create a dialogue between the heritage of the past and the spatial determinants between geography and history.

In the Moroccan context, like other cities in developing economies, the big issue is that cities lack financial resources. Therefore, the state needs to transfer financial resources to cities. Still, it is also important to have tax reforms that provide local authorities with the resources they currently lack to introduce the sustainability factor. There needs to be mediation between state financing and city financing; otherwise, cities will remain in a state of dependence, waiting for state support for their budgetary policies.

The first challenge is that poor and developing countries do not have the means to adapt to the risks of climate change. Therefore, developed countries must transfer resources to developing countries to help them participate in the sustainability of the economy, especially since these countries are not responsible for pollution or environmental degradation. There has been an international commitment on this issue since 2015.

Additionally, the issue of slums is crucial. In a city like ours, there are two types of pollution: pollution from development

(industrialization, transport, etc.) and pollution from poverty, which comes from slums and marginalized neighborhoods. Addressing sustainability means tackling both types of pollution.

The Case of Cape Town as a Thriving City

By Geordin Hill-Lewis, Mayor of Cape Town:

Sustainable urban development integrates green infrastructure, renewable energy, water efficiency, and public spaces while encouraging responsible consumption and waste management. Cape Town embodies this vision through its infrastructural investment in essential services such as water, energy, and housing, which ensures that urban development caters to low-income communities and minimizes environmental strain. Cape Town is procuring renewable energy through independent power provider schemes (IPPs) to diversify the supply and nature of energy production, attract new skills and capital into the industry, and provide competitive performance and energy pricing. These efforts contribute to Cape Town's broader goal of creating a resilient and sustainable city.

Cape Town is taking action to attract investors and create jobs by making it easier for businesses to operate. Cape Town's R39.5 billion infrastructure budget over the next three years is a clear example of how targeted investment in housing, water, and energy can stimulate job creation while improving the quality of life for residents. Cities can create long-term, high-quality jobs by strengthening industries such as tourism, manufacturing, and green energy. In Cape Town, the tourism industry is a vital job creator with its wide-reaching multiplier effect. Cities must also invest in

green initiatives, like renewable energy projects, that contribute to sustainability and create jobs in growing industries, such as green energy and manufacturing.

However, like other South African cities, Cape Town faces various challenges. Urban inequality is a primary challenge. Rapid urbanization often results in socio-economic inequality, where lower-income residents do not benefit equally from urban development. Providing affordable housing and essential services to all citizens, as demonstrated in Cape Town's land release program for 4,200 affordable housing units and 75% of its capital budget being spent in low-income areas, is a critical challenge. Developing economies often lack the financial resources required to invest in sustainable infrastructure, which can hinder the adoption of renewable energy, waste management systems, and water-saving technologies.

Through international cooperation, the G20 can support creating and promoting green bonds or climate finance mechanisms that help African cities fund sustainable infrastructure projects. The G20 can also play a pivotal role in helping cities adopt cutting-edge technology for urban planning and smart city initiatives, significantly enhancing their efficiency, resilience, and sustainability.

The Role of G20 and Global Community

The survey found that financing, know-how transfer, and political commitment were the most frequently mentioned terms related to the G20's role. However, there is a lack of clarity on how the group plays its role in financial resources. There is a solid consensus that the G20 and developed countries share a common but differentiated responsibility to support urban centers in developing countries,

notably African cities, which lack the resources—financial, technology, and know-how. Respondents highlighted that G20 should show solid political commitment if progress is to be made and international inequality is to be narrowed. The urgency and necessity of financial resources for urban development was a key point of emphasis. Respondents focused on the role of G20, which was to provide financial resources, including access to concessional loans, grants, and guarantees to stimulate private investment. Respondents also emphasized the need for innovative financing, as highlighted by the Secretary General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the Chairman of Afreximbank. In addition, the need for a global compact to promote sustainable infrastructure development and clean energy was highlighted. Respondents highlighted the urgency of facilitating technology transfer and providing assistance in capacity building.

President Oramah, the Chairman of Afrieximbank, highlights financial constraints, institutional weakness, and low technical capacity as critical challenges and recommends that G20's priority should be on "knowledge exchange, mobilize resources, promoting collaboration including concessional financing and grants, develop tools like green bond and blended finance mechanisms to attract private sector financing, support risk mitigation through guarantee." Wamkele Neme, the Secretary General of AfCFTA emphasizes financial resource constraints and G20's role:

Many cities grapple with the scarcity of financial resources necessary to fund large-scale urban infrastructure projects such as public transportation and waste management systems. By influencing multilateral development banks and financial institutions, the G20

can ensure that targeted grants and concessional loans are allocated to critical urban infrastructure projects.

South African former Minister Rob Davies underscores the responsibility of G20 in realizing the net zero goals, “I think adaptation is the major challenge facing African cities,” underlining that “funding available in total is way below what is required and in the wrong form.” He highlights AfCFTA’s contribution in “working through AfCFTA, a single market, to build economies of scale and regional value chain.” He adds that “the G20 should seriously consider the impact of discriminatory policies such as the EU’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) on Africa and other developing countries.”

Minister Patel underlines the need to compensate “countries that forgo unsustainable industries and natural resource opportunity” and the priority for the G20 and global community to contain geopolitical tensions and conflict that further complicate the green transition and slow down African transformation.

On the G20’s role in African sustainable cities, Dabalen highlights a different dimension: “Personally, I am not confident there is much of a role for the G20 or the global community. This is primarily a domestic or a country-led issue.” Nonetheless, he highlights that G20 and global partnership could make a huge difference in addressing cities’ financial constraints by reducing or restructuring debt for African countries and reforming the international financial system in financing green energy, sustainable infrastructure, and green industrialization. They can also provide platforms for cities’ financing. Dabalen adds that urban governance should focus on “localizing decision-making that gives more autonomy to mayors and municipal councils, reforming land and city plans, and financial reforms.”

Conclusions

A total of 24 respondents—policymakers, mayors, and development experts—participated in the semi-structured qualitative survey. Respondents highlighted the challenges of sustainable and productive cities, climate change, population explosion, rapid urbanization, lack of finance and investments, and pressures on cities' infrastructure. On urban governance challenges, respondents highlighted a lack of decentralization and capacity, a lack of good city governance, low human capital and skills, and poor planning and implementation. Regarding perspectives on sustainable cities, most respondents highlighted various dimensions (socio-economic-environmental), and some focused merely on environmental aspects.

Five key recommendations on the role of the G20 were highlighted, with a primary focus on mobilizing low-cost financing or investments. In addition, political commitments to development, promoting international cooperation, promoting technology transfers, setting standards, and sharing knowledge were highlighted. The importance of national strategy and policies was also emphasized. Former Minister Mekonen Manyazewal highlights:

Ethiopia has prioritized renewable energy for over two decades achieving nearly 100 percent, national green legacy afforestation, promoting sustainable mobility through incentives for electric vehicles and bans on fossil fuel-driven passenger vehicles, and promoting secondary cities and corridor development in Addis Ababa.

Several views and recommendations were highlighted on the roles of cities: the lack of employment, attracting finance and investments, provision of infrastructure, and supporting industries were most emphasized. In addition, applying smart technologies, improved waste management, using city plans, and housing development were highlighted. In governance, improved leadership and institutions and decentralization of responsibilities to cities were highlighted.

The commentary provides a snapshot of perspectives and diverse views on sustainable urban development, the challenges of productive and sustainable cities, and the roles of G20, which is one way of understanding African perspectives. However, it should be noted that this is not a comprehensive review and falls short of the basis for action. It also illustrates the potential for new research to understand cities' perspectives and challenges.

Acknowledgments

I sincerely thank the Government of Brasil, the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, the Rio G20 Committee, and CEBRI for inviting me to contribute to the 2024 Rio de Janeiro summit in Brasil. I sincerely appreciate all the participants for generously sharing their perspectives and insights. The respondents include national policymakers, ministers, city mayors from Rabat, Freetown, Windhoek, Cape Town, and development and urban experts. I am also thankful to the leaders of continental organizations, including the African Union Commission, UNECA, AfCFTA, and Afreximbank. Special thanks to those who accepted the request but could not complete the survey due to scheduling constraints. I am particularly grateful to Dr. Karim El Aynaoui and Akram

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List of Survey Respondents

The respondents in the survey are not listed in alphabetical order. The first 25 respondents (numbers 1-25) participated in the survey or interviews; respondents 1-8 represent continental organizations; respondents 9-16 are national government leaders and officials; 17-20 are African mayors; and 21-25 are development experts and urban specialists. Unfortunately, the remaining 20 individuals (numbers 26-45) could not participate due to time constraints and other commitments. Additionally, invitations were sent to 15 more individuals who did not respond to the survey.

	Name	Title	Origin
1	Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Dr.	Former Chair of AU Commission, Former Minister of the Republic of South Africa	South Africa
2	K Y Amoako, Dr.	Former UN Under Secretary and Executive Director, United National Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)	Ghana
3	Albert Muchanga, Ambassador	Commissioner, African Union Commission	Zambia
4	Victor Harison, Professor	Former Commissioner, African Union Commission	Madagascar
5	Wamkele Mene	Secretary General, African Continental Free Trade of Area (AfCFTA)	South Africa
6	Tshilidzi Marwala, Professor	Under Secretary UN and Rector of the United Nations University and former Vice Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg	South Africa
7	Benedict Oramah, Professor	President and Chairman of Board, African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank)	Nigeria
8	Hailemariam Desalegn	Former Prime Minister, Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	Ethiopia
9	Sufian Ahmed	Former Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Ethiopia	Ethiopia
10	Mohamed L. Doubouya, Dr.	Former Minister of Finance, the Republic of Guinea	Guinea
11	Mekonen Manyazewal	Former Minister of Industry and Trade, Ethiopia	Ethiopia
12	Rob Davis, Dr.	Former Minister, Department of Trade and Industry, Republic of South Africa	South Africa
13	Lelise Neme, Eng.	Director General Environmental Authority, Former Commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission	Ethiopia
14	Ebrahim Patel	Former Minister, Department of Trade and Industry, Republic of South Africa	South Africa
15	Okey Enelamah	Former Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment, Federal Government of Nigeria	Nigeria
16	Fathallah Oualou	Former Mayor of Rabat and Minister of Finance of the Kingdom of Morocco	Morocco

	Name	Title	Origin
17	Yvonne Aki-Sawyer	Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
18	Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis	Mayor of Cape Town, South Africa	South Africa
19	Councillor Queen Kamati	Mayor of Windhoek, Namibia	Namibia
20	Amare Asgedom	Former Deputy CEO, Industrial Parks Development Corporation, Urban development specialist	Ethiopia
21	Ivan Turok, Dr.	Executive Director, South African Human Sciences Research Council, and Research Chair in City-Region Economies	South Africa
22	Andrew Dabalen, Dr.	Chief Economist Africa Region, World Bank	Kenya
23	Frannie Leautier, Dr.	CEO of South Bridge Investment, Former Executive Director of African Capacity Building Foundation	Tanzania
24	Edlam Abera, Dr.	Director, UN-Habitat, Urban development specialist	Ethiopia
25	Edgar Pieterse, Dr.	Director of the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town	South Africa
26	Kesetebirhan Admasu, Dr.	Former Minister of Health of Ethiopia and CEO of Big Win Philanthropy	Ethiopia
27	Adanech Abebe	Mayor of Addis Ababa and Former Minister of Revenue	Ethiopia
28	Ahmed Shidie	Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation, Ethiopia	Ethiopia
29	Haddis Tadesse, Dr.	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Ethiopia
30	Lia Tadesse, Dr.	Former Minister of Health of Ethiopia	Ethiopia
31	Lantsoa Rakotomalala	Former Industry & Trade Minister of Madagascar	Madagascar
32	Tesfachew Taffere, Dr.	Former Director of UNCTAD	Ethiopia
33	Patrick Achi	Former Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire

	Name	Title	Origin
34	Tadese Haile	Former State Minister of Industry and Trade, Ethiopia	Ethiopia
35	Barbara Creecy	Minister of Transport, Former Minister of Environment	South Africa
36	Pravin Gordhan	Former Minister of Public Enterprises	South Africa
37	President Jakaya Kikwete	Former President, Tanzania	Tanzania
38	Mukhisa Kituyi	Former Secretary General of UNCTAD	Kenya
39	Mahmoud Mohammed	Mayor of Zanzibar, Tanzania	Tanzania
40	Sakaja Johnson	Governor of Nairobi, Kenya	Kenya
41	Aminata Touré, Dr.	Former Prime Minister of Senegal	Senegal
42	Anna Tibajuka, Dr.	Former UN Under-Secretary and Executive Secretary, UN-Habitat	Tanzania
43	Ibrahim Mayaki, Dr.	African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems and Former Prime Minister of Niger	Niger
44	Admassu Tadesse	Group President and Managing Director, Trade Development Bank, TDP Group	Ethiopia



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