

# Challenges and Opportunities towards a Sustainable Growth for Africa's Cities

**23rd-24th September 2019**

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei  
Corso Magenta 63, Milano



Photo: Nairobi, Kenya. Source: iStock by GettyImages

Highly urbanised countries in Africa have now escaped the low-income status to become middle-income. Consequently, urbanisation is often seen as a successful strategy to reach the economic development of African cities. Nevertheless, problems related to the negative environmental consequences of urbanisation (pollutants emissions, traffic congestion, waste management) and the insufficient capacity to provide adequate infrastructures and services become secondary with respect to the goal of economic development. These problems emerge strikingly in large cities, where they have become far too large and they impact the economic growth of the country. Indeed, rapid urbanisation leaves cities unable to provide services such as housing, security, infrastructure and jobs. In many countries, economic growth and the strong rural-urban migration has not benefited the poorest. Furthermore, climate change extreme events hamper development gains, and limited access to affordable and sustainable energy impedes productivity. FEEM gathers world experts to unravel the main challenges and opportunities for African cities towards a sustainable growth.

*The event will be held in English.*

# Agenda

## Day 1 Monday 23rd September 2019

- 14.30**      **Registration and welcome coffee**
- 15.30**      **Greetings**  
Paolo **Carnevale**, FEEM Executive Director  
Stefano **Pareglio**, FEEM Coordinator of the “Firms and Cities Towards Sustainability” (FACTS) Program
- 16.00**      **Which future for urban Africa? (FEEM and IUAV joint session)**  
*Moderated by*  
Gianni **Guastella**, Senior Research Associate FEEM \FACTS  
*Speakers*  
**Challenges of urban sustainability in Africa: Rhetoric, realities and required transformations**  
David **Simon**, Professor in Development Geography, Royal Holloway University of London (*videolink*)  
**Africa, strategies for reconstruction**  
Benno **Albrecht**, Professor of Architectural and Urban Design, Director of the IUAV School of Doctorate Studies, IUAV, Venice  
**Planning practices and geo-political cycles in Ethiopia: the case of Addis Ababa**  
Domenico **Patassini**, Professor and former Director of the Faculty of Territory Planning, IUAV
- 18.00**      **Lecture**  
**African Cities: Changes and Challenges**  
George **Owusu**, University of Ghana  
*Short-film projection:*  
**Un enfant perdu (19')** - **Abdou Khadir Ndiaye, 2016**
- 19.15**      **Networking cocktail**

**Day 2**  
**Tuesday 24th September 2019**

**9.15 Urban Growth & Environment – session I**

*Moderated by*

Enrico **Lippo**, Research Fellow FEEM\FACTS

*Speakers*

Julia **Gallagher**, Professor of African Politics, SOAS University of London

**How citizens see states: perspectives from Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and South Africa**

Philipp **Heinrigs**, Senior Economist, Head of Unit SWAC-OECD

**Africapolis-Trends and dynamics of urbanisation in Africa**

George **Owusu**, Professor, Institute of Statistical, Social & Economic Research (ISSER) and Director, Centre for Urban Management Studies (CUMS), University of Ghana.

**Africa's Urban Growth and the Myth about De-Urbanization: The Case of Ghana**

11.00 *Coffee break*

**11.15 Urban Growth & Environment – session II**

*Moderated by*

Massimiliano **Rizzati**, Research Fellow FEEM\FACTS

*Speakers*

Enrico **Lippo**, Research Fellow FEEM\FACTS

**Zipf is back in town. Spatial distribution and energy inequality of African cities**

Elleni **Ashebir**, Program Manager, Cities And Urban Mobility, WRI Ross Center For Sustainable Cities

**The need for compact, connected and efficient cities in Africa, NOW**

Dawit **Woubishet**, Environment and Climate Research Center (ECRC), EfD-Ethiopia

**Placing a value on residents' preferences for improved urban green spaces and the services they provide in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**12.45 Closing remarks**

Gianni **Guastella**, Senior Research Associate FEEM\FACTS

**13.00 Networking lunch**