



## **CONCEPT NOTE: ANNUAL RESIDENT ASSOCIATIONS SUMMIT**

**Theme: *Building Sustainable and Inclusive Cities and Communities in Kenya***

### **1. Background Information**

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit held in September 2015 in New York, global leaders identified and committed to support achievement of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. SDG 11 is on Sustainable Cities and Communities and the aim is to make Cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. In October 2016, the world leaders adopted the New Urban Agenda which provides guidance for achieving SDGs and is a roadmap for building cities that can serve as engines of prosperity and centers of cultural and social well-being while protecting the environment. The adoption by the International Community of the SDGs and New Urban Agenda positioned urbanization at the forefront of International Development Policy.

Kenya, through the State Department for Housing and Urban Development has gone ahead to develop a popular version of the New Urban Agenda which contextualizes and unpacks the global agenda to reflect Kenya's realities and priorities. The NUA is multi-sectoral, participatory, and people-centered initiative whose successful implementation depends on the various stakeholders effectively playing their role. Statistics at the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics indicate that by 2050, about 50 per cent of the population in Kenya will be living in the cities and by 2030, Nairobi will have about 6 million people. The rapid urbanization taking place in Kenya calls for effective and accelerated implementation of the NUA as a way of achieving sustainable and inclusive cities and communities.

A key facilitator and enabler for achieving sustainable and inclusive cities and communities is active and structured involvement of communities and other stakeholder in urban development initiatives. Mechanisms that consistently mainstream stakeholders voices into formal decision making processes both at the county and national level should be an integral part of efforts aimed at achieving sustainable and inclusive cities and communities. There is need for both state and non state actors to engage in discussions whose objective is to streamline and strengthen involvement of various stakeholders in the achievement of sustainable and inclusive cities and communities in Kenya. The Annual Resident Associations Summit provides an opportunity for constructive deliberation among various stakeholders on participatory and inclusive pathway

towards accelerated achievement of sustainable and inclusive cities and communities in Kenya.

## **2. About the Annual Resident Associations Summit**

Increasingly, discussion on how to streamline stakeholders participation in key decision making processes has occupied civil society advocacy, academic discourse, county and national government policy making, thus making the subject matter urgent and necessary. Effective stakeholders participation towards attainment of sustainable and inclusive cities and communities is still fluid and ineffective in many countries. In Kenya, it is not only a matter of right under the constitution, but also supported by studies that continue to demonstrate that ineffective involvement of stakeholders in decision making processes negatively impacts on the final decisions and undermines democracy.

Kara has partnered with United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), State Department for Housing & Urban Development, Council of Governors (COG) and University of Nairobi's Institute for Development Studies (IDS) to organize the Annual Resident Associations Summit on the theme: ***Building Sustainable and Inclusive Cities and Communities in Kenya.*** The Summit is designed to provide a platform for both state and non state actors to deliberate on the participatory and inclusive approach that Kenya needs to embrace towards accelerated achievement of sustainable and inclusive cities and communities.

The Summit will bring together participants from Resident Associations from across the country; County and National Government leaders; private sector actors; development partners; academia among others to deliberate and come up with resolutions that support building of sustainable and inclusive cities and communities in Kenya..

As part of the Summit, Kara will also host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Resident Associations Excellence Awards designed to celebrate the work of Resident Associations in Kenya and reward those that have done exceptionally well in influencing provision of better services and championing the interests of their members. The awards promote learning as well as stimulate positive competition aimed at promoting effectiveness of Resident Associations in the service delivery agenda and by extension promoting achievement of sustainable and inclusive cities and communities in Kenya

## **3. Goals of the Summit**

- a) To provide a platform for various stakeholders in the sustainable development space to learn, share, debate and make resolutions aimed at enhancing participatory and inclusive approach towards achievement of sustainable and inclusive cities and communities in Kenya.
- b) Celebrate Resident Associations through the Resident Associations Excellence Awards and stimulate positive competition aimed at promoting their effectiveness in the service delivery agenda.

#### **4. Objectives**

- a) Deepen knowledge and understanding on the roles of various stakeholders towards achievement of sustainable and inclusive cities and communities in Kenya
- b) Provide an opportunity for state and non state actors to engage in knowledge exchange, sharing of comparative experiences and best practices on achieving sustainable and inclusive cities and communities
- c) Develop strategies that will contribute towards effective and participatory approaches to achievement of sustainable and inclusive cities and communities in Kenya
- d) Recognize and award Resident Associations that have made positive contribution towards better service delivery in Kenya

#### **5. Output**

- a) Communiqué on Summit resolutions derived from various sessions. The communiqué will form a basis for follow up action as well as monitoring and evaluation of progress in implementing Summit resolutions.
- b) Policy and legislative proposals aimed at structuring and institutionalizing engagement between state and non state actors in realization of sustainable and inclusive cities and communities
- c) Publication illustrating the structured stakeholders–government engagement model, lessons learnt and emerging outcomes of stakeholders roles in the realization of sustainable and inclusive cities and communities

#### **6. Summit Approach**

In order to enhance opportunities for knowledge and information sharing, Kara will draw on knowledge, skills and experiences from experts who are well versed on issues of sustainable development with specific reference to stakeholders involvement in the realization of sustainable and inclusive cities and communities. The experts will be sourced from the academia, civil society, private sector, development partners, and government. They will be invited to develop thematic papers which will form the technical backdrop to conference discussions. Plenary discussions facilitated by session chairs will draw concrete recommendations and action plans for follow up.

#### **7. Summit Activities**

- a) High level opening and closing plenary sessions focusing on participatory and inclusive approach to building sustainable and inclusive cities and communities in Kenya.
- b) Expert panel presentations and discussions on selected topics that are in line with the Summit theme.
- c) Breakout sessions to facilitate sharing and learning among participants on sustainable and inclusive cities and communities.

- d) Partners exhibition to showcase products and services that contribute towards building sustainable and inclusive cities and communities
- e) Resident Associations Excellence Awards

## **8. Event Dates**

The Summit will run from **21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019** at **Chandaria Auditorium at the University of Nairobi**. The Awards Gala Dinner will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019.

## **9. Targeted Participants**

The event targets to bring on board 500 participants from across the country from various sectors including:

- a) Resident Associations
- b) National and County Government
- c) Private Sector Actors
- d) Development Partners
- e) Academia
- f) Civil Society Organizations
- g) Media

## **10. Proposed Key Speakers**

Speakers for various sessions of the Summit will include:

- a) Key Government Leaders from both National and County Governments
- b) Foreign Diplomatic Missions representatives
- c) Researchers from the Universities
- d) Civil Society Organizations leaders
- e) Private Sector leaders

## **11. Partnerships**

There are opportunities for partnership based on sponsorship package that highlights benefits for each level of sponsorship. The package is separately provided. Contact us for more information about the package