



Gateway Portals to the City

Infrastructure for Sustainable Urbanization

United Nations Headquarters, New York

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CONCEPT

One measure of a country's success is the state of its infrastructure. To ensure sustainable development, affordable and equitable access to quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure is a must for those that risk to be 'left behind' (Target 9.1. **Sustainable Development Goal 9** of the 2030 Agenda adopted by UN member states).

The **New Urban Agenda**, adopted by UN member states at Habitat III in Quito October 2017, gives guidance on how infrastructure can support sustainable urbanization. Member States are committed for instance to "encouraging urban-rural interactions and connectivity by strengthening sustainable transport and mobility, and technology and communications networks and infrastructure, underpinned by planning instruments based on an integrated urban and territorial approach, in order to maximize the potential of these sectors for enhanced productivity, social, economic and territorial cohesion, as well as safety and environmental sustainability".

Gateway Portals, as the main nodes in these networks, have throughout history been highly valued and played key roles in organizing and shaping their environments, as illustrated by train stations of the 19th and 20th centuries. Transit centers in towns and cities of developing countries today are bustling hubs of a wide variety of activities, connecting communities far and wide. Every great city has great portals, which often create the first impression. They convey the magnificence of the city and they define its ambition. Often they become cultural artifacts as they tend to last many generations.

This **event** has a **dual purpose**: to bring together examples of good practices from around the world; and two, to inspire policy makers to enable more innovative approaches to maximize the potential of these gateways. This will contribute to the preparations for The **UN High-level Political Forum**, the central platform for follow-up and review of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the *Sustainable Development Goals*, on the theme "*Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*", which will include a review of Goal 9.

The event will make the case that the **public sector** is the ultimate guardian to ensure that gateways and infrastructure enable sustainable development without 'leaving any one behind', help connect rural and urban communities, and help to fight climate change. Fiscal realities call for creative synergies between the public and private sector.

The conference will bring together world renowned practitioners that helped shaped major gateways, Government officials, representatives from the UN and other international organizations, the private sector, and civil society.