

Abstract submission for the Ghana Urban Forum, 2020:

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Plenary Session on the NUP Review Guidelines

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Ghana Urbanisation Think Tank (GUTT) and the Coalition for Urban Transitions we would like to present a policy research paper at the Ghana Urban Forum, 2020.

The research, finalised by the GUTT in late-2019, proposes guidelines for the revision of Ghana's National Urban Policy, and highlights the central role of Ghana's rapidly evolving cities in addressing three systemic risks to the country's recent development progress: climate change, rising inequality and national debt and associated macro-economic instability.

Given the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development's (MLGRD) imminent revision of the NUP, this document is of contemporary public and governance interest and the GUF represents an ideal platform on which to share and debate the document's content. The findings and recommendations emerging from this research hold implications not only for Ghana's urban strategies, but also for the country's industrialisation and climate policies. Urbanisation, if planned and guided through proactive partnerships, offers a rare opportunity to address these risks in concert.

This document is informed by an 18-month engagement with officials, academics, professionals and members of civil society. Given the implications of the research for the National Development Planning Commission, multiple ministries and development partners in Ghana, we propose a 1-1½ hour plenary session comprised of a presentation of the paper, followed by a panel discussion with audience participation through questions and comments. If this is considered untenable, we would like to present the work in a break-out meeting or side-event. Panellists will include (among others) experts from GUTT involved in the review such as Sylvanus Adzornu, Director in the MLGRD, Professor Takyiwaa Manuh, University of Ghana, Professor George Owusu, University of Ghana and Anton Cartwright, African Centre for Cities.

We look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely,

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