



PRESS RELEASE

Imagining the future of African cities: the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) flies to the Africities summit in Kisumu, Kenya

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Nairobi, 17th of May 2022 - The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation ([AICS](#)) will participate in the ninth edition of the Africities Summit, which will be held from 17 to 21 May in Kisumu, Kenya. The event is organized by the United Cities and Local Government of Africa ([UCGLA](#)). It has been held on a three-year basis since 1998 in various regions of Africa; in 2022, the event takes place for the first time in an intermediary city, under the theme 'The Role of Intermediary Cities of Africa in the implementation of Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and the African Union Agenda 2063'. With 13,000 expected delegates, including heads of state and government, the event promises to once again be 'the most important democratic gathering in Africa'.

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Intermediary cities occupy a strategic place in the rapid urbanization process that is affecting the African continent: by 2050 most of the population will be concentrated in cities and in particular in cities with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants. These figures force to reflect on the growing importance of the relationship between communities and their territories, as well as to identify new strategies to restructure urban centres to make them inclusive, sustainable, safe, and equipped with public services.

Africities represents a unique opportunity to meet the leadership of cities, local and subnational governments, civil society organizations, private sector exponents and international development partners to discuss and imagine together the future of African urban spaces, a future where improved living conditions, sustainability and community participation are prioritized. These are central issues for AICS, which is active in Africa with cooperation initiatives in urban regeneration, slum upgrading, improvement of social services, construction of infrastructure, creation of employment and cultural heritage conservation. The Agency is working on a new manual for the development of intermediary cities and has recently produced a strategic manual on the regeneration of slums in partner countries in collaboration with Sogesid Spa. The centrality of urban development for Italy is also confirmed by the recent candidacy of Rome to host [Expo 2030](#) - "People and Territories: Urban Regeneration, Inclusion and Innovation".

In collaboration with AICS headquarters in Rome, and in agreement with the Italian representation in Nairobi, AICS office in Nairobi will participate at Africities with a stand to showcase some of the key initiatives implemented in Africa in the sector of urban development: from Kenya to Tunisia, from Mozambique to Cameroon, from Libya to Sudan to Niger, visitors will have the opportunity to discover systems, processes and territories narrating the strategy of the Agency for the development of African peripheries.

"The participation of AICS in Africities Summit represents an opportunity of growth and exchange for all the actors and stakeholders involved in the themes of sustainable urban development, and a unique chance to build integration and peace in cities, starting from the communities" said Mr. Giovanni Grandi, Head of AICS office in Nairobi. "In Kenya we stand by the authorities to improve basic infrastructure through a holistic approach in the sectors of education, health, access to water and waste management in suburban areas". In the country, the Italian Cooperation has supported

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the upgrade of basic infrastructure through the Kenya Italy Debt for Development Program ([KIDDP](#)), which is considered to be a best practice in the partnership relationship between the two countries. The program has converted part of Kenya's debt towards Italy in various development projects, with 132 initiatives approved in 25 counties to date. In the sector of urban development, KIDDP has intervened to upgrade target informal settlements in Nairobi and Kilifi counties with infrastructural and policy interventions, with particular focus on land ownership and participatory urban planning. The Agency also plans to launch a further initiative worth six million euros for the regeneration of three slums in Kajiado, Kilifi and Siaya counties.