



**SDG  
Cities**  
Global Initiative



INTERNATIONAL  
ANTI-CORRUPTION  
ACADEMY



## Session 7 – Accelerating Resilient Recovery: Role of Inclusive Infrastructure Sector and Sustainable Entrepreneurship

In this training session, the experts from the UN-Habitat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), and Think Tank AlterContacts will explore the paths for resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through harnessing the potential of the SDG Cities Global Initiative, transparent infrastructure development, and urban entrepreneurship. The session aims to promote institutional synergies and uncover their potential for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in today's ever-changing situation by exploring these key areas:

- a. How can cities accelerate sustainable development and improve the quality of life for all?
- b. What are the corruption risks associated with the planning and delivery of infrastructure and how can these be better understood and addressed in order to facilitate the attainment of socially inclusive and sustainable cities under SDGs 9 and 11?
- c. Who are *urbanpreneurs* and how are they helping address the social and environmental challenges associated with rapid urbanization through innovative business solutions?
- d. What can we learn from entrepreneurs who overcame the pandemic by becoming social 'glue' in their communities?

During the panel discussion session, participants will become acquainted with the unique and innovative digital tools of the SDG Cities Global Initiative; good practices of the CoST Infrastructure Transparency Initiative; preventive and corrective tools to tackle corruption; and key findings of UNCTAD's paper "Urban expansion, an entrepreneur's playground". Participants will have a chance to share their opinion in multiple polls and take part in an interactive Q&A.

### Organizing Partners:

[UN-Habitat](#), Kenya

[The International Anti-Corruption Academy \(IACA\)](#), Austria

[United Nations Conference on Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#), Switzerland

[Think Tank AlterContacts](#), The Netherlands

*More information about the partners on page 5-6.*

## Program of the Session

TIME (EDT)	PROGRAM
08:30 - 08:35	Welcome remarks by Thomas Stelzer, Dean and Executive Officer of the International Anti-Corruption Academy
08:35 - 08:45	SDG Cities Global Initiative by Dyfed Aubrey, Lead, SDG Cities, UN-Habitat
08:45 - 08:55	Urban Governance in the Post-COVID City: Preventive and Corrective Tools to Address Corruption Risks by Dieter Zinnbauer, IACA
08:55 - 09:05	Socially Inclusive and Sustainable Infrastructure: Case Study of CoST Infrastructure Transparency Initiative by Hamish Goldie-Scot, IACA
09:05 - 09:10	Introduction for the next part of the program by Thomas Stelzer, Dean and Executive Officer of the International Anti-Corruption Academy
09:10 - 09:50	Round Table on Urban Entrepreneurship moderated by Zarja Vojta (UNCTAD) and Massimo Mercuri (Think Tank AlterContacts).  Panelists: Julia K. Skupchenko (AlterContacts), Richard Komlan Folly (African Geospace), Lennise Ng (Dropee), Hala Al-Naamani (Paltic), Jackline Awino Ochiel (Reharvested+)
09:50 - 10:00	Q&A with all the participants of the Session

## Panelists

### **Thomas Stelzer (moderator)**

Dean and Executive Secretary of the International Anti-Corruption Academy

Formerly: Deputy Director, Austrian Cultural Institute, New York; Special Assistant to Executive Secretary, CTBTO Preparatory Commission; Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Austria to UN, New York. Austrian Representative to governing bodies of UNDP, UNICEG and UNFPA; Delegate, Committee for Disarmament and International Security, General Assembly; since 2001, Permanent Representative of Austria to UN, Vienna, United Nations Industrial Development Organization; International Atomic Energy Agency and Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization Preparatory Commission; 2002-07, Facilitator and Chair, Vienna Terrorism Symposiums. Since 2008, current position.

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### **Dyfed Aubrey**

Lead of SDG Cities, UN-Habitat

Dyfed Aubrey is an Inter-Regional Advisor at UN-Habitat and provides technical and policy advice on a broad range of urban issues including forced displacement in cities. He also coordinates UN-Habitat's Sub-Programme - Enhanced Shared Prosperity of Cities and Regions, and the global flagship initiative, SDG Cities. Previously he headed UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Arab States, and prior to that UN-Habitat's country programme in Iraq, where he led the UN's work on land, housing and shelter. His international experience also includes working with INGOs in Sri Lanka, Kenya and Kosovo in reconstruction and slum upgrading. Prior to

working internationally, he was an architect and urban designer in London. He has a Masters Degree in Development Planning from the University College London.

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### **Hamish Goldie-Scot**

International Anti-Corruption Academy

A Fellow of the UK Institution of Civil Engineers, Hamish has 45 years' experience of working with others to optimise the sustainable socio-economic outcomes of public infrastructure investments, particularly in transition and developing countries. After working for a major international engineering consultancy for 34 years, including as its Business Conduct Compliance Manager, he has been an independent consultant since 2013. He has worked in over fifty countries, been resident in six, and in three countries has worked long-term within government systems. A contributor to several publications including training resources for the [sustainable community-managed upgrading of urban low-income settlements \(ILO ASIST, 2002\)](#), and the [Open Contracting Guide \(OCP, 2013\)](#), Hamish is a long-standing practitioner and advocate of more collaborative approaches to improving performance in all stages of the planning, delivery and maintenance of public infrastructure in general, and roads in particular. As a Technical Adviser to [CoST - the Infrastructure Transparency Initiative](#) - Hamish supports CoST activities worldwide, communicating closely with government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders. He has an MA in Engineering from the University of Cambridge, where he is a regular guest lecturer on its MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development.

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### **Dieter Zinnbauer**

International Anti-Corruption Academy

Dieter Zinnbauer has been working on governance, urbanisation and technology issues for 25 years for various IGOs, NGOs, think tanks and academic institutions. He holds a PhD from LSE and is currently a research fellow at Copenhagen Business School.

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### **Massimo Mercuri**

Co-founder and Chairman, Think Tank AlterContacts

Innovator and Problem-solver with 30 years of experience in Fortune 100 companies in several countries on three continents. He is a pioneer in digital engineering and an expert facilitator certified in numerous methodologies which allows him to connect people in a way that brings extraordinary results. His wide experience includes innovating at global corporations, experiments at scientific institutions and non-profit organizations, projects at universities, and a few entrepreneurial startups. Some of the past executive roles include AkzoNobel, DSM, Carnival Corporation, Stoneridge, ABB, IBM, Apple, ITT, the ScimPulse Foundation with the EU Horizon2020 project OpenCare, and CERN. Massimo is an EU registered Expert on Innovation and Sustainability. He is an advisor on the design and development of sustainable solutions for People and communities with a systemic approach in symbiosis with the Planet, to assure Prosperity today and for generations to come.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mercuri/>

**Julia K. Skupchenko**

Co-founder and Head of SDG Partnerships, Think Tank AlterContacts.

Award-winning Entrepreneur and Sustainability Practitioner. She specializes in facilitating remote engagement and community activation and scaling audacious social impact initiatives. Under her leadership, the think tank deserved recognition from the United Nations and the European Parliament. She is a registered Expert on Rural Development and Sustainability for the European Commission. Author of 50+ articles on sustainable entrepreneurship and social innovation, incl. for Barents Encyclopedia and Entrepreneur magazine. Facilitator and guest speaker at 100+ conferences, including the United Nations MSMEs Day 2021. In 2022 and 2020 she was awarded Gold as Hero of the Year: Helping others during COVID. In 2021 she was awarded Gold as the Mentor of the Year and Female Thought Leader of the Year.

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**Zarja Vojta**

Enterprise Development Officer, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Zarja is a communication strategist and project coordinator, working with digital entrepreneurs to better leverage new opportunities of the digital economy and create solutions to global challenges in a human-centric way. She's been actively advancing youth-focused projects in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, organizing international events on trade and development issues along with skill-building programs for youth and digital entrepreneurs. An anthropologist at heart, she is interested in corporate transformation and streamlining innovation processes to advance technological change in developing countries.

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**Hala Al-Naamani**

Co-founder & CDO of [Paltic](#)

Hala Al-Naamani, is an Interior Architect with experience across the GCC, and is also a climate and gender equality advocate. She is the Co-founder of Paltic, which was launched in June 2021 with her business partner Nivine Hachem. Paltic is a Social Enterprise that aims to reduce pollution in the MENA Region by applying innovative and long-term solutions, through transforming plastic waste into new sustainable material. This material consists of panels that have unique and aesthetic designs that are an alternative for wood, marble and terrazzo, and are used for Interior Design and Furniture Manufacturing.

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**Jackline Awino Ochiel**

Founder of [Reharvested+](#)

Jackline Awino Ochiel is a public health biostatistician and epidemiologist, and scholar from the Research Methods Program at the Leaders of Africa Institute. In her hometown of Kisumu, Kenya, she observed that much food goes to waste and is unsold by vendors. Her data investigation led her to examine how food systems can be improved to avoid food waste while enhancing the equitable distribution of food resources. This founded *Reharvested+*, an organization that aims to reduce food waste to leverage on incidences of malnutrition.

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### **Richard Komlan Folly**

Founder at [African Geospace](#)

Richard is a Geospatial Data Scientist, Entrepreneur, and Speaker from Togo. He has collaborated on technology, entrepreneurship, and education projects in Africa, the USA, Europe, and Asia, with private businesses, diplomatic and government institutions. Former NASA intern, Komlan is co-founder and CEO of African Geospace, an aerospace company that specializes in space technology and big data analytics, and that is unlocking smart decision-making for development, climate action, and security.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/richardfolly/>

### **Lennise Ng**

CEO and Co-founder at [Dropee](#)

Lennise is the CEO and co-founder of Southeast Asia's fastest growing B2B eCommerce platform where they work with brands, wholesalers and distributors to digitise their supply-chain to serve over 70 million SMEs across the region in a better, faster, and smarter way. Dropee is on a mission to decentralise supply-chain so businesses are able to stock up the right products, at the right price, and work with the right partners. Up to date, Dropee is the go-to platform for over 300,000 businesses that facilitates transactions of over USD\$10B annually.

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## **Organizing Partners**

[United Nations Conference on Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#) supports developing countries to access the benefits of a globalized economy more fairly and effectively. They help equip them to deal with the potential drawbacks of greater economic integration. To do this, UNCTAD provides analysis, facilitates consensus-building, and offers technical assistance. This helps them to use trade, investment, finance, and technology as vehicles for inclusive and sustainable development.

[EMPRETEC](#) is a flagship capacity-building programme of UNCTAD for the promotion of entrepreneurship and micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) to facilitate sustainable development and inclusive growth. It is recognized by United Nations General Assembly resolutions since 2012 as a tool for sustainable development of entrepreneurship.

[Think Tank AlterContacts](#), a global think tank for sustainable development in Special Consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council since 2022. It is based in Amsterdam, Netherlands with more than 300 experts on a variety of disciplines in 42 countries. It functions as a virtual laboratory for civil society ideas on sustainable development, helping communities to become more resourceful, and shorten the path to a more prosperous world. The SDG Partnerships of AlterContacts are registered in the United Nations and awarded by the European Parliament.

[Lockdown Economy](#) is an international non-profit grassroots social-economic and educational initiative by the Think Tank AlterContacts, to help small businesses and self-employed professionals overcome the challenges of the pandemic and reactivate the economy. It is registered by the United Nations as an Acceleration Action for SDG. From May 2020 until September 2021, it collected insights from 350 small business owners and self-employed professionals from 42 countries in 17 languages, representing 78 business activities, to see how the COVID-19 pandemic affected their business, their life, and future. The think tank report on Lockdown

Economy was referenced in the United Nations Report of the Secretary-General A/77/254 on “Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development” from 29 July 2022.

[UN-Habitat](#) is the coordinating agency within the United Nations System for human settlement activities and, in collaboration with governments, is responsible for promoting and consolidating collaboration with all partners, including local authorities, private and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, Goal 11 of “Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, as well as the task manager of the human settlements chapter of Agenda 21 and focal point for the monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the New Urban Agenda adopted during the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016.

[SDG Cities](#) facilitates global collaboration to enable cities to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and improve quality of life. It offers a systematic way to support cities to become sustainable and resilient by connecting a value chain of data, inclusive, evidence-based strategic planning, strengthened capacity of local institutions and the development and financing of high impact projects. It aims reach 1000 cities and 1 billion lives by 2030 by providing cities with: 1) an online bank of tools for data collection and analysis, institutional capacity development and project preparation and financial matchmaking; 2) support hubs that provide technical backstopping support backstopping to participating cities at each stage of the SDG City cycle; 3) strategic partnerships with cities and investors, and 4) recognizing the achievement of cities through SDG Cities Certification.

[The International Anti-Corruption Academy \(IACA\)](#) is an international organization and post-secondary educational institution based in Laxenburg, Austria. At present, it comprises 76 States Parties (including 49 ODA recipient countries) and four international organizations. The Academy is the only international organization with a mandate focussing solely on the comprehensive fight against corruption. IACA provides technical assistance and capacity-building through education, training, and research. IACA is facilitating the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and helps build resilient anti-corruption systems. Fighting corruption is a cross-cutting agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As part of the sustainable development cooperation system, IACA strives to complement the work of the United Nations in implementing the SDGs.