Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meetings
Panel on Urban Economic Development Strategies
New York, 27 April 2016
Introducing the paper

1. Evidence base
2. Focus
3. Priority policy options
4. Recommendations
Evidence base

Number of the working poor 7 times as many as those unemployed in developing world

Informal employment makes up more than 50% non-agricultural employment in almost every region (except MENA)

Immense diversity of cities by size, location and stage of economic development
Focus

The key challenge for UED is to assist cities:

• To generate more formal jobs and productive work opportunities;

• To enhance existing jobs and livelihoods;

• To ensure that all citizens have access to income earning opportunities.
Employment-led urban economic development (UED)

The kind of UED that is driven by the deliberate pursuit of the creation and expansion of employment opportunities that are productive, well-paying and support decent work conditions.
Priority policy options

- Build a compact city
- Business support (PU7)
- Improved infrastructure and service provision
- Support for the informal economy (PU7)
- Predictable and secure urban finance
- Improved local governance
Action-oriented Recommendations

First

Urban economic development should be seen as an intrinsic responsibility of national and local governments.
Second

To recognise and support the working poor in the informal economy as legitimate actors in the economic development process.
To help cities address the underlying conditions for urban economic development, including functioning infrastructure, means to finance infrastructure, spatial and land use planning capacity.
Fourth

The global community must also support the enabling conditions for employment-led urban economic development.
The enabling conditions

1. Well-governed and accountable institutions
2. Business environment supportive of investment in both formal and informal sector activities
3. Policy dialogues and partnerships between all stakeholders that promote productive employment and decent work
4. Physical and social infrastructure strengthening productive factors and improving quality of life
5. Support for innovation and entrepreneurship
This is based on Habitat III Policy Paper 7: Urban Economic Development Strategies, as available from:

https://www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/policy

It was prepared and presented by Le-Yin Zhang, Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London