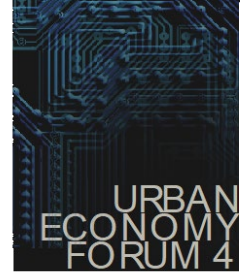


**UEF 4**  
**Sustainable Urban Finance**  
October 3- 4, 2022



To the kind attention of the Associate Professor  
School of Natural and Built Environment at Queen's University  
Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK

August 3, 2022

**Dear Dr. M. Sartish Kumar**

The Urban Economy Forum (UEF), in collaboration with UN-Habitat, is organizing the 4th Urban Economy Forum (UEF4) on occasion of the United Nations' World Habitat Day, **October 3-4, 2022**. The annual forum will be an international gathering, held both **virtually** and **in-person** in **Toronto, Canada**.

**We are pleased to invite you to speak during UEF4 to deliver your valuable remarks.**

This meeting is an attempt to provide an international cooperation toward implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provides a stronger voice and capacity for cities and communities to lead this movement and localize necessary activities.

Following the recommendation from the consultative meeting of the UEF4 steering committee, this year's forum will focus on *Sustainable Urban Finance* and seek to build an international dialogue and recommend practical approaches to achieving a sustainable urban economy. This is a timely conference to think about innovative ways of financing sustainable urban development and channel more predictable funding to large and small cities.

The 4th Urban Economy Forum will also examine the mandates and operations of financial and banking institutions to identify commonalities pertaining to urban resource management. At the UEF4, deliberations will also focus on issues pertaining to the need for capacity building of cities to access and manage finance to achieve a sustainable urban economy. In addition, the UEF4 will discuss the importance of economic policies at the macro and micro levels that have relevance for the local governments, private sector, communities, and urban stakeholders. This will help in identifying and sharing opportunities for innovations.

The Forum will also address sustainable urban finance in the context of climate and environmental emergencies, poverty, and pandemics. Cities are facing a convergence of global crises which has significant implications on urban economies around the world. COVID-19, for example, while it is a public health crisis, it has also severely affected the global economy, financial markets, and urban revenue sources. It has made cities vulnerable with millions of jobs lost and increasing homelessness. In the post-COVID world, economic issues will be even more prominent, especially regarding their impacts on the future of sustainable urban development.

We believe this is a fantastic opportunity for UEF4 to bring together international and national financial institutions and provide a platform to understand the current state of financing. It will explore the role of finance in facilitating the development of inclusive, participatory, gender and age responsive cities. UEF4 will create a global dialogue where both the developing and industrialized countries will have a platform to discuss how access to finance can create opportunities for new investors at the local, national, and international scales. Bottom up and practical approaches will be at the heart of this forum.

UEF's network continues to expand rapidly across the globe. Each year the forum hosts more academics, government officials, urban practitioners, financiers, and civil society organizations. This vast and converging network of academics and practitioners contributes to a global discourse on sustainable urban economy and finance. Access to and management of financial resources are crucial for good urban governance. It is important to consider finance as a critical topic of sustainable urban development and understand its potential for the delivery of the United Nations' SDGs and the related New Urban Agenda.

UEF 2021 was a remarkable success with the participation of more than 250 speakers from over 100 countries. Ministers, mayors, city leaders, and other government officials, academia, private sector, NGO representatives and the public all took part in the previous year's forum. Last year, UEF reached an audience from across the world including from Africa, Asia, the Americas, Australia, and Europe. You can also find last year's resolution, known as the Brampton Resolution, [here](#).


UEF 2022 will continue to focus on encouraging collaborative and inclusive solutions for urban economy. The goal of this year's forum is to increase the relevance, efficiency and positive impact of urban economies and municipal finance for sustainable urban development. The forum will host presentations on existing incubation and investment platforms and explore how other platforms can be improved to catalyze and accelerate urban financing.

We would be pleased if you kindly accept our invitation to UEF4 and we are happy to provide additional information on the forum's program to you and your office.

Please contact Dr. Fazileh Dadvar, Coordinator of UEF 4, at [fazileh.dadvar@ueforum.org](mailto:fazileh.dadvar@ueforum.org) if you have additional questions. We look forward to your kind reply.

Sincerely,

  
**Reza Pourvaziry**  
Chair, Urban Economy Forum

  
**Anantha Krishnan**  
Secretary General, Urban Economy Forum

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