



Addressing Urbanization Challenges in the Urban-Rural Continuum

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES



Rafael Tuts is Director of the Global Solutions Division of UN-Habitat, based at its Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. He is overseeing the development and application of UN-Habitat's normative guidelines through global programmes.

He is currently also leading an agency-wide effort to analyze the State of the World's Cities in the fight against COVID-19, focusing on multi-level governance, inequality, spatial structure and urban economy.

From 2016 to 2019 he was Director of the Programme Division of UN-Habitat, overseeing its seven thematic branches and four regional offices. From 2012 to 2016 he was Coordinator of the Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN-Habitat, promoting compact, integrated and connected cities that are inclusive and resilient to climate change. Earlier leading assignments at UN-Habitat included the Localising Agenda 21 Programme, the Training and Capacity Branch and the Cities and Climate Change Initiative.

Following the Rio+20 Conference, he coordinated UN-Habitat's engagement in formulating the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG-11 on 'making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'.

He authored and co-edited several publications on a wide range of sustainable urban



development topics, including ‘Urban Dialogues’, a book reflecting on urban space as a resource for sustainable development, based on work in Morocco, Kenya, Vietnam and Cuba.

Together with colleagues from the World Bank, UNEP and Cities Alliance, he received the World Bank Vice-President Team Award in 2011 for global partnership building on Cities and Climate Change. He also received ISOCARP’s 50th Anniversary Award in 2015, in recognition of UN-Habitat’s urban planning work.

Before joining UN-Habitat in 1995, he worked for the Department of Architecture, Urbanism, and Planning of the University of Leuven in Belgium and the Housing Research and Development Unit of the University of Nairobi. In 1985, he obtained a Masters of Science degree in Architectural Engineering from the University of Leuven. In December 2016, he was awarded the title of Honorary Professor from the same university.