

# 3GF Africa Plenary

13-14 May 2015 - Nairobi, Kenya

## **SESSION** African Cities: Unique Opportunities to Drive Green Growth

**Date, time:** 13 May 2015, 11.00-12.30

### **Background**

It is expected that green growth in cities will be a major driver for green economies. African nations face a unique window of opportunity to embrace models of urbanization that will accelerate growth, sustain the environment and create increased quality of life for all. Creating sustainable national urban systems is central to growing a climate resilient green economy that delivers rapid growth and transformation.

In its most recent report, *Unlocking the Power of Ethiopia's Cities*, The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate advocates that “taking the right decisions about urbanisation can deliver positive outcomes for all. Macro planning decisions – particularly around urban planning and transport connectivity – are not only good economic policy, but also provide the foundation for a more inclusive, greener, climate resilient economy that delivers rapid growth and structural transformation. In short, economic, social and environmental objectives are not in conflict, but instead are mutually reinforcing.

Some opportunities for cities to drive green growth include:

- The provision of adequate housing and sanitation within urban centres to keep up with demand – overcoming the challenge of informal settlements
- Planning regulation to keep up with urban population growth – resource efficiency improvements decoupling growth from resource demand
- Use of urbanisation as a further engine for economic growth & targets for the SDGs
- Bridging the gaps between urban and rural quality of healthcare and education