

ENHANCING PRODUCTIVITY^{IN THE} URBAN INFORMAL ECONOMY



Enhancing Productivity in the Urban Informal Economy

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Cover Photo: Eduardo Vila is a food vendor at the Mercado San José in Lima, Peru. He is a member of an organization affiliated to the National Federation of Market Workers (Federación Nacional de Trabajadores de Mercado, FENATM).

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FOREWORD



Urbanisation is one of the 21st century's most transformative trends. In parallel the urban informal economy has assumed increased prominence, providing jobs for millions of urban residents and contributing to the economies of fast growing cities. Yet policy and practice has been slow to catch up in harnessing the potential and energy of informal economy enterprises and workers. This report demonstrates how urban informal workers make a key contribution to the vision of urban equity and economic prosperity for all.

The launch of *Enhancing Productivity in the Urban Informal Economy* at *Habitat III*, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, in October 2016, is thus timely. *Habitat III* and its outcome document, the *New Urban Agenda*, set out a new vision of urban futures, anchored in the concept of cities for all, where all inhabitants, present and future, can inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements. *Habitat III* is convened in accordance with UN Resolution 666/207 to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanisation, building on the *Habitat Agenda* of Istanbul in 1996, and the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, to explore new ways to implement the urban vision.

This report proposes a fresh approach to support economic inclusion and pathways out of poverty for informal workers, making a major contribution to the UN-Habitat and ILO agendas of full and productive employment and decent work for all, with special focus on the needs of women, young people and disadvantaged groups. The report demonstrates how recognition of the contribution of informal workers can lead to innovations in urban planning and design, and the creation of a legal and policy framework that supports the working poor. The report breaks new ground in providing examples of partnership and good practice where local governments and informal workers have worked in partnership to implement a shared vision of economic inclusion for all. The report makes a welcome contribution to innovative urban practice.

Dr. Joan Clos

Executive Director of UN-Habitat

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