



## Round-table #1

### Urban planning in Africa: which model for which strategy?

#### Rationale

Compared to the age of civilizations on this continent, planning in Africa is relatively recent. Initially conducted at the national level, it dates back to the early years of African countries' independence. This planning was necessary for the organisation of structural changes in the territories, in particular the effects of population growth, the urban explosion, social needs, etc. Decision-makers have thus needed insights for infrastructure, investment, health, education and land use planning.

The early stages of planning in Africa have gone through several phases, in search of an optimal development model. Despite various attempts, and while several areas remain to be improved, this development planning seems to be on track.

#### African planning on track?

Today, with the help of external funding in particular, a new form of planning is being initiated in Africa: planning that is no longer national but local, making it possible to address new challenges that are more targeted than the national economy or education. African cities are increasingly equipped with urban planning and planning documents at the city level: master plan, master plan, urban master plan, and even POS and Agenda 21. At a time when African cities are attracting and seeing their populations explode, urban challenges are complex and must be addressed on a scale adapted to the territory and its population: urban mobility, waste and sanitation management, occupation of public spaces, etc.

However, there is once again a great risk of reproducing the mistakes of the past, and of easily transposing methods that have consisted in trying to apply French or European methods to African problems? Informal economy, the importance of religion in land management, etc. The problems, approaches, challenges, priorities differ between our cities and African cities, but also between the different cities in African countries.