A Finance Alliance to project preparation: How to transform ideas into bankable projects

About:
Approximately 70% of global CO2 emissions originate from urban areas, a staggering figure that is set to increase as an estimated 3 billion people shift from rural to urban areas by 2050. Cities need to transition to low-emission, climate-resilient infrastructure, and finance is key to implementing this transition. While the world needs to invest roughly US $93 trillion towards sustainable infrastructure over the next 15 years, current urban infrastructure spend is only US $2.5-3 trillion per year.

According to the recently renewed Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (the Alliance), a two-fold strategy is needed to close this gap:
1. Amplifying ambition by mobilizing new climate financing opportunities at the sub-national level.
2. Bridging the demand and supply by identifying and developing bankable low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure projects, which are at the same time attractive to public and private financiers.

The Alliance works hand-in-hand with the Leadership for Urban Climate Investment (LUCI) initiative and particularly its component 2 that aims at increasing the number and quality of bankable projects and pipelines at scale. With the same goal, the Alliance’s Project Preparation Action Group members seek to facilitate investment through targeted action, learning, and analysis that will, in turn, aid in the development of well-structured, bankable projects. Empowering cities that often struggle to access climate finance is an important priority of the Alliance.

Within this context, this plenary session will:
- Discuss how to strengthen component 2 of LUCI, which aims at increasing the number and quality of bankable projects and pipelines at scale.
- Cover the challenges faced by cities in creating bankable projects, and by finance institutions in aligning their capital allocation decisions with a climate resilient and low-carbon development in cities.
- Facilitate a discussion towards improving the efficiency of the value chain of project preparation targeting different project phases, framework development, grant funding, and others.
- Explore engagement opportunities between the demand and supply side of project preparation to facilitate collaboration towards closing the investment gap in cities climate finance.
**High-level format** (all speakers tentative)

**12.30-13.20 High-Level Panel Discussions**

**Moderator:**
- **Priscilla Negreiros**, Project Manager, Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance

**Panellists:**
- **Martin Dirr**, Head, C40 Cities Finance Facility (Project Preparation Action Group Chair)
- **Sameh Wahba**, Director Urban and Territorial Development, World Bank
- **Kobie Brand**, Regional Director, ICLEI Africa
- **Emmanuelle Nasse Bridier**, Head of the Urban resilience infrastructure initiative, Meridiam
- **Gerry Muscat**, Head of Division, Urban Development, European Investment Bank

**13.10 – 13.20 Closing Remarks:**
- **Carmen Vogt**, Programme Director of Sustainable Urban and Metropolitan Development, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)