



Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly Cities Summit

Innovation for Livable and Sustainable Cities: Multi-Level and Integrated Urban Systems

13 March, 9:00 – 18:00

Venue: ICRAF

OBJECTIVES

- Provide an opportunity for high level dialogue between mayors, ministers, private sector leaders and civil society representatives on challenges and innovative solutions to achieve livable, inclusive, and sustainable cities – working across sectors and across all levels of government;
- As an input to UNEA-4, identify key messages and success stories on innovation for sustainable consumption and production in cities, with a view to localizing SDGs, creating more integrated urban systems, and implementing ecological transition in the context of the New Urban Agenda;
- Kick start a process to develop partnerships and commitments to collaborate on a new work area implementing integrated urban infrastructure solutions with an eye to a launch announcement at future global milestone events, such as the International Conference on Climate Action, the UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit, COP25, WUF10, and others;
- Establish the Cities Summit as a key component of UN Environment Assemblies to highlight the importance of localizing the SDGs and allow for engagement with sub-national leaders.

THEMATIC BACKGROUND

The way we go about urban development will influence whether we will meet the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Achievement of most, if not all, of the SDGs will require significant action at the city level and taking a dual lens of *SDGs 11 – Sustainable Cities*, and *12 – Sustainable Consumption and Production* will allow us to identify solutions at city level able to generate multiple benefits.

Three quarters of resource use, waste, and greenhouse gas emissions already come from cities, and trends of urbanization, population and economic growth will further drive up these numbers if we don’t get smarter in the way we consume and produce. Many cities face serious air and water pollution, both a direct result of unsustainable consumption and production patterns, making citizens’ health a key driver for action.

According to the recent IPCC special report, restricting climate change to 1.5°C would need “rapid and far-reaching” changes around energy use, industry and buildings design, as well as the wider planning of cities and infrastructure. By integrating urban systems across sectors, our cities can achieve significantly higher resource savings than by taking siloed, sectoral approaches, according to the International Resource Panel recent publication “Weight of Cities” and can help facilitate transitions to circular economies. These savings are in the order of 30 - 60 percent and can be realized by leveraging connections, interactions, and resource sharing across multiple urban systems.

The good news is that cities have a long history of inspiring citizens, companies and governments to come together to innovate and use their power to create change.

Many cities are beginning to address these issues in a systemic and city-wide manner, through city planning and cross-sectoral policies within their mandates. Employing a set of legal, financial and planning instruments city-wide, coupled with cross-sectorial engagement, can result in measurable and sustainable improvements. Connecting sectors such as water, eco-system services, and infrastructure is also providing cities with nature-based solutions as part mitigation as well as adaptation options. In addition, the immense growth in urban infrastructure projected in the growing economies provides an opportunity to future-proof infrastructure investments from the start.

The Summit is a unique opportunity to focus on ways to reduce the ‘weight of cities’ by using our resources more efficiently through urban infrastructure integration and circularity, and thereby harnessing climate and societal benefits, including health and jobs. We will discuss how, by developing integrated solutions for urban systems, we can build more sustainable, prosperous, and equal cities into the coming decades, in line with the vision set out in the New Urban Agenda.

MULTI-LEVEL HOLISTIC APPROACH

Part of the official programme of the Fourth UN Environment Assembly, this full day event will bring together mayors, ministers, private sector leaders and key influencers to share innovative solutions for integrated infrastructure, and forge new partnerships, across all levels of government, across public and private sector players and across sectors, to achieve livable and sustainable cities.

Organized as an interactive dialogue, introduced by short inputs, participants will have the opportunity to both present their own experiences and have quality time for debate and exchange. Panels will feature participation of national and local government representatives, private sector and civil society. Each session will also explore how to better integrate nature-based solutions which are often overlooked or neglected for what is perceived to be more high-tech solutions provided mainly by hard infrastructure. Ecosystem-based approaches are often easy to implement and cost effective, while providing for multiple benefits for health and well-being and each session will explore how to think green, blue and grey infrastructure together.

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| 9.00am | <u>Opening</u> |
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| | <p>Welcome by Joyce Msuya, UN Environment Acting Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations – <i>Urban Integration to Decarbonize, Decouple and Detoxify at City Level</i></p> <p>Welcome by Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif Executive Director, UN HABITAT - <i>Dense, Diverse, Decentralized and Digital Cities</i></p> |
| 9.15am | <p><u>Special Message by the President of the 4th UNEA</u> <i>The importance of city action for sustainable consumption and production</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr Siim Kiisler, The Minister of Environment of Estonia* |
| 9.30am | <p><u>Keynotes from Mayors</u> (global south and global north) <i>Integrating Urban Systems for Efficient, Inclusive, Sustainable Development / Achieving Circularity at the City Level</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Keynote Introduction by Mpho Parks Tau, President, UCLG and Councilor, Johannesburg – Mayor Marie Chantal Rwakazina, Kigali, Rwanda – Vice Mayor Lan Marie Berg, Oslo, Norway* |
| 10.00am | <p><u>Global Trends and Opportunities for Integrated Urban Systems</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Paul de Larminat, Johnson Controls, Trends in Urban Integration: Smart City Indicator Study – Pete Daw, Director Urban Development and Environment, Siemens, Assessment of Opportunities for Urban Integration – Anu Ramaswami, University of Minnesota, International Resource Panel: Weight of Cities Report <p><u>Good Governance to Harness the Opportunities</u> Governance and vertical policy integration plays a major role in the success of sustainable transitions. SDG 11, the New Urban Agenda and major Multilateral Environmental Agreements all recognized the importance of the local agenda to achieve their goals.</p> <p>Facilitator: Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, UCLG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regional Perspective: Wycliffe A. Oparanya, Council of Governors of Kenya – Vertical Integration: M. Valeria Félix, General Directorate, City of Buenos Aires and Ministry of Environment Argentina – Deputy Mayor Marie Cugny Seguin, Orléans, France, Directors Committee of the French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions <p><i>Panellists will explore how can national, sub-national, and local governments can work together to enable integrated urban infrastructure solutions and see greater benefits for all parties?</i></p> |
| 11.15am | Coffee break |
| 11.30am | <u>Integrated Planning and Policies for Circular Transitions</u> |

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| | <p>Siloed planning of urban infrastructure means forgoing opportunities for resource efficiency of urban systems. This session will explore integrated approaches to infrastructure planning as well as cross-sectoral policies that allow for cumulative efficiency gains, particularly waste and by-products of one system to be reused in another, reducing cities' resource demands and GHG emissions, while improving health and well-being.</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Roman Mendle, Circular Development Program Manager, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mayor Soham el Wardini, Dakar, Senegal – Festus Kallay, Chief Administrator, Freetown, Sierra Leone – Enezael Emmanuel Ayo, Environmental Health Officer, Dar es Salaam City Council, Tanzania – Hiroshi Uda, Deputy Director of Planning & Sustainable Management, Tokyo, Japan – Charles Edouard Delpierre, Chief, Tractabel Engineering – Karim Selouane, Founder, Resallience – Ministry of Environment, Japan* <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>How can integrated land-use and infrastructure planning help identify and promote innovative technology solutions?</i> – <i>What are best practice cross-sector policies that are enabling integrated technology solutions?</i> – <i>Which biodiversity services should be considered and what type of interventions should be prioritised to ensure an ecosystem-aware urban development and maximise associated co-benefits?</i> – <i>How can public procurement policy be used as a lever to spur integrated solutions?</i> |
| 12.45pm | <p>Lunch Hosted by the Poland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Keynote: Mayor Marcin Krupa, Katowice, Poland |
| 1.45pm | <p><u>Technology Futures: Integrated Urban Systems and the Enabling Technologies That Will Get Us There</u></p> <p>This session explores the role of key enabling technologies that can facilitate connections and interactions across one or more of the following infrastructure sectors: buildings, energy, transportation, wastewater, treatment and waste management, e.g. intelligent thermal grids or district energy, storage capacity, and ICT.</p> <p><i>Facilitator: William Cobbett, Director, Cities Alliance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mayor Maty Mint Hamady, Nouachkott, Mauritania – Additional Commissioner, Shan Mohan, Amravati, India – Makoto Mihara, Environmental Bureau, Osaka City Government, Japan – Sello Mphaga, Head of Sustainability, Tshwane, South Africa – Meilin Leon Pedraza, Head of International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment, Chile – Benjamin Yoon, Seoul, Korean District Heating Corporation |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ziad Al Bawaliz, CEO of Africa, Danfoss <p><i>Key questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>What technologies can help cities and companies deliver integrated infrastructure that make cities work more efficiently and sustainably?</i> – <i>How does the trend of more integrated infrastructure interact with larger trends in climate, energy, and sustainability policy?</i> – <i>What is the role of procurement and tender design in spurring integrated urban solutions and circularity?</i> – <i>How to ensure that the role and potential of ecosystem-based approaches are fully integrated to urban infrastructure options?</i> |
| 3.00pm | <p><u>Improving Financial Readiness and Bankability</u> €3.7 trillion annually needs to be spent on urban infrastructure by 2030, according to the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA). An additional €1 trillion annually is required to ensure city infrastructure is low-carbon and climate-resilient. This session will explore how to unlock investments in sustainable pathways, making the imperatives of decoupling, decarbonizing and detoxifying prime investment opportunities.</p> <p>Facilitator: Bernard Soulage, Secretary General of Climate Chance Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mayor Mohamed Sefiani - Chefchaouen, Morocco – State Councillor Phee Boon Poh, Penang State, Indonesia – Greg Gebrail, Principal Specialist, European Bank of Reconstruction and Development – Natasa Putnik, CEO Wholesalemarket Belgrade, Serbia – Gilles Vermot-Desroches, Chief Sustainability Officer of Schneider Electric – Antoine Sire, Head of Company Engagement, BNP Paribas – The Ministry for an Ecological and Solidary Transition, France* <p><i>Key Questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>How are the private sector and the development banks creating new financing solutions for city access?</i> – <i>What business models are conducive to enabling investment in integrated urban solutions?</i> – <i>How can cities enhance finance readiness and facilitate investment in integrated urban infrastructure?</i> – <i>How can district-scale strategies help cities attract finance urban infrastructure integration?</i> – <i>What are the right incentives to trigger both public and private investments and facilitate innovations on ecosystem-based solutions?</i> |
| 4.15pm | Coffee break |
| 4.30pm | <p><u>Implementing from the Bottom Up: The Role of Communities in Urban Transformations</u> Community engagement and innovative participatory processes will be essential to reaching ambitious, transformative goals in urban planning and policies. In addition to changing consumption</p> |

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| | <p>and lifestyle patterns of citizens, community and civil society participation in local planning processes is key to ensuring that the changes respond to key challenges of urbanization in ways that are inclusive and create a better quality of life for all.</p> <p>Facilitator: Raf Tuts, Director of Programme Division, UN Habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction – Mayor Zandya Mutwalibu, Mbale, Uganda – Deputy Mayor Axel Graef, Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – Director General, Isidre Sala, Catalonia – Lena Pripp-Kovac, Sustainability Manager, IKEA of Sweden – Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General, Conseil des Communes et Régions d'Europe – Risto Veivo, Head of Climate, Central Administration, Turku, Finland <p><i>Key Questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>What are best practices and key challenges for participatory planning and budgeting? Are there examples and tools?</i> – <i>How can policymakers engage communities more proactively to ensure solutions that will be well-used and lead to sustainable consumption and behaviour changes?</i> – <i>What solutions exist that enable communities and civil society to access funds and finance their own innovative projects at the neighbourhood level?</i> – <i>How can communities be involved in making their cities and settlements more resilient against impacts of climate change and loss of vital ecosystems?</i> – <i>Urban expansion often claims natural land that citizens rely on for livelihood generation. How can low-income communities or other vulnerable groups (e.g. women, elderly, disabled, youth, children) be involved in planning consultations?</i> |
| 5.15pm | <p><u>Outcomes of the Summit and Next Steps</u></p> <p>In a closing panel discussion, high-level takeaways will be summarized, and an outcome paper of the Summit will be formalized as a contribution to UNEA-4.</p> <p>The session will also look forward to next steps in the work towards integrated models for urban systems, with announcements of publications, commitments, or partnerships that are in line with this mission.</p> <p>Facilitator: Martina Otto, Head, Cities Unit, UN Environment Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – N. Tserenbat, Minister of Environment, Mongolia* – Richard Martínez Minister of Environment, Ecuador – Aisha Al Abdooli- Director, Green Development & Environment Affairs Department, UAE – Stefano Manservigi, Director General, Development Cooperation, EU Commission – Norbert Gorißen, Deputy Director General BMU, Germany |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Keriako Tobiko, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Kenya– Michael Schack, Managing Director, Decentralized Solutions for Cities & Territories, ENGIE– Vice President, IFC, WBG* |
| 6.00pm | The event will be followed by a reception, kindly hosted by the Governor of Nairobi, Kenya* |

PARTICIPANTS

The event will be open to all UNEA participants. Depending on the capacity of the meeting room, previous registration is required.

All co-organizers will disseminate information about this event amongst their respective networks trying to increase representation from all regions of the world, including cities from different scales in the event and the UN Environmental Assembly overall.

LANGUAGES

The event will take place in English.

WEBCAST

The event will be webcasted to allow maximum impact and visibility for the general public.

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***TBC**