

PARTNERSHIPS FOR AMBITION: UNLOCKING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION:

Sunday 22nd September – 10:00 to 13:00 pm
 Conference room 1, UNHQ, NYC

The Infrastructure, Cities and Local Action (ICLA) Coalition invites national and local governments, industry, finance, business leaders, non-governmental organizations and the urban and climate communities to a discussion on accelerating innovative partnerships for ambition in the face of the climate emergency and the need to accelerate urban transitions. **The discussion will feature eminent leaders coming from all levels of governments as well as key actors from several sectors.**

Cities are home to more than 50% of the world’s population and are the site of most of its built assets. They are powerhouses of national economies, accounting for around 80% of global economic activity, and by 2050, the population in urban areas is expected to comprise two thirds of the world population as 70 million people will move to urban areas every year for the next 30 years. In this context, there is a unanimous consensus **that cities are on the front lines of the battle against climate.**

However, cities and local governments alone cannot deliver decarbonization and adaptation at the pace and scale required by the climate crisis. Even for highly ambitious and relatively well-resourced cities, only around half of emission reductions can be led by sub-national actors. The other half is outside the direct control of sub-national actors, requiring active leadership by national governments and other actors. **New kind of partnerships, based on collaborative actions between national and local governments, private sector, financial sector, academia and civil society are thus needed for the effective implementation of climate action.**

The pre-summit event will explore how national and subnational decision-makers and other key stakeholders can work collaboratively to unlock and accelerate subnational action especially in the sector of buildings and transport, while ensuring that cities are designed in a resilient and inclusive way, leaving no one behind.

Draft agenda and speakers

Master of Ceremony: Femi Oke – Senior Host and Journalist

<p>10:00 – 10:20: Setting the Scene: the critical role of cities and local governments to ensure a sustainable future</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Femi Oke – Senior Host and Journalist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cynthia Rosenzweig – Co-Director, NASA GISS; UCCRN • Jeffrey Sachs – Director, Sustainable Development Solutions Network • Ashok Sridharan – Mayor of Bonn, Germany and President of ICLEI (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
<p>10:20 – 11:00: Developing new kind of partnerships to accelerate urban transitions</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Sarah Colenbrander – Head of The Global Programme, Coalition for Urban Transitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Svenja Schulze – Federal Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany • Martha Delgado – Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs, Mexico, President of the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly • Emilio Jatón – Mayor Santa Fe, Argentina • Fernando Medina – Mayor of Lisbon, Portugal



- Barbara Buchner – Head of Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA)

11:10 – 11:40: Advancing Buildings and Sustainable Urban Infrastructure

The anticipated growth in urban population will require extensive (re)construction of buildings and infrastructure, especially in the global south. Because cities represent the majority of current and future building stock, there is a pressing need to ensure that the urban investments that will happen through to the middle of this century - and which will determine climate outcomes potential over centuries - are overwhelmingly net zero carbon and climate resilient.

Moderator: Emma Stewart Director, Urban Efficiency & Climate and Director, Urban Finance, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities

- Thani Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi – Minister of Climate Change and Environment, United Arab Emirates
- Mpho Parks Tau – Deputy Minister Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, South Africa and President, UCLG
- Kathy Castor – Chair of the House Climate Crisis Committee, US House of Representatives
- Diane Hoskins – CEO of Gensler
- Alzbeta Klein – Director and Global Head, Climate Business, IFC

11:40 – 12:10: Revolutionizing mobility to drive our zero-emission future

Transport is responsible for 28% of energy related GHG emissions. If we continue with business as usual scenarios, emissions will double by 2050. The challenge therefore is daunting: catering to the fast-growing demand for mobility and transport, as a means towards equal access to socio-economic opportunities, while slashing GHG emissions and increasing climate resilience. There is still time to act, but it will require an unprecedented effort from all.

Moderator: Sylvain Haon, Senior Director, UITP

- Laura Tuck – Vice President, Sustainable Development, World Bank Group (*to be confirmed*)
- Florent Menegaux – CEO, Michelin / President Movin’On
- Andrea Meza Murillo – Director of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica
- Manuel A. Alculete Lopes de Araújo – Mayor of Quelimane, Mozambique
- Marcel Beukeboom – Climate Envoy, Kingdom of the Netherlands

12:10 – 12:40: Designing inclusive cities leaving no one behind

When handled properly, urbanization has the potential to create opportunities for a better life, provide a pathway out of poverty and act as an engine of inclusive economic growth. But while urbanization is moving the global economy forward, rising inequality and exclusion within cities can derail development progress. More than 880 million people live in slums in the developing world, and those numbers are growing. A large portion of these populations, representing around 600 million persons, are highly vulnerable to climate-related impacts such as river flooding, coastal inundation, landslides and others. Improving their socio-economic conditions and protecting them from the impacts of climate change should be a priority for all.

Moderator: Rafael Tuts, Director of Programme Division, UN-Habitat

- Simon Stiell – Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information, Grenada
- Javier Manzanares – Deputy Executive Director, GCF
- Sheela Patel – Board Chair, Slum Dwellers International (SDI)



- John Bachmann – Vice President, AECOM
- Adaptation fund (*to be confirmed*)

12:40 – 13:00: The way ahead: putting urban transition at the heart of national and international priorities

Moderator: Femi Oke – Senior Host and Journalist

- Murat Kurum, Minister of Environment and Urban Planning, Turkey (*to be confirmed*)
- Keriako Tobiko, Cabinet Secretary for Environment & Forestry, Kenya
- Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN Habitat