



## SEIZING THE URBAN OPPORTUNITY:

**How can national governments secure shared prosperity and avert climate catastrophe by transforming cities?**

Sunday 22nd September – 14:00 to 15:30 pm

Conference room 1, UNHQ, NYC

**The Coalition for Urban Transitions, in partnership with the UK, German and Swedish governments and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, invite national and local governments, industry, finance, non-governmental organisations and the urban and climate communities to a discussion on accelerating ambition in the face of the climate emergency by transforming cities. The discussion will feature eminent leaders from across these fields and include Presidential and Ministerial Addresses on the importance of national government action.**

This event will convene senior stakeholders for the **official launch of the 2019 Global Report from the Coalition for Urban Transitions, “Climate Emergency, Urban Opportunity: How national governments can secure economic prosperity and avert climate catastrophe by transforming cities”**. The Report has been co-produced with over 50 leading organisations and with the support of the UK, German and Swedish governments and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. Supported by over 5 years of analysis and ground-breaking new evidence, the Report provides a narrative of hope, feasibility and inspiration combined with a set of six priority actions for national governments. It demonstrates that seizing the urban opportunity can yield faster, fairer economic development and higher living standards, while over half of the emissions reductions needed to keep the global temperature rise below 2 degrees can be found in cities.

The pre-summit event will explore how national decision-makers and other key stakeholders can use the Report’s recommendations to deliver the inclusive, zero-carbon, resilient cities we need. It will demonstrate the importance of national government leadership, and the critical need for cooperation between different levels of government, with national governments supporting local governments to go further and faster in taking ambitious climate action. The event will explore multiple perspectives on the key roles for different actors in cities and the findings of the Report on the economic, social and environmental benefits of action, highlighting what can be gained from seizing the urban opportunity.

The Report will be released on 19 September ahead of this event.

### Draft agenda and speakers

**Facilitation:** Mark Watts, Executive Director, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and Global Co-Chair of the Coalition for Urban Transitions, Andrew Steer, CEO & President of the World Resources Institute and Co-chair of the Urban Leadership Council of the Coalition for Urban Transitions and Anil Dasgupta, Global Director, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities and Global Co-Chair of the Coalition for Urban Transitions

#### Welcome

- Mark Watts, Executive Director, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and Global Co-Chair of the Coalition for Urban Transitions
- Anil Dasgupta, Global Director, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities and Global Co-Chair of the Coalition for Urban Transitions

<p><b>Climate emergency, urban opportunity</b></p> <p>Opening remarks and overview of the report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christiana Figueres, Vice-Chair, Global Covenant of Mayors and Former Executive Secretary, UNFCCC</li> </ul>
<p><b>The economic case for national action on cities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lord Nicholas Stern, IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government at the London School of Economics and Chairman of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Handover of the Report to the United Nations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed</li> </ul>
<p><b>The importance of national government leadership</b></p> <p>Presidential and Ministerial Addresses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H. E. President Uhuru M. Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya (<i>to be confirmed</i>)</li> <li>• H.E. President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana (<i>to be confirmed</i>)</li> <li>• Minister Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany</li> <li>• Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, Minister of the Environment of Japan</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by Andrew Steer, CEO &amp; President of the World Resources Institute and Co-chair of the Urban Leadership Council of the Coalition for Urban Transitions</p>
<p><b>The importance of multi-actor collaboration in cities</b></p> <p>High Level Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undersecretary Martha Delgado, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Mexico Secretariat of Foreign Affairs</li> <li>• Mpho Parks Tau, Deputy Minister, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs of South Africa</li> <li>• Mayor Mohammed Adjei Sowah, Mayor of Accra</li> <li>• Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation</li> <li>• Sheela Patel, Board Chair, Slum Dwellers International (SDI)</li> <li>• Sir Suma Chakrabarti, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by Ani Dasgupta, Global Director, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities and Global Co-Chair of the Coalition for Urban Transitions</p>
<p><b>Seizing the urban opportunity</b></p> <p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lord Mayor Frank Jensen, Mayor of Copenhagen</li> </ul>