



INTERNATIONAL URBAN COOPERATION (IUC) PROGRAMME

4TH CITY-TO-CITY EVENT

Venue: Online ([REGISTER HERE](#))

Date: 3 December 2020

The IUC programme has established more than 80 city and 20 regional pairings across the globe. These partnerships are cooperating to find sustainable solutions to pressing development challenges. Through their cooperative work, they are accelerating climate action and leading local-level implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and of the New/EU Urban Agenda. The IUC is delighted to offer a last opportunity for all our cities and regions around the world to showcase their work, and exchange regarding their experiences.

The 4th (and final) IUC City-to-City event will be an opportunity to reflect on the progress made by the programme as a whole, and especially by its cities and regions. This conference not only provides an opportunity to celebrate successes, but also to understand challenges faced and collectively discover solutions to overcome them. It also serves as an appropriate moment to gather all those involved in IUC in a single venue, even if a virtual one, and congratulate all for their work, especially in light of the difficulties encountered during this extraordinary year.

European and international representatives, including local and subnational authorities, will present their experiences, detailing innovative examples of local sustainable development and climate action. Interactive group discussions and networking opportunities will give participants the chance to exchange with one another, particularly by diving more deeply into two main thematic spheres:

- In the morning, we will discuss urban development through the lens of the unique challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequent efforts to jump-start Green Recovery, which still progresses towards sustainability. In particular, the role of emerging smart digitalisation, a changing urban environment, and funding green recovery will be touched-on in dedicated sessions.
- In the afternoon, all will have the possibility to discuss long-term strategies to reach climate neutrality, and related governance challenges. This is a long-term trend which must not be decelerated despite current recovery efforts, but rather must be accelerated in line with recovery. Special sessions will focus on the role of multi-level dialogues in climate action, the challenges of ensuring just energy transition, and integrated climate action, including a particular emphasis on linkages between adaptation and resilient biodiversity.



Now more than ever, environmental, financial, socio-economic and climate challenges require cities and regions to commit to innovative, progressive and sustainable responses. This final IUC City-to-City event promises to be a valuable forum to discuss these important issues on a global scale.

Logistical moderation of all sessions to be handled by the IUC Coordination Unit

9.00 CET **Check-in and Setting the Scene**

Participants enter the virtual lobby, are welcomed and instructed how the event will proceed.

09:30 – 09:45 CET **Welcome & opening remarks**

Welcome: Hilde HARDEMAN; *Director and Head of Service; Foreign Policy Instruments*

Opening Remarks: Ellis MATHEWS; *Acting Deputy Managing Director for Human Rights, Global and Multilateral Issues; European External Action Service*

09:45– 10:45 CET **Plenary I – Implementing a Green Recovery**

Moderated by: Paulius KULIKAUSKAS; Chief (Ag) of the Office for Europe and European Institutions; UN Habitat

During this session, a keynote speech from the European Commission will set the scene, followed by presentations from several IUC cities sharing insights on challenges, opportunities and common goals in sustainable urban development, especially in light of COVID-19 and related recovery efforts. There will also be a moderated discussion, open to questions from the audience.

1- Keynote presentation on perspectives from the European Commission (10 min)

- Normunds POPENS; *Deputy-Director General; DG Regional and Urban Policy*

2- Presentations from IUC city-to-city cooperation pairings (20 min)

- Dingxian XIANG; *Deputy Director of Energy Saving Monitoring Centre; Wuhan, China*
- Akinori NAKAGAKI; *Director of Transportation Policy; Urban Maintenance Department; Toyota, Japan*
- Banchanidhi PANI; *Municipal Commissioner; Surat, India*
- Francesco VESCOVI; *Senior Officer for Urban Planning; Milan, Italy*

Followed by a moderated discussion, open to questions from the audience. (30 min)

10:50 – 11:50 CET **Sub-plenaries I – Cities implementing a green recovery on the ground**

Moderated by: IUC Coordination Unit and UN Habitat

The first round of sub-plenary session will be held in parallel, and will explore the challenges and topics of global concern arising from the recent COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent recovery efforts. Smart innovation, the changing urban environment, and financing solutions will be discussed, featuring insights from IUC cities and highlighting their replicable pilot actions.



*Sub-plenaries featuring IUC cities and other key stakeholders (with moderated Q&A): interpretation only offered in one language each, left to right: **Japanese**, **Chinese** and **Spanish***

<p>Smart and digital solutions to drive a green recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Josephine TAN; <i>General Manager of Green Council; Penang, Malaysia</i> Yohei WATANABE; <i>Chief of Business Creation Division; Koriyama, Japan</i> Stjepan ČAVAR; <i>Senior Professional Associate for Development Agency DURA; Dubrovnik, Croatia</i> Sébastien VIANO; <i>Director Europe, Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and External Funding; Nice, France</i> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Moderated by Annika LENZ (UN Habitat) and George STIFF</i></p>	<p>Changing the urban system – how to redesign cities post-COVID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gang HOU; <i>Executive Deputy Mayor; Liuzhou, China</i> Cecilio CERDÁN; <i>Director General; Cooperation and Global Citizenship; Madrid, Spain</i> Jean-Charles LARDIC; <i>Head of Foresight Department; Marseille, France</i> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Moderated by: Holger ROBRECHT and Silvia ASSALINI</i></p>	<p>Pathways for green recovery – how to fund sustainable urban actions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bianka KRETSCHMER; <i>Senior Climate Change Analyst; Adaptation Fund</i> Shishir SRIVASTAVA; <i>Executive Engineer; Gwalior, India</i> João CLETO; <i>Senior Expert at Local Energy Management Agency; Almada, Portugal</i> Andy DEACON; <i>Director of Strategy and Operations; Global Covenant of Mayors</i> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Moderated by: Eszter MOGYORÓSY and Nicola IEZZA</i></p>
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11:50 – 12:00 CET *Farewell message (for those unable to attend in the afternoon)*

Delivered by: Ronald HALL; Senior Advisor; DG Regional and Urban Policy

12:00 – 15:00 CET *Lunch break*

15:00 – 15:15 CET *Welcome Back & Setting the Scene*

Keynote: Catharina SIKOW-MAGNY; *Director; Internal Energy Market; DG Energy*

15:15 – 16:15 CET *Plenary II – Reaching Climate Neutrality*

Moderated by: Eero AILIO; Adviser; Energy transition and local governance; DG Energy

During this session, a keynote speech will set the scene, followed by presentations from several IUC cities sharing insights on challenges, opportunities and common goals in achieving climate neutrality and just transition. There will also be a moderated discussion, open to questions from the audience.

1- Keynote presentation (10 min)

- Amanda EICHEL; *Executive Director; Global Covenant of Mayors*

2- Presentations from IUC city-to-city cooperation pairings (20 min)

- Risto VEIVO; *Climate Director (acting); Turku, Finland*
- Maurya BRAUN; *Senior Environmental Project Manager; Edmonton, Canada*
- Daniela MASTRÁNGELO; *Technical Coordinator for the Environmental Undersecretariat; Rosario, Argentina*
- Hugo SALOMÃO FRANÇA; *Director of International Relations; Belo Horizonte, Brazil*



Followed by a moderated discussion, open to questions from the audience. (30 min)

16:15 – 17:15 CET Sub-plenaries II – Cities and regions paving the way to climate neutrality by 2050

Moderated by: IUC Coordination Unit

The second round of sub-plenary sessions will be held in parallel, and explore the challenges related to reaching climate neutrality and meeting all the goals of the Paris Agreement. Participants will discuss the added-value of dialogue across levels of (climate) governance, how to secure just transition, and how to ensure that mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures are each sufficiently implemented.

*Sub-plenaries featuring IUC cities and other key stakeholders (with moderated Q&A): interpretation only offered in one language each, left to right: **Japanese**, **Chinese** and **Spanish***

<p>Multi-level dialogues – how to secure climate ambition and speed-up implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edith MAKRA; <i>Director of Environmental Initiatives; Metropolitan Mayors Caucus; Chicago, USA</i> • Marcos MURASAKI; <i>Specialist in Technology and Transport; Consórcio ABC; São Paulo, Brazil</i> • Jerker JOHNSON; <i>Coordinator of International Affairs; Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, Finland</i> <p>Moderated by: Giorgia RAMBELLI and Silvia ASSALINI</p>	<p>Ensuring that the energy transition really is just, and not just about energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markus PLIESSNIG; <i>Head of Communication & International Affairs; Essen, Germany</i> • Elizabeth MITCHELL; <i>Policy and Partnerships Manager; Manchester, United Kingdom</i> • Eduard CABRÉ; <i>International Relations Consultant in Housing; Barcelona, Spain</i> • Melissa JORT-CONWAY; <i>Planner for Climate Change and Resiliency; Ottawa, Canada</i> <p>Moderated by: George STIFF and Arthur HINSCH</p>	<p>Integrating climate action: the nexus of resilient biodiversity, adaptation and mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulises PERALES; <i>Deputy Director (Head) of Management; Los Cabos, Mexico</i> • Aitor ALBAINA; <i>Information and Innovation for Sustainability; Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain</i> • Manuel TRUJILLO; <i>Head of International Relations; Barranquilla, Colombia</i> <p>Moderated by: Vasileios LATINOS and Nicola IEZZA</p>
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17:15– 17:30 CET Closing Remarks and Farewell

Moderated by: Giorgia RAMBELLI; *Head of the IUC Coordination Unit*

Brief closing statements about: the results and achievements of the IUC; future developments and the handover to the IURC; a general closing and farewell, with a final statement about the conference.

- **Closing remarks:** Andries GRYFFROY; *Commission for the Environment, Climate change and Energy; Committee of the Regions*
- **Results from the IUC Programme & Outlook to the Future:** Ramon LÓPEZ; *Policy Coordinator for International Relations, DG Regional and Urban Policy*

17:30 CET End of the Event

