



Mayors Forum of the World Cities Summit 2025

Theme and Subthemes

The theme of the Mayors Forum 2025 is ***“Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Local Solutions, Global Impact”*** and will guide the discussions for both the Mayors Forum, Young Leaders Symposium and partner sessions. Discussions will revolve around four subthemes.

Subtheme 1a – Delivering Affordable Housing: How can cities enhance / refresh their social compact on affordable housing to make it more accessible to their demographics, in terms of tenure, modality and funding?

Affordable housing remains a cornerstone for building inclusive and resilient cities and communities, yet challenges in accessibility persist. This session will discuss the complexities of housing a city’s population and how cities can better respond to the housing needs of their evolving and diverse communities through various housing modalities, tenure options, and innovative funding mechanisms.

Subtheme 1b – Providing Reliable and Efficient Municipal Services: How can cities develop effective leadership, well-managed municipal services and community empowerment, to be responsive to their administrative and organisational needs, as well as the needs of their communities?

Reliable and efficient municipal services are essential in ensuring high standards of living and a high quality of life for residents in their daily experience of the city. Municipal services need to be well-managed, maintained and funded, to respond to the needs of their communities. This session will discuss the provision of reliable and efficient municipal services for people and how good city management is pivotal to the process. The roles of good governance and harnessing technology, including how communities can be empowered to actively participate in the management of city/estate services will be highlighted.

Subtheme 1c – Collaborative Cities in Action

City networks represent the interests of cities and metropolitan areas to advocate for local government priorities, provide resources and support to municipal leaders, and help strengthen the capabilities of local governments.

In the context of delivering affordable housing and providing reliable and efficient municipal services, how can city networks facilitate knowledge sharing, encourage collaboration and deepen partnerships amongst cities?

Subtheme 2a – Re-thinking Urban Energy Transition: How do we re-organise cities, neighbourhoods and individual developments to transition smoothly to alternative energy sources?

The urban energy transition requires a fundamental rethink of cities' infrastructure plans and a recalibration of cities' energy use and management. This session will discuss how cities and their people can prepare themselves to be future-ready as they transition to better energy management, optimisation and alternatives, including renewable energy sources, in view of climate challenges and the need to sustain the energy needs for city development.

Subtheme 2b – Managing Urban Water for Resilience: How can cities drive the sustainable, efficient and equitable management of water, and better manage flood risk and storm surges?

Climatic factors and urbanisation increasingly affect the reliable and efficient management of water in cities. This session will discuss how cities can better respond and adapt to dynamic environmental changes through innovative and technological approaches to urban water management.