



World Cities Summit Mayors Forum 2023

Theme and Subthemes

The Forum theme is **“Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Forging an Inclusive and Resilient Future”** and will guide the discussions for both the Mayors Forum and the Young Leaders Symposium.

Subtheme 1: How can Mayors forge inclusive societies and empower communities?

Inclusion and empowerment are integral to building “a society for all”, including the underprivileged and vulnerable groups. This is particularly critical in the post-pandemic world where systemic inequalities of societies have been exacerbated by the consequential effects of the pandemic. This session will discuss how mayors can lead transformational change through effective policies and actions to achieve social integration and harmony, equality of opportunities and access, citizen participation and community empowerment, and tolerance and respect for diversity.

Subtheme 2: The Soul of the City: how can Mayors conserve culture and heritage?

Like the soul of the city, culture and heritage form the unique identity of a city and its people, giving the city its character and a sense of rooted-ness. Culture and heritage could be tangible like cultural sites and landmarks of historical significance, and intangible like morals and beliefs. As the city develops, it is important to conserve such culture and heritage of the city for the current and future generations to learn and cherish. This session will discuss the good practices and initiatives that cities can adopt to conserve their culture and heritage amid rapid urbanisation.

Subtheme 3: How can Mayors accelerate de-carbonisation and strengthen climate resilience?

Concrete climate action is urgently needed as cities are faced with unpredictable weather patterns and rising sea levels. More cities have announced their net-zero commitments and are pushing for renewables and innovative solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, drive energy transition and achieve decarbonisation targets. The planning of efficient, reliable, and disaster-resilient infrastructure is also crucial to strengthening the climate resilience of cities. This session will discuss the strategies and innovations that cities can implement to build a resilient, net-zero future for all.

Subtheme 4: How can Mayors facilitate and promote innovation and creativity?

Cities are engines of growth that can drive innovations and solutions to address future challenges and aspirations. Active participation from all segments of society and individuals are important to realise the full potential of the cities and its people. Creating a conducive environment with the supporting policy initiatives is fundamental to encouraging inclusive and grounds-up innovation and participation. This session will discuss the policies and initiatives that cities can undertake to facilitate and promote innovation and creativity, to develop solutions for a sustainable and resilient future.