

Urban Transitions Mission – Cities Summit 2023

Cities ahead of the curve: local solutions driving innovation

Date: 10 October 2023

Time: all times are in UTC+3

Place: Boulevard Riyadh City, Zone 7, Grand Hall – Theater n. 3

Or Connect Online: link available [here](#)

For the first time, mayors, local leaders, expert staff from the 1st cohort of cities of the [Mission Innovation Urban Transitions Mission](#) come together at this global event to showcase their experience both as solution provider and as innovation hub driving the transition to a net-zero, resilient future. This event gathers national policymakers from Mission Innovation member countries, as well as international organizations, partners, and stakeholders from both the private sector and academia to engage in the holistic and human-based urban transformation. Leading efforts across the cities engaging with the Urban Transitions Mission are presented, and discussed with the aim to identify critical opportunities, collaborations and partnerships for a holistic transition to a net-zero future at the global level.

Cities develop and provide solutions

Cities are home to more than half of the global population and account for more than 70% of final global energy consumption and these figures are expected to rise. The climate and energy challenge is an urban one, and cities are essential to achieve a sustainable transition to a climate neutral, resilient world.

Cities can lead by example, they are not only administrators ensuring fruition of key services to their community, but they are catalysts for action, innovation hubs, and true solutions' providers.

This first of a kind, one-day event aims to inspire the UTM community to implement innovative approaches in technology, resilience, governance, finance and society in an integrated, accessible and holistic manner. It offers an opportunity for UTM cities to come together, network and meet with a community already committed to a net-zero global transition, and galvanize cooperation with the climate finance sector, global practitioners and private sector representatives.

Cities drive research and innovation

Featuring a series of panels and parallel interactive sessions, the programme of the event is articulated to provide a platform to discuss readily available solutions, as well as needs and innovation gaps, to respond to the most urgent challenges faced by cities to accelerate the implementation of their net-zero pathways. They will be supported along the 10 innovation priorities identified by the UTM, in synergy with work of the Global Innovation Alliance, such as the Global Research and Action Agenda (GRAA), the City Research and Innovation Agenda (CRIA) and the Driving Urban Transition (DUT)'s Strategic priorities, to identify common R&I needs to be addressed at the global level.

This event helps advance the implementation of a number of pilot actions, carefully selected by UTM cities to respond to their identified core needs and to further advance their journey to net-zero, with a

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strong potential to provide scalability and replicability opportunities.

The event will feature the first call for collaboration with local universities and research institutions partnering with UTM Cities worldwide, and acts as a first stepping stone on the way to the next edition of the [Innovate4Cities conference](#) taking place in 2024 – offering insights, supporting identification of Research & Innovation gaps, and potential yet to explore.

Cities partner up and deliver systemic solutions

As urban systems are complex and multi-faceted, this event zooms in on holistic approaches responding to cities’ needs to build, operate, and maintain sustainable and future-proofed infrastructures.

The sessions explore the nexus between transport and mobility, energy, cooling, and the built environment, while also linking to challenges related to access to water, energy and the deployment of both digital and Nature-based Solutions. Innovative governance, financing and digital solutions offer cross-cutting insights to the conversation and help identify much needed partnerships to advance UTM cities’ journey to a net-zero, resilient future.

Agenda

09:00	Welcome and icebreaker
09:10	<p>Moderator: <i>Andy Deacon, Managing Director, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate &Energy</i></p> <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eng. Abdelaziz Elmegbl, Director General of Sustainability program and Green Riyadh, Royal Commission for Riyadh City • Rosalinde van der Vlies, Director – Clean Planet, European Commission, European Commission and member of the Steering Committee of Mission Innovation (online)
09:25	<p>Setting the scene: a glimpse into our urban future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asif Nawaz Shah, Specialist, Inclusion & Constituency Engagement COP28 Presidency (TBC) • Arbjan Mazniku, Minister for Local Government, Albania • Luis Tineo, Interim CEO, Climate Investment Fund
09:50	<p>Moderator: <i>Giorgia Rambelli, Director, UTM</i></p> <p>Urban Transition: reality-check</p> <p>Panel of selected mayors and city leaders. The conversation will focus on infrastructure needs (data, technologies, multi-level support, finance, etc.). Panelists will be invited to share real life, practical examples of one core need and how they have/are/will be tackling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Aromar Revi, Director, Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), Leading author of the IPCC, AR6 Summary of policymakers (online) • Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor, Chefchaouen, Morocco • Ghislaine Kieffer, International Energy Agency (online) • Ratu Meli Koroitama, Manager Planning and Engeneering, Nadi, Fiji
10:30	Break

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10:45	<p>UTM in Action: resource efficient infrastructures <i>Chair: Massamba Thioye, UNFCCC GIH, UTM Global Innovation Alliance</i></p> <p>Three cities offer a speed presentation (5min) of specific challenges encountered, other cities, divided in groups are invited to discuss and suggest their solutions. The discussion is moderated by members of the Global innovation Alliance (GIA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Clean energy – <i>Masato Fujimoto, Mayor, Tokorozawa, Japan (online)</i> • Focus on Greening the city – <i>Eng. Abdelaziz Elmegebel, Director General for Riyadh Sustainability, Royal Commission for Riyadh City</i> • Focus on solutions for water management – <i>Cristina Contreras, Renca, Chile</i>
11:30	<p>Inspiration board</p> <p>Selected GIA partners jointly comment and share their perspective and reactions on stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yong Chen, IRENA (online)</i> • <i>Leon Diaz-Bone, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability</i>
11:50	<p>Energizer – keep your focus</p>
12:00	<p>UTM in Action: people-centered infrastructures <i>Chair: Anvita Arora, KAPSARC</i></p> <p>Three cities offer a speed presentation (5min) of specific challenges encountered, other cities, divided in groups are invited to discuss and suggest their solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Extreme heat – <i>Umamaheshwaran Rajasekar, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructures (online)</i> • Focus on Energy access/poverty – <i>Beatriz García-Moncó Piñeiro, Vitoria-Gastezi, Spain (online)</i> • Focus on Mobility – <i>Pablo Yanez, Puerto Montt, Chile</i>
12:45	<p>Inspiration board</p> <p>Selected GIA partners jointly comment and share their perspective and reactions on stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Oleksandra Sladkova, Deputy Head of Department of Economic Development, Lviv, Ukraine</i> • <i>Graeme Maidment, Energy Research Team, Science and Innovation for Climate & Energy (SICE), UK Government (online)</i> • <i>Hiro Ito, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (online)</i>
13:05	<p>Lunch break</p>
14:00	<p>Energizer – welcome back</p>
14:10	<p>UTM in Action: smart & connected infrastructures <i>Chair: Sharif Qamar, Fellow and Associate Director, Transport and Urban Governance Division, The Energy and Resources Institute, India</i></p> <p>Three cities offer a speed presentation (5min) of specific challenges encountered, other cities, divided in groups are invited to discuss and suggest their solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Data & scenarios – <i>Patricia Gomez, Miami-Dade County, USA (online)</i> • Smart mobility strategies – <i>Are Børjesson, Bergen, Norway (online)</i> • Focus on Climate budgets/investments – <i>Mark Atherton, Greater Manchester Authority, United Kingdom</i>

15:00	<p>Inspiration board</p> <p>Selected GIA partners jointly comment and share their perspective and reactions on stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lea Ranalder, UN-HABITAT</i> • <i>Anna Williams, Google Environmental Insights Explorer (online)</i> • <i>Julio Lumbreras, Platform for Smart and Climate Neutral Cities, Spain (online)</i>
15:30	<p>Break</p>
15:45	<p>UTM in Action: brokering solutions and connecting innovation leaders & providers</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Gregor Robertson, Global Ambassador, Global Covenant of Mayors</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities, net-zero, and climate change science: Innovate4Cities and the Urban Transitions Mission Research Clusters – <i>Benjamin Jance IV, Head of Research and Innovation, Global Covenant of Mayors (online)</i> • Research on urban priorities: UTM cities leading the way: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Showcase #1: <i>Heli Huuskonen, Project Manager, Climate and Environmental Policy, Turku, Finland</i> ○ Showcase #2: <i>Gustavo Guerrante, CEO of the Municipal Partnership and Investment Company (CCPar), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</i> ○ Showcase #3: <i>João Dinis, Coordinator Department of Acceleration of Urban Transition, Cascais, Portugal</i> <p>Follows a moderated discussion bringing together UTM cities, GIA members, private sector and academia partners. Innovation leaders and solutions providers are invited to share their insights on next steps and essential R&I priorities identified. The discussion offers a first set of input to the Innovate4Cities conference in 2024, and a platform for the launch of call for academia to join UTM. Join on stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Peter El Hajj, Digital Twins Lead, Net Zero Urban Program, KPMG</i> • <i>Jon Kher Kaw, Senior Urban Development Specialist, World Bank</i> • <i>Anvita Arora, KAPSARC, UTM Global Innovation Alliance</i>
17:00	<p>Closing remarks & key announcements</p> <p>Signing of MoU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Eleanor Webster, Head of Mission Innovation secretariat (online)</i> • <i>Fahad Alajlanm President, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center</i> <p>Closing remarks – <i>Andy Deacon, Managing Director, Global Covenant of Mayors</i></p>
17:30	<p>End</p>