



SDG CITIES GLOBAL CONFERENCE

29 – 31 OCTOBER 2021

OPENING AND SETTING THE SCENE – CLIMATE, COVID 19, SDGS AND CITIES

Friday, October 29 (10:30 – 11:45 GMT/UCT+0)

Moderator: Dr Shipra Narang Suri, UN-Habitat

OVERVIEW

Following opening statements from the hosts, this session relates the urgency for climate action, facilitating a just, green pandemic recovery in cities, strengthening resilience and tackling growing inequality, with the need for renewed vigour and global joint action towards accelerating the achievement of the SDGs in cities. It calls for systematic approaches to support cities worldwide, including strengthening local institutions and improving financing mechanisms to deliver SDG impact.

AGENDA

Opening Address 10:30 – 10:35	Gong Zheng , Mayor of Shanghai
Opening Address 10:35 – 10:40	Rafael Tuts , Director, UN Habitat Global Solutions Division
Keynote Address 10:40 – 10:55	Ed Glaeser , Professor, Harvard University <i>The future of cities - What are we learning now to inform how we should respond to continued global urbanization?</i> <i>As we deal with pandemic recovery and increase resilience to future pandemics, respond to the urgency to mitigate and adapt to climate change, address increasing inequalities, and harness technological advancement, what will make cities survive and thrive, and how can urbanization be truly harnessed to achieve sustainable development?</i>
Panel Discussion 10:55 – 11:20	Emilia Saiz , Secretary General, United Cities and Local Government Greg Munro , Director, Cities Alliance Eduardo Lopez , OIC, UN-Habitat External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge and Innovation Division <i>We have heard from Professor Glaeser how cities can survive and thrive in the coming decades, what do cities need to make this happen?</i> <i>(feel free to share your own views. Suggestions could include Emilia Saiz on empowered local government, Eduardo Moreno on effective data and planning, and Greg Munro on</i>



	<i>collaborative action and the strategic importance of investing in small and intermediary cities.</i>
<i>Panel Q&A 11:20-11:25</i>	<i>Panelists to respond to selected questions from the chat One question to be addressed to each panelist. Pls limit response to 1 minute</i>
<i>Intervention 11:25 – 11:35</i>	Marcos Troyjos , President, New Development Bank <i>How will this vision for sustainable cities be financed? What is new about the New Development Bank, and how can it catalyse financing ecosystems to deliver city-wide and local level impacts? (if possible keep the intervention to 8 mins to allow for responding to selected questions from the chat)</i>
<i>Intervention 11:35 – 11:40</i>	Dyfed Aubrey , Inter-regional Advisor, Un-Habitat <i>Overview of the SDG Cities Programme and the objectives of the SDG Cities Conference</i>
<i>Close 11:40 – 11:45</i>	Moderator <i>Recap of main points</i>