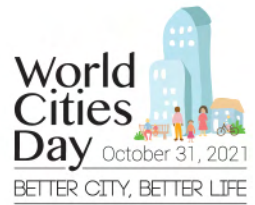




UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience

co-hosted by:



FINANCE CENTER FOR  
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION  
南南合作金融中心



Driving Innovation for  
Urban Resilience and  
Recovery from COVID-19

# CONCEPT NOTE

31 October 2021



Partners:





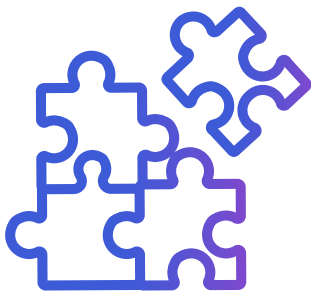
## Background

As the socio-economic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated existing challenges in many cities, local governments have been called upon to act as first line responders and to lead the process of building back better, on a path towards resilient, inclusive, and green economic recovery for the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

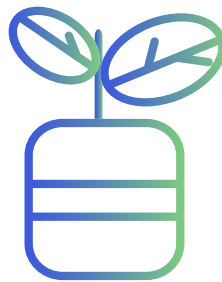
Conducted for the sixth consecutive year, Bridge for Cities 2021 provides a forum for Mayors and urban stakeholders to discuss and exchange views on relevant

experiences, innovative solutions and to form new partnerships. This year's event will place particular emphasis on innovations employed by cities along the Belt & Road and beyond to advance recovery and build resilience in the context of COVID-19, including those employed to accelerate climate action at the city-level.

The discussions will build upon the main findings of the 2020 edition – the first conducted during the pandemic – and they will be tailored around three major themes:



**Inclusive Recovery  
and Technological  
Innovation**



**Green Recovery and  
Climate Action**



**Public-Private-  
Partnerships for a  
Resilient Economic  
Recovery**



## Inclusive Recovery and Technological Innovation

Besides straining the capacities of health and economic systems worldwide, the pandemic has had a disruptive impact on how citizens move, interact, work and ultimately live in cities. Already during Bridge for Cities 2020, discussions with experts and Mayors confirmed that in the midst of lockdown and social distancing measures, digitalization is instrumental to overcome some of these difficulties, helping local governments to respond to ever-changing exigencies in terms of governance, social services, commerce, work and health. Promoting behavioural

shifts and applying technology-based smart city solutions to managing the effects of COVID-19 are of continued importance to the urban economy, even beyond the crisis.

This year's discussions will explore to what extent the technological innovations that cities enacted on an "emergency basis" will become structural, and which measures have been most effective to kickstart inclusive recovery at the urban level and to foster social resilience.



## Green Recovery and Climate Action

Cities are engines for growth, as they are home to the great majority of countries' productive, industrial and manufacturing activities. At the same time, they are paying the highest toll in terms of pollution and environmental degradation, especially when they undergo rapid and often under-regulated expansion processes. The cities of tomorrow must balance economic

and geographic pressures with sustainability considerations. Mayors and experts joining this session will therefore discuss how measures taken now to respond and recover from the pandemic will serve the dual purposes of supporting local environmental action and global climate action to guide the transition towards a greener future and environmental resilience.



## Public-Private-Partnerships for a Resilient Economic Recovery

Resilient economic recovery needs to be based on a whole-of-society approach, including at the urban level. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), if implemented well, have a potential to accelerate recovery, triggering investments in sectors heavily hit by the crisis.

While PPPs have usually targeted hard infrastructure investments, smaller-scale,

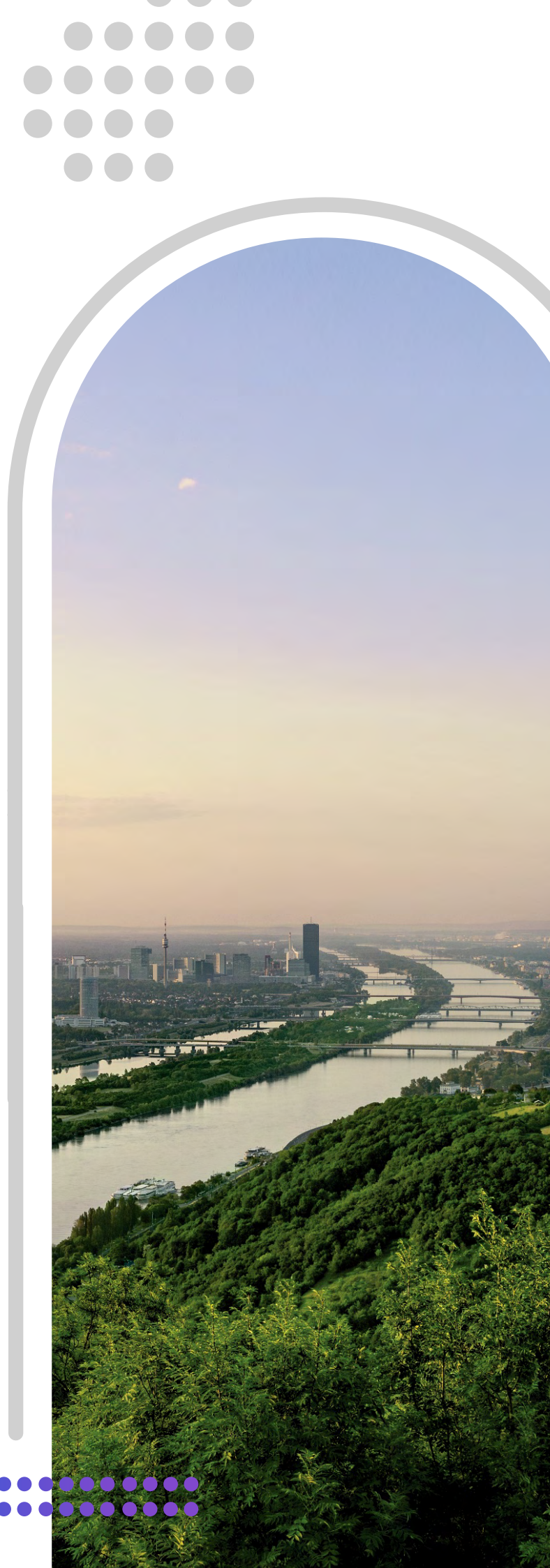
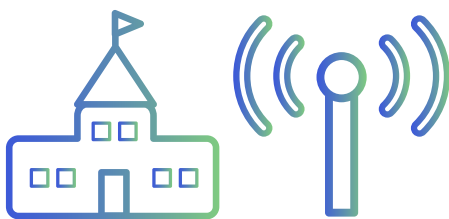
quick-impact interventions have been spurred by the pandemic. They have supported local governments in devising technology-based tools that help citizens navigate e-government services – for example – or providing services remotely. PPP models could be applied more systematically to drive economic recovery as well as to support resilience of cities and to guard for future external shocks.



# Structure

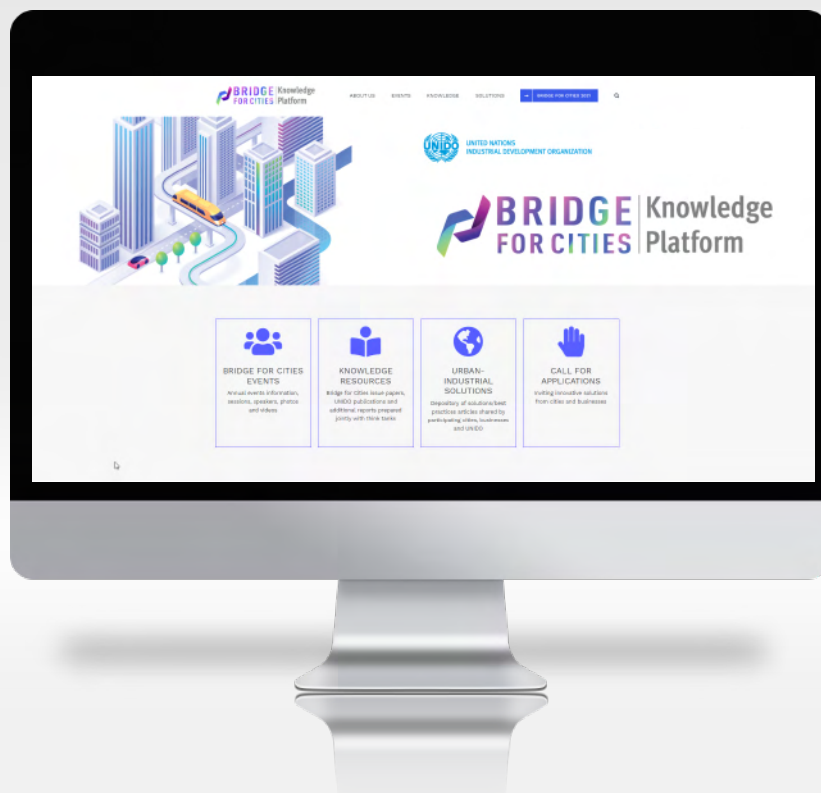
Given their key role in the recovery process, the event will provide space to municipal leaders and thus feature two Mayors roundtables. Mayors from cities along the Belt & Road and beyond, both from developed and developing countries, will be invited to exchange knowledge, concrete actions and success stories, with the aim to ultimately facilitate city-to-city networking. The event will also feature a business roundtable to provide innovative businesses and other stakeholders with an opportunity to share their solutions on urban resilience and recovery. During the event the 'Bridge for Cities Knowledge Platform' will be launched, an online repository of innovative urban-industrial solutions.

The event will be held in a virtual format, with remote interventions of selected speakers.



# Bridge for Cities Knowledge Platform

For the past five years, 'Bridge for Cities' has provided a platform to Mayors and urban stakeholders to explore partnerships for inclusive and sustainable urban-industrial development. Building on the stock of knowledge generated and to be launched during the sixth edition, the **'Bridge for Cities Knowledge Platform'** will facilitate continuous exchange of knowledge on urban-industrial development trends around the world, and provide additional opportunities for city-to-city partnerships. The knowledge platform will:



- Establish an online knowledge depository where substantive initiatives and best practices of participating cities and businesses will be systematized for increased knowledge sharing;

- Facilitate networking and partnerships, resource flows and investments among cities beyond their participation and match-making in the annual forums;

- Ensure deep linkages to UNIDO's technical interventions targeting sustainable and smart city initiatives, so to tap into all available expertise and provide case cities with a range of opportunities to benefit from UNIDO's technical assistance.

# Draft Event Agenda | 31 October

Central European Summer Time (CEST) GMT +2



10:00 – 10:50

## OPENING CEREMONY

During the opening ceremony, distinguished dignitaries will share their visions, knowledge and expertise on the importance of cities as key partners in navigating through the crisis and for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

**Mr. António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations

**Mr. Li Yong, Director General**, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

**Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

**Mr. Ernst Woller**, First President of Provincial Parliament, City of Vienna, Austria

**Ms. Lauren Sorkin**, Executive Director, Resilient Cities Network

**Mr. Sameh Wahba**, Global Director, Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice, World Bank



10:50 – 11:00

## LAUNCH OF 'BRIDGE FOR CITIES' KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM



11:00 – 11:15

## BREAK



11:15 – 12:30

### MAYORS ROUNDTABLE 1 – GREEN RECOVERY AND CLIMATE ACTION

Mayors will present concrete responses and initiatives linking green local recovery and growth with global climate action. UNIDO will present its ongoing interventions aimed at promoting green development, E-mobility and the sustainable cities programme.

**Moderator:**

**Mr. Stephan Sicars**, Managing Director, Directorate of Environment and Energy, UNIDO

**Ms. Manal Awad Mikhail**, Governor, Damietta Governorate, Egypt

**Mr. Atiqul Islam**, Mayor, Dhaka North City Corporation, Bangladesh

**Ms. Zhang Hua**, Vice Mayor, City of Shenzhen, China

**Mr. Alireza Zakani**, Mayor, City of Tehran, Iran

**Ms. Anuela Ristani**, Deputy Mayor, City of Tirana, Albania

**Ms. Minna Arve**, Mayor, City of Turku, Finland

**Mr. Atsaphangthong Siphandone**, Mayor, City of Vientiane, Lao's People Democratic Republic



12:30 – 14:00

BREAK



14:00 – 15:15

### MAYORS ROUNDTABLE 2 – INCLUSIVE RECOVERY AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

The participating Mayors will discuss and showcase innovative & technology-based recovery measures taken in their cities to pursue inclusive growth and job creation, especially for MSMEs and for protecting vulnerable groups. UNIDO will present its ongoing Industry 4.0 interventions aimed at promoting inclusive and gender-equal recovery.

**Moderator:**

**Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla Sarmiento**, Managing Director, Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agri-business, UNIDO

**Ms. Rosy Senanayake**, Mayor, City of Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Mr. Joe Costello**, Deputy Mayor, City of Dublin, Ireland

**Ms. Yvonne Aki-Sawyer**, Mayor, City of Freetown, Sierra Leone (represented by **Mr. Eric Hubbard**, Senior Technical Advisor)

**Mr. Nuon Pharat**, Deputy Governor, City of Phnom Penh, Cambodia

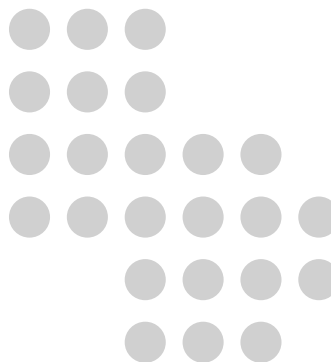
**Ms. Janet Ågren**, Deputy Mayor, City of Umea, Sweden

**Mr. Ernst Woller**, First President of Provincial Parliament, City of Vienna, Austria

**Ms. Maria Isabelle Climaco**, Mayor, City of Zamboanga, Philippines



15:15 – 15:30  
BREAK



15:30 – 16:45

## BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE – CONNECTING CITIES IN THE PURSUIT OF CLIMATE GOALS

The roundtable will focus on UN SDG 17 and partnerships available to cities as they pursue integrated resilience and energy transition strategies. With the increasing frequency and severity of natural perils having heightened the twin imperatives of enhancing urban resilience and expediting the transition to net-zero carbon, the roundtable will also highlight practical ways in which cities around the world are partnering and responding.

### Moderator:

**Mr. Paul DiPaola**, Vice President for Strategy & Innovation, AIG

### UNIDO Welcome Remarks:

**Mr. Hiroshi Kuniyoshi**, Deputy to the Director General, UNIDO

### Keynote Address:

**Ms. Susan Aitken**, Leader, Glasgow City Council, United Kingdom

### The City Experience:

An overview of successful partnership examples from three key cities

**Mr. Richard Bellingham**, Director Sustainable Cities, University of Strathclyde in conversation with:

- **Mr. John Chome**, Chief Executive Officer, Lilongwe City Council, Malawi
- **Ms. Ilaria Giuliani**, Deputy Chief Resiliency Officer, Milan Municipality, Italy
- **Mr. Gavin Slater**, Chief Sustainability Officer, Glasgow City Council, United Kingdom

### Funding Partnerships:

**Ms. Heather Taylor**, Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer, City of Toronto, Canada

**Mr. Greg Clark**, Group Advisor on Future Cities and New Industries, HSBC

### Closing Remarks:

**Ms. Jennifer Waldner Grant**, Chief Sustainability Officer, AIG

**Ms. Ann Rosenberg**, Senior Vice President for Sustainable Development, Wood



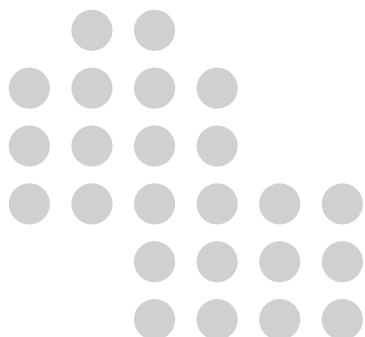
16:45 – 17:00

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Mr. Wu Zhong**, Vice Chairman and Director General, Finance Center for South-South Cooperation

**Mr. Ciyong ZOU**, Managing Director, Directorate of Programmes, Partnerships and Field Coordination, UNIDO





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Vienna International Centre  
P.O. Box 300, 1400 Vienna, Austria  
Telephone: (+43-1) 26026/3436  
E-mail: [bri@unido.org](mailto:bri@unido.org)  
Website: [www.unido.org/bridge-for-cities](http://www.unido.org/bridge-for-cities)

