

## BUILDING SMART SUSTAINABLE CITIES, THE ROLE OF ICT's

Purpose of the side event	Cities are accountable for 70% of GHG emissions as well as 60-80% of global energy consumption. A sustainable future depends on making cities 'smarter' and more sustainable. This side event will present the role that information and communication technologies (ICTs) play in building smart sustainable cities. The event will present success stories from around the world and emphasize why ICTs should be considered a basic infrastructure in the new Urban Agenda. The event will also look at the challenges linked to building smart sustainable cities, such as the costs of integrating ICTs, as well as data security issues.
Relevance to the Habitat III process	The event will provide Habitat III participants with lessons learned on the use of ICTs to build smart sustainable cities, allowing them to better understand how to incorporate ICTs into the new Urban Agenda, and which actions may need to be promoted through the outcome document of the conference. The event will also highlight how the use of ICTs will help enable the implementation of the future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Organizers	International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI)
Preferred dates	16 April at 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m
Contact Details	Jose Maria Diaz Batanero. Strategy and Policy Coordinator, Inter-Sectoral Activities. International Telecommunication Union. Place des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland Tel : +41 22 730 5495 / Mobile : +41 79 5990093 <a href="mailto:jose.batanero@itu.int">jose.batanero@itu.int</a>
Additional contacts	Matilda Gennvi Gustafsson - <a href="mailto:matilda.gustafsson@ericsson.com">matilda.gustafsson@ericsson.com</a> Chiara Venturini - <a href="mailto:Chiara.Venturini@gesi.org">Chiara.Venturini@gesi.org</a>

## BACKGROUND

In 2007, for the first time in the history of mankind, the number of people living in cities surpassed the number of people living in rural areas; it is estimated that this proportion will exceed 70% by 2050.

Cities nowadays are facing unprecedented challenges: added pressure to the resource base, increased demand for energy, water, and sanitation, as well as for public services, education and healthcare. Moreover, cities greatly contribute to the environmental degradation on local, regional, and global scales, and they are accountable for 70% of GHG emissions as well as 60-80% of global energy consumption.

The solution to these challenges lies in making cities 'smarter' and more sustainable at the same time. ICTs are a key enabler of this process; through their capacity to gather, process, analyze and disseminate considerable amount of data, ICTs can provide valuable solutions in different sectors of modern cities. They can enhance efficient water management based on real time information exchanges, improve public transport systems organized through information gathered by satellites, explore solutions to concerns related to air quality monitoring and electromagnetic fields, increase energy efficiency, provide better education and health services, among others. This is where the concept of smart sustainable city comes into play:

“An innovative city that uses information and communication technologies (ICTs) and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic, social and environmental aspects”.

The transformation of cities into smart sustainable cities is not free from challenges, such as the costs of integrating ICTs in the current systems, as well as data security issues. More information collected and processed means also more knowledge and more vulnerability to data security. The more complex a system is, the higher is the need for cities to protect the data. Some examples of the importance of data security include energy, transportation and healthcare services, where low security can lead e.g. to energy interruptions or risks for the privacy of patients. However, these challenges have possible solutions: through strong authentication processes, infrastructure protection and efficient threat management strategies in place, the risks for data security can be fully addressed.

This side event will present the role that information and communication technologies (ICTs) play in building smart sustainable cities. The event will present success stories from around the world and emphasize why ICTs should be considered a basic infrastructure in the new Urban Agenda. The event will also look at the challenges linked to building smart sustainable cities, such as the costs of integrating ICTs and data security issues, and the possible solutions.

## FORMAT OF THE EVENT

1 hour discussion with 5 speakers and 1 moderator mainly related to three topics:

- Solutions: presentation of current or past projects by mayors or private sector and of the ICT solutions used, how they were implemented, benefits etc.
- Challenges: Presentation of the possible solutions to the challenges of smart sustainable cities
- Lessons learnt: sharing challenges faced in the implementation of smart sustainable solutions in cities, proposed solutions, best practices.

Potential Speakers (*)	Organisation	Speaker and Topics of presentation
UN agencies and IGOs	ITU	<p>Marcelino Tayob, Senior Adviser, ITU Regional Office for Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Barriers to scale up best practices: the need for standardization</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A call to action to include ICTs in the future global urban agenda</li> </ul>
	UN-Habitat	<p>Andre Dzikus, Head, Urban Basic Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advancing a new Urban Agenda: the importance of smart sustainable cities</li> </ul>
Private sector	GeSI	<p>Matilda Gennvi Gustafsson, Sustainability Director. Ericsson Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solutions + lessons learnt: Smart meters , Stockholm Royal Seaport, Smart city solutions, Connected buses in Curitiba</li> <li>• Challenges: Assessment methodology</li> </ul>
Cities Representatives (Names TBC)	Johannesburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solutions:</li> <li>• Joburg 2040 (<a href="http://www.joburg.org.za/gds2040/intro.php">http://www.joburg.org.za/gds2040/intro.php</a>)</li> </ul>
	Seoul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solutions + lessons learnt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Smart Seoul (<a href="http://smartcitiescouncil.com/system/tdf/public_resources/seoul%20case%20study.pdf?file=1&amp;type=node&amp;id=221">http://smartcitiescouncil.com/system/tdf/public_resources/seoul%20case%20study.pdf?file=1&amp;type=node&amp;id=221</a>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Stockholm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solutions + lessons learnt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Stockholm Royal Seaport (<a href="http://www.stockholmroyalseaport.com/en/">http://www.stockholmroyalseaport.com/en/</a>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Amsterdam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solutions + lessons learnt:</li> </ul>

Potential Speakers (*)	Organisation	Speaker and Topics of presentation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Amsterdam smart city  <a href="http://amsterdamsmartcity.com/projects">http://amsterdamsmartcity.com/projects</a></li> </ul>
	Dubai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solutions + lessons learnt:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dubai smart city</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

(\*) Final event to include only five speakers and one moderator