U20 Mayors’ Summit Report
Virtual Summit from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
September 30 - October 2, 2020
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From the U20 Chair

Ladies and gentlemen,

I feel immensely proud and honored to have Chaired the 2020 Urban 20. Proud of the collective ambition we share for meeting this moment. Proud of the progress we made as the Urban 20 of 42 cities and 31 knowledge partners.

The Saudi G20 mantra of “realizing opportunities of the 21st century for all,” was adopted and deepened by the U20 through our three themes: “Inclusive Prosperous Communities”; “Circular, Carbon-Neutral Economies”; and, “Nature-Based Urban Solutions”. When cities were overwhelmed by the pandemic we came together and established a special working group on COVID-19.

In these unchartered months, we discovered much more that brought us together than kept us apart. Together we collaborated, innovated, and found common ground. For months we developed evidence-based papers, discussed challenges and solutions experienced across every continent, and produced 160 policy recommendations. The final result, the U20 Communique, had the highest numbers of city signatories.

Also, the cities of Riyadh, Buenos Aires and Rome are developing a Global Resilience Fund, the first fund by cities, for cities. The goal of the fund is to combat the pandemic and mitigate future urban shocks by accelerating the transmission of learning and ideas among cities for a more secure and resilient future for all urban residents.

I want to take this opportunity to communicate my heartfelt thanks to you and your teams. It is a real testament to this diverse and inclusive group of U20 leaders, with so many languages and so many different backgrounds and cultures, that we came together and forged a path forward.

We will continue to support the U20 in every possible way, and we extend our best wishes for success and good fortune to Italy’s U20 Presidency.

His Excellency Fahd Al Rasheed
U20 Chair for 2020

Preamble

This report documents the process leading up to the U20 Mayors’ Summit 2020 and presents the key discussions and outcomes of the Summit (September 30 – October 2), held virtually from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
Thank You

We would like to thank every person and organization who has contributed to the success of the U20 2020. The commitment and support that was dedicated to the process were crucial factors that brought us to an outstanding U20 Mayors’ Summit; the crowning milestone of the U20 initiative.

To the 42 U20 cities, you have been the backbone of our successful work this year, supporting the U20 process since the first Sherpa meeting, through the work of taskforces, to the second Sherpa meeting, and in the fruitful and enriching discussions on the Communique, up to the Summit.

To the 31 knowledge partners, thank you for sharing evidence-and knowledge-based research and case studies on key challenges and opportunities faced by cities. Your expertise fortified the fifteen whitepapers and more than 160 policy recommendations. Moreover, a dedicated acknowledgement goes to the lead knowledge partners who, alongside the cities who chaired the U20 taskforces, orchestrated the inputs of taskforce participants all throughout the process.

To the U20 Conveners, UCLG and C40, we are indebted to your co-leadership and organization of the process, through every milestone leading to the culmination the Mayors’ Summit in October 2020.

To the G20 Saudi Secretariat, thank you for your continuous support to the U20 Engagement Group throughout this year. To the G20 Engagement Groups, namely the Women 20 and Youth 20, thank you for your valuable contributions.

An enormous acknowledgment of appreciation goes to the U20 Riyadh team for their remarkable leadership of the U20 process for 2020. The planning and preparatory efforts that were put in place since the handover of the U20 chairmanship to Riyadh in December 2019, through the work of taskforces, to the second Sherpa meeting, and in the fruitful and enriching discussions on the Communique, up to the Summit.

I want to thank the leadership of the G20 as well as my beloved city of Riyadh and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

U20 Chair for 2020 and Team
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
The Urban 20 (U20) is a city diplomacy initiative that brings together cities from G20 member states, plus observer cities from non-G20 states, to discuss and form a common position on important urban issues, including climate action, social inclusion and integration, and sustainable economic growth. Meetings and discussions culminate in a final Communique through which the U20 issues recommendations to G20 Heads of Government.

This year, Riyadh is the Chair city and host of the annual Mayors Summit. The U20 unites the world’s leading cities. Each U20 city represents a major economic and political powerhouse. Together, the U20 cities are larger than the fifth most populous country in the world, responsible for over 8% of the global GDP, and collectively constitute the world’s third largest economy, after China and the United States. The U20 leverages that combined power to drive lasting impact in sustainable urban development.

The U20 was launched in 2017 at the One Planet Summit in Paris by conveners C40 Cities and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), under the leadership of the Mayor of Buenos Aires, Horacio Rodríguez Larreta and the Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo. The first U20 Mayors Summit took place in Buenos Aires; Tokyo then hosted the second Summit in 2019.

01. The U20: from Buenos Aires to Riyadh

The objective of the U20 is to bring urban issues to the forefront of the G20 agenda. The U20 is a unique platform for ambitious, local government leaders to step up and send a joint message calling for global climate action and sustainable development to their national leaders. This objective is achieved by delivering a final Communique of recommendations to the G20 President and Heads of State.

U20 members are primarily Mayors and their designated Sherpas from G20 cities, in addition to invited representatives of non-G20 cities. Addressing the world’s pressing urban issues requires widespread collaboration, so the U20 also engages select knowledge partner organizations in its efforts.
A. Preparatory Pre-Summit Process: From Handover to Communique Endorsement

Since the handover of the U20 to Riyadh on December 1, 2019, an intensive and extensive global process paved the way for the initiative’s ultimate milestone: the 2020 Urban 20 Mayors’ and Communique. The first U20 milestone was the Sherpa meeting that took place in Riyadh between February 4-6. Between March and June, the three U20 thematic taskforces commenced their activities with more than 100 experts from 23 cities and 31 knowledge partners. The second U20 Sherpa meeting was held virtually on July 6 and 7 and co-hosted by the cities of Riyadh and Houston.

Shortly after the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19, the U20 chaired by Riyadh formed the Special Working Group on COVID-19 as an agile and swift action-oriented response to the pandemic with a focus on financial recovery recommendations for cities to the G20 national leaders. The Special Working Group generated a key reference document, “Financing Cities’ Recovery from Covid-19 & Preparing for Future Shocks”.

Collectively, the taskforces produced 15 whitepapers addressing the priority topics of the U20 and bringing forth more than 160 policy recommendations to G20 national governments and other key decision-makers. Finally, the U20 Communique was delivered to the G20 nations October 2, 2020, representing urban ideas and solutions that was endorsed by a record 39 cities.

02. About the U20 Mayors’ Summit 2020

This section presents an overview of the preparatory work leading up to the 2020 U20 Mayors’ Summit, the Summit agenda and topics, and the attendees who took part representing cities, knowledge partners, the G20, the Saudi national government, and other local, regional, and international organizations.
B. U20 Mayors’ Summit 2020

The U20 Summit 2020 brought together mayors and governors of all participating and observer U20 cities, and many others, to discuss urban challenges, innovative solutions, and ambitions set out during the U20 process. The U20 Mayors’ Summit 2020 was held virtually in Riyadh and spanned 3 consecutive days, between September 30 and October 2, 2020.

Agenda for the Urban 20 Mayors’ Summit between 30th Sep and 2nd Oct 2020 – Day 1 Agenda
All times are Arabian Standard Time (CMT +3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Opening remarks (20 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:20</td>
<td>Global Smart Cities Alliance partnering with Izmir and Metropolis (15 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:35</td>
<td>Fashion Show: Reshaping mobility in cities (20 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:50</td>
<td>Keynote speech (10 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>Virtual Break (10 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>U20 Side Events (60 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>Virtual Break (10 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>Special Working Group Overview &amp; Launch of the Outcome Report (95 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:50</td>
<td>Closing Remarks (10 minutes)</td>
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C. Participants of the U20 Mayors’ Summit 2020

44 cities represented by 174 attendees, of which 14 represented their cities at the highest level
24 Knowledge Partners represented by 64 attendees
1 Representative from the G20 Finance Track
5 G20 Engagement Groups
12 national, regional, and international governmental bodies
45 national and international organizations
### U20 Mayors' Summit 2020 Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>Knowledge Partners</th>
<th>C20 (Finance track, sherpa track, engagement groups)</th>
<th>Ministries and Public Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abu Dhabi (H)</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)</td>
<td>C20 Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amman</td>
<td>Madrid</td>
<td>Arab Urban Development Institute in partnership with Global Observatory on City Development and Action (AUD-GDDA)</td>
<td>Business 20 (B20)</td>
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<td>Amsterdam</td>
<td>Mexico City</td>
<td>Brooking Institute</td>
<td>Social Society 20 (C20)</td>
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<td>Berlin</td>
<td>Munich</td>
<td>Coalition of Urban Transitions</td>
<td>Youth 20 (Y20)</td>
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<td>Buenos Aires</td>
<td>Moscow</td>
<td>Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)</td>
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<td>Cape Town (H)</td>
<td>Osaka</td>
<td>Indonesia Creative Cities Network (ICCN)</td>
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<td>Dammam</td>
<td>Penang</td>
<td>CLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability</td>
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<td>Dubai (H)</td>
<td>Quilmes</td>
<td>International Finance Corporation (IFC)</td>
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<td>Metropolis</td>
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<td>Halifax</td>
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<td>Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)</td>
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<td>Helsinki (H)</td>
<td>Riyadh (H)</td>
<td>International Association of Public Transport (UITP)</td>
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<td>Houston (H)</td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>UN-Habitat</td>
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<td>Istanbul</td>
<td>Rotterdam (H)</td>
<td>Université Gustave Eiffel</td>
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<td>Izmir (H)</td>
<td>San Jose (H)</td>
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<td>World Enabled</td>
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<td>Seoul</td>
<td>Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)</td>
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<td>Jubail and Yanbu</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>World Resources Institute (WRI)</td>
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<td>Kawasaki</td>
<td>Strasbourg (H)</td>
<td>Bocconi University</td>
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<td>Tegucigalpa (H)</td>
<td>The Nature Conservancy</td>
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<td>Lagos</td>
<td>Tokyo (H)*</td>
<td>The University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisbon</td>
<td>Tehran (H)</td>
<td>Agence Francaise de Developpement</td>
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*City intervention through a pre-recorded message

(H) Highest level of city representation

### Other national and international organizations that attended the Summit were:

- Arizona State University
- Bandung Creative Cities Forum
- Beyondzero
- World Blind Union
- C40 Cities Finance Facility
- CC35
- Centre for Public Policy Research
- Concertation Montreal
- Enel Group (Italy)
- ETH Zurich
- G3ict
- GFA Consulting Group
- Global Smart Cities Alliance
- Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- Jacobs Engineering Group
- King Abdullah Economic City
- King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals
- LABRRI / Université de Montréal
- Lawrence Technological University
- Microsoft
- NASA Aeronautics Research Institute
- Qiddiya Investment Company
- RENFE Group (Spain Railways)
- Resilient Cities Catalyst
- Riyadh Urban Research Lab
- Samba Financial Group SJSC
- WEF Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution
- Saudi Public Transport Company (SAPTCO)
- Schneider Electric (France)
- Systom
- TAAL International Holding
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- United Nations Sustainable Development Group
- World Bank
- World Green Building Council (UK)
- World Health Organization
- Volocopter
03. The Summit: Highlights and Key Messages

This section of the report presents highlights and key messages from the U20 Mayors' Summit addressing the following sessions / areas:

- Opening Plenary Session
- Circular, Carbon-Neutral Economy Thematic and Focus Session
- Inclusive Prosperous Communities Thematic and Focus Session
- Nature-Based Urban Solutions Thematic and Focus Session
- Special Working Group on COVID-19 Session,
- Mayors’ Closed Meeting
- Handover of the U20 Communique
“Ever since the first cities were created 7,000 years ago, it was clear that humans are drawn to one another, through common needs, to congregate. These communities have grown from towns and villages, into cities. Over the last millennia, we have transformed these urban centers into dynamic hives of activity from which we’ve produced our greatest constructs and inventions, including industry, science, art, culture, sports, and community. Cities became the heartbeat of our economies, and the lifeblood of our societies. Today, 55 percent of the world’s population live in cities, and these cities produce 70 percent of the world’s global GDP.

In the last nine months, the pandemic impacted the world in a very dramatic way; and of course, it altered our very way of life. Travel plans curtailed, families separated, businesses upended, jobs lost, mental health strained, and we’ve lost many loved ones. Cities became the epicenter of COVID-19 and the billions of people who live in them were challenged with a very new reality. But it was in this moment of utmost need, that our urban centers demonstrated the inherent flexibility, their inherent agility and resilience. Many cities were able to transition to a virtual world almost overnight.

Indeed, as this very U20 has shown, in many ways, we are working closer than ever, despite being cities, countries, and continents apart.

So, as our reality morphs to a brave new world, an urgent question emerges: “have cities become obsolete?” In short, the answer is no, they have not, and they will not, because we are a social species. We are a species that do our best work, achieve our highest form of self when we are together.

And of course, cities give us so much more than just community; they give us economies of scale on the delivery of services of all kinds. They give us healthcare systems, education, entertainment, and public transit services at a level we can’t afford on our own.

While this pandemic has forced us into social distancing and to productively digitize many of our daily routines, we as humans, need to connect physically and congregate in order to enjoy and afford a better way of life.

We should ask ourselves: “How can we best enable cities to adapt to this, and future shocks?” And the answer is, investment in resilience. The importance of investing in the resilience, the resilience of our cities and our citizens, is the key takeaway from this unprecedented disruption.

We must find a way for our people to thrive, in business and in private life, despite the circumstances. We must help them adapt. We must help them become more agile and resilient. We must prepare them for a future shaped by climate change, connectivity and contagion.

Finding the answers to these topics is why we are all here at this summit. It is the reason why the U20, is so important to global collaboration and to the G20 process. The solutions we collectively discuss, examine, and take forward are the legacies we leave behind. It’s our chance to shape the role that our cities play in the next phase of our civilization.

We have brought together 42 cities and 30 knowledge partners. And over the year, we have produced 160 evidence-based recommendations. The Saudi G20 mantra of “realizing opportunities of the 21st century for all,” was adopted by the U20 through our three themes: “Inclusive Prosperous Communities”; “Circular, Carbon-Neutral Economies”; and, “Nature-Based Urban Solutions”.

We have come together and reached a consensus on our Communiqué which we will share and present to the G20. We also, in a time of crisis for our cities came together and established a Special Working Group on COVID-19 sharing our learning and showing resilience ourselves. Together we came, together we collaborated, together we innovated, and together we found common ground.

Thank you all again for being here, we have a shared destiny and we have found common ground. Thank you for your leadership and for your friendship.”

His Excellency Fahd Al Rasheed
U20 Chair for 2020
Throughout 2020, COVID-19 has acted as a magnifying glass of the shortcomings we already were aware of: we can no longer ignore the persistence of inequalities, exclusion, and the effects of climate change in our cities and territories.

As cities gathered as Urban 20, we need to raise awareness about the important role that local and regional governments can play when it comes to fighting inequality, ensuring equal access to basic services for all, and recovering from the pandemic meeting the aspirations for all and leaving no one and no place behind.

The recovery needs to work for all our communities. Investments need to be addressed to improve our resilience and financial support needs to be in line with science-based targets and on the realities set forth by the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda.

It is critical for the governments gathered in the G20 to realize the great opportunities that building on local experiences can bring to the goals we share as humanity. The positive experiences around climate action, preservation of biodiversity, and to foster economic growth and innovation are just some of the important examples that this gathering brings to them.

The COVID-19 recovery is going to represent great challenges that no single sphere of government and no single country or world region can face alone. The cities gathered in Urban 20 and the global networks of cities are committed to partnering in achieving these efforts which will drive wider benefits for people and societies.

Local and regional governments have been and continue to be in the front line in combating the multiple facets of the crisis, but the time has come to truly involve everyone in the decision-making processes. Basic services, the cornerstone of the recovery, are still an afterthought in the global debate, and they need to be in the center of our decisions.

The SDGs, the 2030 Agenda that was adopted five years ago, can still be a framework for transformation. The movement for the localization of the SDGs is growing, but it needs to be fully supported by all spheres of government to truly work for all of us.

We will need important investments in public health, and we must commit to cooperate towards guaranteeing everyone, without discrimination of any kind, access to vaccines for COVID-19 as a global public good.

It will be essential that national governments work towards an enabling environment that fosters the delivery of basic services. It is these services that have ensured our wellbeing when the markets stopped to protect our health. It is these same services that will be in jeopardy if recovery packages are not geared towards the local level. It is critical to fully collaborate among spheres of government and involve all stakeholders in the process aiming to find global solutions.

The time is now: The time to carry out multilateral solutions, to foster inclusive, sustainable, resilient and smart urbanization, to protect the rights of citizens. The COVID-19 pandemic is offering us an opportunity to move towards new ways of production and consumption which are based on proximity models with nature based solutions at its core.

Colleagues, as President of UCLG and as co-convener I believe that we need to utilize all means we have to strengthen dialogue and collaboration between spheres of government and the international community. Solidarity has become a beacon of security and collaboration our only path.”
Unlike many national governments, mayors are working to deliver a green and just recovery, investing in mass transit and active transportation, local food systems, improving air quality, creating green jobs and supporting essential workers.

When nations speak of circular carbon economy, cities answer circular Carbon-Neutral economy. While nations talk, mayors act. For that reason, they have been a powerful political voice in the global agendas. And now, thanks to the U20, they are also part of the G20 conversation. We would like to commend the City of Riyadh’s determination in making the U20 a platform for ambition – and applaud the fact that this year’s Communique makes, once again, a strong call to G20 leaders for ambitious climate action, with the collective aim to halve global carbon emissions by 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement and the IPCC Special Report on 1.5 Degree of Global Warming.

Cities in G20 countries have a particular responsibility to tackle the climate emergency; not only because they are the biggest emitters of carbon, but also because they are the economic, financial and political powers of the world, the ones who really have the vision and the means to make the radical changes needed to save the future of humanity.

We are glad that the City of Riyadh is now part of this important conversation. This is the power of multilateralism, and the reason why we are all here today. We believe that the only solution to global problems is global collaboration.

That engaging with people of different perspectives is a necessary step to build a common, equitable, sustainable and peaceful future, and that diplomacy can allow us to have those difficult conversations on other topics as well, such as human rights or divestment from fossil-fuels.

C40 will be happy to keep supporting cities in these discussions in the years to come, within and beyond the U20.”

Emmanuelle Pinault
C40 Program Director
4. Opening Remarks by Guest speaker: UN-HABITAT
Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif

“I am privileged to address this impressive gathering of mayors, champions of local action and development partners from around the world to talk about the future of cities. The COVID-19 pandemic has spread rapidly in cities around the globe. This exceptional crisis transformed how we live, work and interact within cities and communities.

At UN-Habitat, we are extremely concerned about the multiple devastating effects of the pandemic on the most vulnerable people in cities, especially in crowded areas. UN-Habitat launched its COVID-19 response plan to bring our catalytic support to help cities prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are looking forward to work with Mayors as well as other governments and non-government actors all over the world to meet their specific and varied challenges over the coming months and beyond.

UN-Habitat, in partnership with the World Mayors and other government and non-government stakeholders, is committed to fight poverty and hunger, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by mid-century. We need to create global gender balance and provide prosperity and well-being for the rapidly growing, aging, and culturally diversifying global urban population, while reducing waste and protecting the ecosystems all people depend on. Staying within a safe operating space for humanity on a planetary scale, while creating and managing unprecedented urban growth, requires nothing less than a radical shift to a new economic and social paradigm.

I would like to thank the U20 Chair, distinguished mayors, C40, UCLG and knowledge partners for taking the lead during the past year to work on the challenges and aspirations through identifying sounding priority themes and cross cutting issues. The U20 themes and cross cutting issues are fully sounding and aligned with the New Urban Agenda and the new strategic plan of UN-Habitat 2020-2023.

UN-Habitat in cooperation with its government partners among others are gearing up for a Decade of Action towards the delivery of the SDGs. With Goal 11, the global community acknowledged well-planned urban development as a key driver and accelerator for sustainable development, recognizing that beyond the development challenges brought about by urbanization, cities offer endless opportunities and alternatives for achieving sustainability worldwide. “There can be no sustainable development if urbanization is not sustainable.”

This important summit coincides with Urban October, 31 days of promoting a better urban future. Over the past 6 years, UN-Habitat was honored to tighten its partnership with Saudi Arabia government, manifested through the Future Saudi Cities Program with Ministry of Municipalities and Rural affairs. We look forward to the outcomes of the U20 Mayors Summit to support that long cooperation between Royal Commission of Riyadh City and UN-Habitat.”

Maimunah Mohd Sharif
UN-Habitat Executive Director
5. Presentation on “The U20 2020 Journey and Collective Achievements”

The following are key messages delivered by the U20 Sherpa, Abdulmohsen Al Ghannam, on the collective achievements of the U20 during the Riyadh Chairmanship.

Setting Context

- The U20 represents the voice of cities’ local governments, assisting public servants to better serve their city residents, ensure an urban perspective is advocated on the level of importance that U20 represents within the G20 ecosystem.
- Cities contribute seventy percent of the global GDP with only 55 percent of the population living in cities.
- Urbanization poses challenges towards sustainable development with development activities from cities contribute to the production of 75% of the global carbon dioxide emissions, 70% of the world’s solid waste and consume 75 percent of the world’s natural resources.
- To address these challenges, the U20 chairmanship in 2020 leveraged the power of cities in collaborating towards policy recommendations for sustainable urban development, using evidence-based mechanism to analyze and voice cities’ concerns and aspirations.

The U20 Framework and Process

- The U20 followed the 3C principles of collaboration, comprehensiveness and consensus-building.
- The uniqueness of the U20 process has brought many cities together from all parts of the world along with knowledge partners and experts.
- The U20 cities and knowledge partners adopted a collaborative and inclusive approach. A wider number of cities and partners were engaged this year.
- The U20 developed comprehensive global policies that were an outcome of a well-defined, knowledge-based, evidence-based research supported by the insights of global urban experts.
- The consensus initiated on the U20 priorities at the first Sherpa meeting in February when cities discussed and agreed on priorities and a common platform, integrating perspectives from taskforces into the Communique for discussion at the Second Sherpa meeting.
- The U20 Communique went through four rounds of consultation before being finalized and has been endorsed by 39 cities, continuing the momentum since the inauguration of the U20 in Buenos Aires followed by Tokyo.
- Towards the Second Sherpa meeting, the U20 taskforces presented its outcomes into the U20 Communique process ensuring that the work of knowledge-based, science-based, experience-based policy recommendations are integrated into the Urban 20 Communique for discussion among the wider group of cities.
- The Second Sherpa meeting, held virtually and co-hosted by Houston, went through a round of Communique feedback and finalization to then enter the red-flag round and gather endorsements from cities.
- In the aftermath of the pandemic outbreak, the U20 swiftly set up a Special Working Group on COVID-19 to discuss how to address the pandemic and ensure a speedy recovery from it.

Riyadh U20 Preparation

The U20 journey first began with the exercise of identifying our priorities as the city of Riyadh by engaging local stakeholders and a few international partners.

The workshop, that was held in September 2019, was an exercise to understand which topics were from the previous U20 chairmanships (i.e. legacy topics) and then compiling potential key topics and themes for U20 2020. Thereafter, topics that were of high priority were defined in a framework and presented to the wider group of the U20.
The U20 First Sherpa Meeting

The First Sherpa meeting was held in February 2020 where Riyadh had the opportunity to host key delegates in person from 22 cities representing 12 G20 countries.

The meeting discussed the priority topics and themes for the U20 and had active participation of cities and knowledge partners in the taskforces that were launched at the First Sherpa meeting.

The meeting observed proactive participation from co-chairing cities and other U20 member cities to participate in taskforces that would lead to evidence-based U20 Communiqué. The general skeleton of the U20 Communiqué was also developed during that meeting.

There was also a participation of other G20 engagement groups and the representative of the G20 to give us visibility on their respective approaches.

The U20 went through an exercise of identifying collective priorities of the U20 cities. Topics under each theme were sorted based on the frequency of which that topic was mentioned. The taskforces reflected three thematic priorities — Circular Carbon-Neutral Economy, Inclusive Prosperous Communities, and Nature-Based Urban Solutions.

The work of the taskforces would center on 3 cross-cutting dimensions (1) Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (2) Urban Innovation and Technology (3) Sustainable Urban Finance and Investments.

The U20 Taskforces

Each task force was led by cities supported by knowledge partners. The primary role of this vehicle of taskforces within the U20 was for cities coming together, supported by knowledge partners, in discussing and providing specific policy recommendations to be fed back into the U20 process.

The taskforces had more than 100 experts, 23 cities, of which 18 were participating cities and 5 observer cities, and 37 knowledge partners of which 3 were in a leading capacity.

The taskforces had representation from 14 of the G20 countries and the outputs of these taskforces included 35 concept notes, 15 white papers and over 160 policy recommendations translating from thousands of pages.

The policy recommendations from the taskforces started feeding into the U20 Communiqué process through a detailed process of synthesis, review and refinement.

The whitepapers developed policy recommendations which were then summarized followed by a detailed synthesis of whitepapers across the three taskforces fed and discussed in one of the taskforce review sessions.

The recommendations across the three taskforces were then consolidated into a single document presented and reviewed with taskforce co-chairs who endorsed these 160+ recommendations to specific ones that feed into the Communiqué.
Inclusive Prosperous Communities Taskforce

- **5 Priority Topics:**
  1. Affordable Housing
  2. Socio-cultural inclusivity and cohesion
  3. Mainstreaming gender equality
  4. Upskilling for future of work: local and international opportunities
  5. Youth empowerment

### The U20 Second Sherpa Meeting

- The second milestone in the U20 process was the Second Sherpa meeting co-hosted by the cities of Riyadh and Houston on July 6th and 7th, held virtually to discuss findings of U20 taskforces and gather feedback on the draft Communique.

- The meeting had 163 attendees with over 33 cities represented from 15 G20 countries, 29 knowledge partners and 2 G20 Engagement Groups.

### The U20 Communique

- The process of Communique development was inclusive and rigorous. The Communique structure was presented in the First Sherpa meeting in February.

- The zero draft of the Communique was circulated, where 17 of the 42 U20 cities active in the U20 process provided feedback.

- Thereafter, the first draft version of the U20 Communique was developed, integrating the work of the U20 taskforces followed by the second draft, the red flag round and finally the final endorsement round where 39 cities achieved consensus and signed off on the document.

- The U20 Communique also aligned with the G20 priorities.

- The U20 Communique is structured around the following themes: - Partner by investing in green and just post COVID-19 recovery, safeguard our planet through national local collaboration, shape new frontiers for development by accelerating the transition to a circular green economy, empower people to deliver a more equitable future.

- The Communique comprised of a total of 27 recommendations endorsed by 39 cities, presented to the G20.

### Download the U20 Communique here:
The G20 Engagement

- U20 has been interacting with the G20 throughout the year, with the G20 advocating for the U20 as a young Engagement Group.
- Fahd Al-Rasheed, as the U20 Chair, addressed the Extraordinary Virtual G20 Leaders’ Summit that was held in March.
- In addition, the U20 had interventions at the Extraordinary G20 Digital Economy Ministerial meeting, participated in the first Tourism Working Group meeting and also provided inputs into the “Smart Cities Guidelines” produced by the Digital Economy Task Force.
- The U20 has partaken in eight introductory meetings with the G20 Working Groups and participated in one workshop with a Development Working Group. Further, on September 29th, His Excellency represented the U20 process and outcomes in the third G20 Sherpa meeting.
- The U20 attended one symposium with the finance track and five introductory meetings with fellow engagement, G20, L20, T20, W20, and Y20 groups. The U20 was part of three bootcamps with the W20 and Y20 on a few U20 whitepapers and has had two instances of collaboration on the U20 white papers.
- The U20 also participated one of the face-to-face virtual meetings series with the G20 and attended the L20 Summit.

The U20 Riyadh 2020 Engagements with the G20

- The Sherpa Track
  - Interventions
    - The Extraordinary G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting
    - 1st Tourism Working Group Meeting
  - Input into
    - Smart Cities Guidelines led by The Digital Economy Task Force
  - 8 Introductory meetings with working groups
  - 1 Workshop Development Working Group

- The Finance Track
  - 1 Symposium
  - 5 Introductory Meetings
  - 3 Bootcamps
  - 2 Instances of collaboration on the U20 whitepapers
  - "Face to Face" Virtual Meetings series platform
  - 1 Summit

The Special Working Group on COVID-19

- The Special Working Group (SWG) on COVID-19 represents the agility of the U20 in responding to the pandemic as local governments and cities came together to discuss how they can better serve their cities and protect their residents.
- The SWG brought together 13 cities, co-chaired by the cities of Buenos Aires and Rome and supported by the special working group member cities, and knowledge partners.
- The cities contributed a total of 32 case studies and participated in a U20 special survey was designed by the U20 and completed by 21 cities, which represent collectively more than 75 million in population.
- The major recommended outcome from the SWG was the proposal from cities to establish a mechanism that would ease access to finance.

Structure and Composition of the U20 Special Working Group on COVID-19

- Case Studies
  - 32 Case Studies were shared by SWG member cities

- Survey Insights
  - 21 U20 cities completed the SWG survey on Covid-19 representing a cumulative population size of more than 75 million

- Action Oriented Recommendations
  - Multiple SWG cities proposed the establishment of a mechanism that would ease access to finance

Download the SWG on COVID-19 report here:
B. Session 1 on Circular, Carbon-Neutral Economy: Thematic Overview and Focus Sessions

Overview of the Session

Mayors and knowledge partners who have been actively engaged in the U20 process were invited to be part of this session to discuss priority and concerns of their cities in relation to the U20 Circular, Carbon-Neutral Economy theme.

The purpose of this session was to provide an interactive platform that encourages dialogue among city mayors and knowledge partners on urban topics prioritized by the U20 this year. Cities and knowledge partners were given the opportunity to showcase examples and research on the topics, promoting knowledge exchange.

The Lead Facilitator on U20 Taskforce 1 “Circular, Carbon-Neutral Economy” and Chair of Urban Research and Education at the University of Pennsylvania, Eugenie Birch presented an overview for the Circular, Carbon-Neutral Economy, paving the way to two in-depth focus sessions: “Reshaping Mobility in Cities” (focus session 1.1.) and “Advancing Circular Economy in Cities” (focus session 1.2.).

Thematic Overview on Circular, Carbon-Neutral Economy

Focus Session 1.1 – Reshaping Mobility in Cities

Focus Session 1.2 – Advancing Circular Economy in Cities

Speakers

- Moderator: Investment advisor to local and national governments, former President of Statrum and Director at the Swedish Ministry of Industry, Dag Detter
- Rome, represented by Diplomatic Advisor to the Mayor, Luca Trifone
- Organization for Cooperation Economic Development, represented by Director of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities Lamia Kamal-Chaoui and joined by Head of Unit, Oriana Romano
- Moderator: Investment advisor to local and national governments, former President of Statrum and Director at the Swedish Ministry of Industry, Dag Detter
- Rome, represented by Diplomatic Advisor to the Mayor, Luca Trifone
- Abu Dhabi, represented by Director General of the Integrated Transport Center, Department of Municipalities and Transport, Abdullah Al Marzooqi
- Riyadh, represented by Vice President for Projects and Programs, Royal Commission of Riyadh City, Alwaleed Alekresh
- King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC), represented by its President, Adam Sieminski
- Worldwide Fund for Nature, represented by its Global Lead, Jennifer Lenhart
- Moderator: Lead facilitator on U20 Taskforce 1 “Circular, Carbon-Neutral Economy” and Chair of Urban Research and Education at the University of Pennsylvania, Eugenie Birch
- Buenos Aires, represented by Chief of Cabinet of the Ministry of Space, Ezequiel Christie Newbry
- São Paulo, represented by U20 city Sherpa, Rodrigo Massi da Silva
- San Jose (Costa Rica), represented by Mayor Johnny Araya Monge joined by Sub-director of Services at the Municipality of San Jose, Daniel Jaikel
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, represented by Director of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities Lamia Kamal-Chaoui and joined by Head of Unit, Oriana Romano
- University of Pennsylvania, The Kleinman Center, represented by Founding Professor Mark Alan Hughes
- Center for Livable Cities (Singapore), represented by Executive Director Ten Chye Khoo
Key messages and takeaways

1. Thematic Overview on Circular, Carbon-Neutral Economy

   a. Overview presentation delivered by Lead facilitator on U20 Taskforce 1 “Circular, Carbon-Neutral Economy”, Eugenie Birch, summarizing the following main points:

   - The U20 Taskforce 1 produced 4 whitepapers that were based on 12 concept notes leading to 67 policy recommendations.

   - The Taskforce collaborated with 9 participating cities, including Buenos Aires, Guangzhou, Madrid, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, Riyadh, São Paulo, Strasbourg and Tokyo and 4 other observer cities: Amman, Dammam, Helsinki and Singapore.

   - Taskforce 1 lead knowledge partner was the OECD, along with other supporting knowledge partners ranging from NGOs, academia and national institutions.

   - Each of the four whitepapers frames the approach that U20 endorses for sustainable urban development to support global and national shared prosperity.

   - Several policy recommendations emanated from the papers, and the U20 is very hopeful that the G20 nations will take them up to promote public health amidst the pandemic. These recommendations will help the nations in question transition to circular Carbon-Neutral economies.

   - The recommendations for the Communiqué pertaining to circular Carbon-Neutral economy include:

     - Advance the regulation of circular economy systems;

     - Regulate, invest and redirect national budgets to carbon-neutral, quality mobility systems to support sustainable affordable zero-emission mass transit;

     - Accelerate the transition towards a clean and efficient energy mix to support carbon-neutral cities;

     - Commit to respond immediately to the climate emergency to deliver 50% global reduction of GHG required by 2030;

     - Enhance local governments’ ability to finance and adopt circular economy initiatives in the building and construction sector.

*Eugenie Birch*, lead facilitator of U20 Taskforce on Circular, Carbon-Neutral Economy during her presentation.
b. A message from the OECD delivered by Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, highlighting the following key messages:

- OECD, as a lead knowledge partner of the U20, strongly believes that circular, Carbon-Neutral economies are essential and that cities have a key role to play. The circular economy holds great potential to improve not only environmental conditions but also generate opportunities for new jobs, economic prosperity and better quality of life.

- OECD has been working on circular economies for a while through surveys, dialogues, research analyses and case studies, and has collected a great amount of data and best practices and helped release a comprehensive report that supports governments in their transition to circular economies; including action checklists and government scoreboards.

- Governments now have the power to change the existing ‘take, make and dispose’ culture and drive circular economies in the areas of water, solid waste, infrastructure and climate change.

- OECD surveys distributed to more than 50 cities in the world highlighted four major challenges faced by cities: (1) lack of funding, (2) unclear regulations, (3) lack of a systemic approach in policy-making and (4) lack of knowledge and skills.

- OECD welcomes national governments to support the transition by implementing legislation to support cities in tackling illegal waste disposal, promoting effective utilization of resources, resorting to food and construction material recycling, and providing the right incentives to attain some of these goals.

C. Panel discussions: extracts from the questions and answers, highlighting key messages from speakers:

**Moderator:**

As co-chair of the Taskforce on the Circular, Carbon Neutral Economy, your group built on the Tokyo U20 declaration urging nations and cities to improve urban resilience and sustainability based on the circular economy. How did you organize the Task Force’s work? And what did you hope to accomplish from co-leading the Taskforce?

**Rome:**

“We organized the work by focusing on 4 priority topics and we explored many opportunities to rethink our economic models, while bearing in mind that we want to make our economies more resilient and sustainable. As we see it, the COVID-19 pandemic is pushing cities worldwide to become more responsible by learning how to reduce waste, recycle, recover materials, and invest in green technologies.

By co-leading the taskforce, we had the opportunity to unite cities and countries together in the hopes of achieving a greener society and a better tomorrow. We are extremely proud by the results we achieved, and we would like to thank you all, especially our knowledge partners, the participating and the observing cities.”

**Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development OECD:**

“We are very proud to have been the knowledge partners of this process. It was an enthusiastic experience that involved networking, politics and technical knowledge. I would also like to thank all the stakeholders involved.

The lessons that we derived will not just be valuable to G20 but to the whole world. **We have concluded that circular economies should be the new normal from now on as it is proven to not only protect the environment and make it more resourceful and sustainable, but also create jobs.**”

**Luca Trifone**

Diplomatic Advisor to the Mayor of Rome
2. Focus Session 1.1.: Reshaping Mobility in Cities

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development OECD:

“It is very important to build on this enthusiasm to move to the next level of maturity and continuity. We are looking forward to the next steps.”

Moderator:

How can we keep this momentum for the next U20 that will happen in Italy?

Rome:

“One of the most striking success factors in this year’s edition was togetherness. Despite COVID-19, we stayed connected throughout the initiative and this was the basis of our success. If we can continue to foster this sense of sharing and collaboration between different cities and countries, there is no doubt that the momentum you mentioned will stay with us for the next U20 in Italy.”

Luca Trifone
Diplomatic Advisor to the Mayor of Rome

Oriana Romano
Head of Unit, Water Governance and Circular Economy, OECD

Anvita Arora,
Programme Director, Transport and Urban Infrastructure, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)

a. Overview presentation on the U20 whitepaper “Reshaping Mobility in Cities for a Carbon-Neutral Future”, delivered by the knowledge partner and contributor to the paper, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC), Anvita Arora

• The whitepaper takes the approach of Avoid-Shift-Improve (ASI), which is very valued in the sustainable transport industry. Our goal is to reduce traffic and improve transportation by exploring the following opportunities:
  • Reduce home-to-work distances to avoid motorized travel as much as possible
  • Encourage the use of public or non-motorized transport (cycling, walking)
  • Improve vehicle efficiency, not only fuel and energy efficiency, but also leveraging AI and new technologies (autonomous vehicles etc.)
  • Riyadh is currently working on densifying the areas in proximity to the metros to make the city more efficient and less energy and fuel reliant. The whitepaper also explored how international cities are tackling issues and applying opportunities.
  • The whitepaper authors have been able to produce recommendations related to mobility that present holistic solutions to transportation problems, and we are delighted the U20 Communique included some of the work of this paper.

Screenshots of Session Moderator Dag Dettet (top left) with panelists Luca Trifone (top right) and Oriana Romano (bottom)

Whitepaper Policy Recommendations

The U20 Communique communication on the reshaping of mobility in cities

Policy recommendations presented in the whitepaper are non-exhaustive

• Local and national governments shall cooperate towards the implementation of advanced Intelligent Transport Systems while maintaining a human-centered design.
• Local governments should support capability building to upskill mobility planners and practitioners in areas pertaining to the applications of Artificial Intelligence, big data, and analytics in mobility systems.
• Cities and local governments must evaluate policies to reduce the spread of infectious diseases on public transit and ensure safety conditions and social distancing on public transport.
• National governments should provide cities access to federal financial mechanisms to support carbon-neutral mobility as these contributions support the achievement of the country’s international commitments such as the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.
• Local governments may invest in sources of green energy’s infrastructure, such as biogas filling stations, electric car charging points, GIS integrator ITC technology platforms for locating stations, regulating future pricing, and providing statistics.
b. Panel discussions: extracts from the questions and answers, highlighting key messages from speakers:

**Moderator:**

**Please tell us more about Rome’s Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) and how the city is financing it.**

**Rome:**

“Rome’s sustainable Mobility Plan was developed in 2019 for a horizon of ten years, promoting safety, accessibility, and technology. The Plan’s effective applicability of intramodality which requires quality transport solutions. Concerning its financing, public urban infrastructure investments of more than 9 million euros in 10 years involving 60 km of railway and 27 tramway stations. This Plan will imply a complete renewal of the public transport with has been running since 2019. The innovative part of the Plan is the effective use of mobility MaaS models. Financing of the Plan was achieved by multiple sources through the Italian Ministry of Transport, the European Union Structural Fund, the European Union Horizon Fund for Research and Development, and through internal fund for the next 3 years.”

**Luca Trifone**
Diplomatic Advisor to the Mayor of Rome

**Moderator:**

**Can Abu Dhabi tell us more about its Mobility Management Strategy and some of its innovative initiatives such as the Automated Fare Collection (AFC) system based on contactless smartcards and the Middle East's first electric bus?**

**Abu Dhabi:**

“In 2017, Abu Dhabi established the service transport master plan and assigned key objectives. The city started encouraging people to shift to more sustainable and smart modes of transport. The number of people using public transport increased by 48% within the last 2 years. Also, there have been major enhancement when it comes to payment methods in public transportation modes, with an increased percentage of easy and secure payments. On another note, within the last 5 years, Abu Dhabi established 486 km worth of roads and pathways.”

**Abdullah Al Marzooqi,**
Director General of the Abu Dhabi Integrated Transport Center at the Department of Municipalities and Transport, Abu Dhabi

**Moderator:**

**Please tell us about Riyadh’s Public Transport Project – its vision, scope, and progress to date.**

**Riyadh:**

“Riyadh today is a city of 7.1 million inhabitants, and we expect to reach around 15 million in 2030. Riyadh has a vision to become a regional landmark for mobility through the implementation of different mobility solutions thus, improving the quality of life for its residents and promoting economic growth. The city initiated a transformation program through the King Abdulaziz Public Transportation Project, which is a 23 billion dollar project composed of two parts, the Riyadh Metro and Riyadh Bus. The metro is composed of 6 lines, 176 kilometers and 85 stations, out of which 4 are iconic stations. It also comprises 25 park-and-ride facilities, 7 depots, and 5 Operating Control Centers (OCCs). The metro system will run on Unattended Train Operation, which is the highest level of automation. The ultimate capacity is 3.6 million passengers. The Riyadh Bus is composed of 24 lines and stretches over 1,230 kilometers and has 6,700 stops and stations. Currently the city is dynamically testing all the systems while enhancing the roads for better pedestrian access to stations, to increase walkability and public ridership.”

**Alwalid Alekresh**
Vice President for Programs & Projects at the Royal Commission for Riyadh City

**Moderator:**

**Can KAPSARC, as one of the authors on the mobility whitepaper, explain how can cities’ reduction of GHG emissions from fuel-based transport following the ASI framework work in addressing climate change, and associated concerns related to urban sprawl, pollution, traffic safety?**

**Adam Sieminski**
President of the King King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center

Explaining the ASI framework, “the idea of Avoid is studying the concept of avoiding the need for travel in an urban environment. Shifting is making sure that we use more environmentally friendly modes. Improve means better engines and fuels, thus more efficiency.

The goal of circular economies is minimizing resource consumption and reducing waste. It is a positive framework for sustainable maintenance and production. The Kingdom is very serious about developing a national approach to achieve such objectives, and the ASI framework is at the center of this change.”
3. Focus Session 1.2: Advancing Circular Economy Mobility in Cities

a. Overview presentation on the U20 whitepaper "The Post-COVID-19 Circular Economy: Transitioning to Sustainable Consumption and Production in Cities and Regions", delivered by lead facilitator on U20 Taskforce 1 "Circular, Carbon-Neutral Economy" and co-author of the paper, Chair of Urban Research and Education at the University of Pennsylvania, Eugenie Birch.

- The transitioning to sustainable consumption and production in cities is associated with several opportunities and challenges.
- The opportunities reside in service delivery, waste, water and food, policies to reduce and recycle waste, policies to support waste to energy projects and applying advanced technology.
- As for the common challenges, this includes the financial challenge transitions due to the substantial upfront investment needed.
- Cities need to rethink how to account for what decisions they are making and the programs that are establishing to insert life cycle accounting into that decision-making.
- The other challenge is the need for common metrics to measure circularity and finding ways to exchange information.

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<th>Key Challenges and Opportunities</th>
<th>Case Studies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Challenges</td>
<td>Lead Authors:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Financial challenges: High transition costs, need for upfront investment, and difficulty in estimating the lifecycle costs.</td>
<td>UPenn - OECD</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Soft and hard challenges: Lack of metrics to measure circularity, decision-making, economic viability of recycling.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities</td>
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<td>- Energy Use and Waste Management: Current and potential opportunities for the cities.</td>
<td>WWF, OECD, IADB, and The University of Pennsylvania.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Service Delivery: Waste, Water, Food: opportunities for cities and urban areas to improve waste and water management.</td>
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The Post-COVID-19 Circular Economy: Transitioning to Sustainable Consumption and Production in Cities and Regions

- The paper presented several case studies from the cities of Guangzhou, Mexico City, Riyadh, Rome, Sao Paulo and Singapore, supported by the knowledge partners International Development Bank, OECD, and The University of Pennsylvania.
- The whitepaper’s key message is that cities can make use of their current capacities and Asset Management Service delivery, regulation, legislation of procurement to assist in this transition to a circular economy and to accelerate recovery after the pandemic.
- The whitepaper brings forth several recommendations related to (1) integrating local circular economy goals with national goals and (2) developing successful partnerships through public, private and non-governmental collaboration for sponsoring capacity building and research and co-investing in the circular economy at all levels of budgetary arrangements and (3) developing the workforce of the future by developing transition plans and training people to engage in them.
- The recommendation on circular economy that is part of the U20 Communique states: "Advance the regulation of circular economy systems aimed at accelerating the implementation of the 4Rs - reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover - by developing enabling legal environments, harmonizing standards, and developing risk sharing and financial assistance instruments and incentives."
b. Overview presentation on the U20 whitepaper "Energy Efficiency and Diversification", delivered by knowledge partner and author of the paper, The Kleinman Center at the University of Pennsylvania, Mark Hughes

- The framework developed by this whitepaper presents specific challenges and opportunities witnessed by cities and provides a platform allowing cities to place their innovations and ideas into an assembled comprehensive inventory.
- The first fundamental basis for energy efficiency is found in the very notion of a circular economy: the avoidance and recovery of waste in a circular kind of fashion is the core idea of energy efficiency.
- The other fundamental basis of diversification in the energy sector is found in the notion of carbon neutrality.

Renewables need to be much more diverse and able to provide the same level of both intensive energy and reliable energy that countries have had for the preceding century and diversification is the key to a Carbon-Neutral strategy.

- Additional challenges identified relate to technology and regulation in addition to other dimensions. For instance, regarding waste generation and recovery, in some ways, waste recovery is simply unavoidable, and therefore strategies are set up in cities to try to capture that waste and reuse it in a more efficient way.
- The paper presented several policy recommendations related to energy efficiency and diversification. Public-private partnerships that will develop the kinds of technologies and investments to accelerate these policy outcomes are one of these recommendations.
c. Overview presentation on the U20 whitepaper “Carbon-Neutral Buildings and Recycled Materials” that was authored by the knowledge partner Université Gustave Eiffel and contributors from Mexico City, Tshwane and Riyadh, and delivered by lead facilitator Taskforce 2 on “Inclusive Prosperous Communities” and former Mayor of Quito, Mauricio Rodas

- The whitepaper describes the importance of developing policies that enable the construction of carbon neutral buildings and promoting the use of recycled materials.
- The paper argues that there are three main reasons why policymakers frequently struggle to achieve a balance between carbon neutrality and high recycling rates:
  - Firstly, the level of energy needed to move and adapt construction materials
  - Secondly, the variable locations where building activities take place; and
  - Thirdly, the fact that construction waste is not 100% inert and it is biodegradable and produces CO2 emission.
- When it comes to analyzing challenges and opportunities regarding this topic, cities should bear in mind that the world population is expected to rise by over 60% by 2050 and the demand for housing and residential and commercial buildings (office space), schools, hospitals, and other buildings will increase significantly.
- Among the challenges highlighted in the whitepaper is the fact that buildings consume vast amounts of energy and generate lots of waste with significant CO2 emissions during their manufacturing phase but also during building operations and during their demolition.
- The opportunities put forward in the paper include the use of recycled materials such as concrete asphalt, the use of carbon-free materials like BioSource materials, the use of innovation in building technologies and processes, and the introduction of low carbon products in the circular economy construction processes. The paper also mentions opportunities in training staff and inhabitants on energy saving practices and increasing regulations and building standards to promote efficiency. All the above mentioned opportunities promote making buildings more energy efficient, which in turn has a huge potential to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as well as reduce costs. The paper also includes several very interesting case studies from cities around the world.
- Several key policy recommendations were presented in the whitepaper, with the one which was included in the U20 Communique was as follows:
  “Enhance local governments’ ability to finance and adopt circular economy initiatives in the building and construction sector, including construction materials, with a focus on the deployment of readily available retrofit technologies and on the development of new industries, promoting research, capacity-building and the monitoring of resource use.”
D. Panel discussions: extracts from the questions and answers, highlighting key messages from speakers:

**Buenos Aires:**

“About 8,000 tonnes of waste is generated daily with a composition of 42% as construction and demolition waste, 19% as organics, 6% as plastics, and 5% from tree cutting (green waste). To address the problem of waste disposal to a landfill that was 40 kilometers away from the city, a recycling center was established within the city. This facility supported in a drastic reduction of waste to landfill nevertheless, a cultural change is vital of our societies and key stakeholders such as the private sector and industries, especially in the circumstances posed by the pandemic, which makes safeguarding the Planet we live in of great significance.

Considering that, the Ministry of Space established a new area (division) on circular economy in order to define the next steps needed involving all concerned stakeholders.”

Moderator:

**Moderator:**

How can circular economy-based solutions be effective to control and mitigate the environmental, social, and economic impacts of waste management in the city of Buenos Aires?

**Ezequiel Christie Newbery,**

Chief of Cabinet of the Ministry of Space, Buenos Aires

**Sao Paulo:**

“In 2019, Sao Paulo was selected to take part in the Ellen MacArthur foundation food initiative circular economy for food, which main goal was to develop large scale circular economy for food solutions by 2022 towards a global transition of regenerative food system based on the principles of circular economy. As part of this project, Sao Paulo is addressing a variety of sustainability issues including urban growth and food insecurity.

Another important initiative for combatting food waste was implemented in 2017 that aimed at collecting fruits and vegetables that were likely to be discarded but in good condition of consumption and donating them to institutions combatting food insecurity. Sao Paulo believes that building a circular economy is an opportunity to redefine economic growth with a focus on benefits for the whole society to minimize the effects of the economic activity but eliminate wasting pollution keeping products and materials in use and regenerating natural systems creating economic, natural and social capital.

There is an urgent need to strengthen models of sustainable production and consumption including some fungus fermentation to a transition to a circular economy that builds long term resilience which generates economic and business opportunities and provides environmental and social benefits for future generations.”
San Jose (Costa Rica):

“In a country which produces 97% of its energy matrix from renewable sources and produces zero to none manufacturing services, the city of San Jose is faced with great challenges in trying to comply and match with the country-wide vision. For that, the city of San Jose poses these questions: how do we move forward into a greener economy how do we move forward into a more circular economy? The city believes that the main factor is understanding our linear economy. How does the city worked and what does the city produces that has to be fixed?

San Jose has decided to renew the urban scene in terms of re-densification, to recover from the massive loss of population since 1990, by planning a mass transport system tramway and urban training to change the city from motorized vehicles to a mass transport system that will allow the city to reduce drastically on a contribution of CO2 emissions.

Other initiatives the city is undertaking is updating the Urban Development plan to include policies on sustainable buildings and an urban planning shift from horizontal to vertical development, with support of the public and private partnerships needed to incentivize contractors to build more sustainably and efficiently.”

Moderator:

What is the role of cities and the private sector in fostering a greener economy, especially when Costa Rica’s brand revolves around its natural resources? And what are the challenges cities can expect and how can they be overcome?
C. Session 2 on Inclusive Prosperous Communities: Thematic Overview and Focus Sessions

Overview of the session

Mayors and knowledge partners who have been actively engaged in the U20 process were invited to be part of this session to interactively discuss among themselves the topics of priority and concern to their cities considering the priority topics of the U20 under the Inclusive Prosperous Communities theme.

The purpose of this session was to provide an interactive platform that encourages dialogue among city mayors and knowledge partners on urban topics prioritized for the U20 this year. Cities and knowledge partners were given the opportunity to showcase a few examples on the topics under discussion, promoting knowledge exchange and focused discussions.

The Lead Knowledge Partner Metropolis was asked to present an overview on Inclusive Prosperous Communities, paving the way to more in-depth focus sessions (second segment; total of 2) where cities and knowledge partners engage in a constructive dialogue on urban challenges, success stories, lessons learned, and others. The focus sessions addressed “Affordable Housing Delivery and Urban Social Safety Nets” (focus session 2.1) and “Mainstreaming Gender Equality, Youth Empowerment and the Future of Work” (focus session 2.2).

Inclusive Prosperous Communities Taskforce

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<td>2. Socio-cultural inclusivity and cohesion</td>
<td>3. Mainstreaming gender equality</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Upskilling for future of work: local and international opportunities</td>
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Focus Session 2.1 – Affordable Housing Delivery and Urban Social Safety Nets

- Moderator: Investment advisor to local and national governments, former President of Stattum and Director at the Swedish Ministry of Industry, Dag Detter
- Izmir, represented by Mayor Tunç Soyer
- Metropolis, represented by Secretary General, Octavi de la Varga

Focus Session 2.2 – Mainstreaming Gender Equality, Youth Empowerment and the Future of Work

- Moderator: Investment advisor to local and national governments, former President of Stattum and Director at the Swedish Ministry of Industry, Dag Detter
- Izmir, represented by Mayor Tunç Soyer
- Metropolis, represented by Secretary General Octavi de la Varga

Speakers

- Izmir, represented by the Counsellor to the Mayor, Onur Eryuce
- Berlin, represented by the Desk Officer in the Senate department for urban development and housing, Thomas Thrun
- Montreal, represented by Ambassador and city Sherpa Henri-Paul Normandin
- Amman, represented by city Sherpa, Mohanna Kattan
- Arab Urban Development Institute in partnership with Global Observatory linking Research to Action (AUDI-GORA), represented by AUDI Executive Partner and GORA CEO, Gora Mboup
- Metropolis Secretary General Octavi de la Varga

- Moderator: Lead facilitator on U20 Taskforce 2 on “Inclusive Prosperous Communities”, former Mayor of Quito and Visiting Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania, Mauricio Rodas
- Izmir, represented by Mayor Tunç Soyer
- Jakarta, represented by Deputy Governor for Population Control and Human Settlement Suharti Sutar
- Helsinki, represented by Deputy Mayor of Education, Pia Pakarinen
- Women 20, represented by W20 Sherpa for the Saudi G20 Presidency, Salma Al-Rasheed
- Youth 20, represented by Y20 Chair for the Saudi G20 Presidency, Othman Almoammar
1. Thematic Overview on Inclusive Prosperous Communities

a. Overview presentation delivered by U20 lead knowledge partner, Metropolis, summarizing the following main points:

- The work of the U20 Taskforce on Inclusive Prosperous Communities was based on 5 priority topics: (1) affordable housing; (2) socio-cultural inclusivity and cohesion; (3) mainstreaming gender equality; (4) upskilling for the future of work; and (5) youth empowerment.

- Having a diverse set of cities was very helpful as it brought varied perspectives to the table. Taskforce 2 engaged 12 cities and 15 knowledge partners, which produced 11 concept notes, 5 whitepapers and as much as 129 policy recommendations with some making it to the U20 Communiqué.

- The topics tackled are crucial at present, especially since the urban areas and cities are seeing their population increase. Affordable housing is a must to accommodate everyone, and inclusivity is no longer a choice, but a necessity.

- It was a challenging experience as the cities involved are very different, but it was certainly rewarding and important for these ministerial meetings.

b. Panel discussions: extracts from the questions and answers, highlighting key messages from speakers:

**Moderator:**

Has Izmir incorporated the concepts of inclusive and prosperous communities in its vision and strategies for the future and what have you done to overcome the recent challenges posed by COVID-19 on this front?

**Izmir:**

“Izmir prepared a strategic plan according to this region, keeping in mind the 17 development goals of the UN and in addition to incorporating 10 regional priorities. Parameters were put in this plan to track accomplishments yearly, related policy changes, economic growth, education or reduced inequalities.

The year 2020 has brought the biggest health crisis in recent history. It had great economic and financial impacts on countries and has added urgency and pressure to the already existing climate crisis. Cities have learned a lot from the pandemic. The lack of resources forced us to rethink regular municipal operations and services, establishing new decision-making executives and consultants and strengthening solidarity. Thus, inclusivity was one of our core objectives and Izmir needed practical tools to attain these objectives.”
2. Focus Session 2.1 – Affordable Housing Delivery and Urban Social Safety Nets

a. Overview presentation on the U20 whitepaper “Securing Affordable Housing Delivery in Cities”, delivered by U20 knowledge partner and co-author of the paper, AUDI Executive Partner and GORA Corp. CEO, Gora Mbooup

• The topics tackled are crucial currently, especially since the urban areas and cities are seeing their populations increase. Affordable housing is a must to accommodate everyone, and inclusivity is no longer a choice, but a necessity.

• The key messages from this paper are based on an approach that aims to understand the challenges and opportunities of affordable housing in cities and a call to national leaders on how to address this issue from a supply and demand side. The paper identified key challenges and opportunities. The challenges can be summarized to:
  - Supply-side challenges related to urban planning and policies in the construction sector
  - Demand-side challenges related to end-user eligibility to home ownership, end-user behavior and attitude towards housing purchase models

The outcomes of this U20 round should have a great impact for the future. Participants are now armed with strong knowledge about relevant topics and can apply it in whatever endeavor they partake in. Moreover, G20 participating cities should also use the recommendations and policies in the Communique of the U20, as urban development, resilience and social equality are very important if a country wants to prosper.
### Whitepaper Policy Recommendations

**The U20 Communique Communication on Affordable Housing Delivery**

*All entities within governments (national, state and local), the private sector, and non-profit sector have an important role to play. Ensure regulatory frameworks that enable transparent, fair and equitable access and use of land, alternative ownership models, protect tenants as well as landlords, and enable more innovative financing models in developing new homes or rehabilitating existing units.*

**Policy recommendations presented in the whitepaper**

**Non-exhaustive**

**On urban planning and policies, the construction sector, funding and finance infrastructure, and land, governments should**

- Develop relevant rights-based frameworks for housing strategies.
- Provide temporary and emergency accommodation to people without secure housing to self-isolate.
- Integrate housing policies within the framework of urban planning and urban policies in order to avoid sectoral and disconnected approaches.
- Encourage implementation of urban regeneration and development projects to provide ‘in-place regeneration’.
- Incentivize development of smaller, more affordable units.
- Support technological innovation that connects the links in the housing supply chain to support more effective, household-level home improvements.
- Implement measures to prevent housing financialization.

The private sector and nonprofit sectors are encouraged to:

- Develop local construction materials and use appropriate construction techniques to reduce costs.
- Construct mixed-use, mixed income housing projects which ensure financial stability and provide greater economic opportunity to different income classes.
- Co-produce community-driven housing solutions by including housing cooperatives and community land trusts.

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### Urban Inclusiveness, Safety Nets and Social Compacts in the Time of a Pandemic

**Key Challenges and Opportunities**

**Challenges**

- Longlasting issues of the safety, sustainability, resilience, and inclusion of cities, caused by pandemics, climate change and the degradation of ecosystem services.
- Increasing urbanization and international mobility.
- Ensuring the urban social safety nets face the challenges during pandemics, climate change and the degradation of ecosystem services.

**Opportunities**

- The “Living Together” concept as a way to approach the challenges and solutions related to social cohesion in the context of globalization.
- Capacity building across all G20 cities and towns.
- Strengthening cities’ connections with national and regional governments.
- Promoting “national urban policies”.
- Encouraging governments to develop gender and diversity mainstreaming tools to develop pandemic response strategies.

**Case Studies**

Urban social inclusion rests on three pillars of action to restore and secure public health and prosperity: First pillar is providing strong urban social safety nets and social protection to urban residents, second pillar is ensuring that all stakeholders are prepared to and able to work together in and out of times of crises and the third pillar is government must protect the poor, vulnerable and marginal of the city from discrimination and include them in all aspects of city life through targeted social inclusion programs.

**Urban Inclusiveness, Safety Nets and Social Compacts in the Time of a Pandemic**

**Lead Authors:**

- African Center for Cities
- Montreal
- Riyadh

**Knowledge Partners:**

- African Center for Cities
- Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation
- Representing Guangzhou
- G20 Engagement Group:

**Women 20 (W20)**

**Key Message:**

- Provides recommendations on how to enhance urban social inclusion during and after pandemics, with a strong emphasis on the enabling conditions of effective intergovernmental systems.
- Devolve more human, technical and financial support to social programs implemented by cities.
- Ensure effective capacity building of key actors and stakeholders to identify critical needs and priority areas of action for enhancing social inclusion.
- Revise their local development strategies to foster innovative approaches to enhancing social cohesion.

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### Whitepaper Policy Recommendations

**The U20 Communique recommendation on socio-cultural inclusivity and cohesion**

*Expand urban social safety nets and strengthen social protection for low-income care workers providing frontline services. Also, ensure that the recovery and the world we rebuild post COVID-19 is centered on people and provides equal economic, civic and decision-making opportunities for all, especially for vulnerable communities, without any discrimination.*

**Policy recommendations presented in the whitepaper**

**Non-exhaustive**

**National governments should:**

- Promote “national urban policies”
- Encourage governments to develop gender and diversity mainstreaming tools to develop pandemic response strategies
- Ensure greater coordination with cities in the recovery and post-pandemic process
- Support technological innovation that connects the links in the housing supply chain to support more effective, household-level home improvements

**Local governments should:**

- Ensure effective capacity building of key actors and stakeholders to identify critical needs and priority areas of action for enhancing social inclusion
- Revise their local development strategies to foster innovative approaches to enhancing social cohesion

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### b. Overview presentation on the U20 whitepaper

**“Urban inclusiveness, safety nets and social compacts in the time of a pandemic”, delivered by U20 lead knowledge partner and contributor to the paper, Metropolis Secretary General, Octavio de la Varga**

- The key issue conveyed in the paper is that social inclusion should be based on developing urban social safety nets and social protection to urban residents, ensuring that all stakeholders work together in times of crisis, and any level of government should protect people without any discrimination.
- The paper identified 3 key challenges faced by cities:
  - Longstanding issues of safety, sustainability, resilience and inclusion of cities
  - Increasing urbanization and international mobility
  - Spatial segregation in cities
- It also pinpointed 3 main opportunities:
  - The “living together” concept to approach the challenges and solutions related to social cohesion in the context of globalization
  - Capacity building across all G20 cities
  - Strong and well-informed civil society that can hold local and national government to encourage innovation

- Several case studies were showcased in the paper that included the:
  - Metropolis and Proyecto ALLAS launched Cities for Global Health
  - OECD developed a series of political notes on cities responses to COVID-19
  - AIMF adopted an emergency plan to financially support African cities to deal with COVID-19

- Several key recommendations were developed targeting both the national and local governments that included the following:

**National governments should:**

- Promote “national urban policies”
- Encourage governments to develop gender and diversity mainstreaming tools to develop pandemic response strategies
- Ensure greater coordination with cities in the recovery and post-pandemic process

**Local governments should:**

- Devolve more human, technical and financial support to social programs implemented by cities
- Ensure effective capacity building of key actors and stakeholders to identify critical needs and priority areas of action for enhancing social inclusion
- Revise their local development strategies to foster innovative approaches to enhancing social cohesion

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### New cities initiatives related to the COVID-19 crisis

- Metropolis and Proyecto ALLAS joined forces with UNICEF, launched Cities for Global Health
- OECD developed a series of political notes on cities responses to COVID-19
- G20 cities take action together and mobilize to support African cities to deal with COVID-19

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### Civic Imagination Initiative

Bologna

Civic imagination initiative
c. Panel discussions: extracts from the questions and answers, highlighting key messages from speakers:

**Moderator:**

In line with the decisions of the “Upper Scale Plan”, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality prepared the Reconstruction Plan and Urban Design Projects without increasing density. Can you tell us more about the Municipality’s role in establishing a healthy relationship between different parties in urban transformation; right/property holders and contractors during the project process?

**Izmir:**

“Urban regeneration is a priority in the city. We created a regeneration model with the city administration as a facilitator. People in the city trust in our party and in the municipality. In turn, the municipality gets the ownership rights, opens a tender and contractors start the bidding process with proposals. The winners start construction and get shares in the new building and people receive their apartments. The municipality does not pay any cost. This is not a long and difficult process, but we are determined to keep the process fair by managing all the stakeholders.”

**Moderator:**

What has Berlin done in the past few years in securing and delivering affordable housing to its residents and what where the key challenges of and opportunities from partnering with the private sector that you can share with other cities to benefit and learn from?

**Berlin:**

“The housing market changed dramatically in Berlin over the last few years by becoming very dense due to population growth. This led to rapid rising prices and rents. As a result, Berlin’s municipality has had the role of implementing policies to limit rent and promoting the construction new buildings. The city owns six housing companies that are fast growing to accommodate everyone.

The private sector also needs to contribute to the provision of affordable housing. One of the ways to achieve that is the subsidization of new housing construction introduced in 2014. This leads to the reduction of capital costs for all types of investments.

**Moderator:**

How did the Metropolitan Growth Plan for Greater Amman help guide the city in addressing the challenges of the large influx of refugee and displaced populations, considering the social aspects? And how did the pandemic impact the implementation of this Plan?

**Amman:**

“Amman has been witnessing an exceptional increase in population and a big volume of refugees arriving to the city. As a response to that, the Municipality developed policies in the primary growth areas. In order to deal with the needs in the housing sector, a new zoning bylaw was enacted that set several parameters to densify the number of residential units on a land, taking into consideration several factors such as lot area and street width. Amman’s goal was to reach a net density of 70% per 1000 sqm, doubling the standard density. Amman also placed a new zoning typology in residential areas which was called the high residential density. This is a new type of zoning where the municipality doubled the number of floors in the buildings to reach 8 floors (compared to the prior limit of 4 floors).

The municipality of Greater Amman is also considering Public Private Partnerships to reduce costs. These are some of the initiatives we are undertaking in Amman to achieve affordable housing.

**Montreal:**

Montreal has been a leading example of an inclusive city, fostering diversity and cohesion, and the Living Together platform has been an enabler to share this vision with other cities. What can you tell us about the evolvement of the Living Together initiative and the main challenges its principles and aimed goals faced in your city since the outbreak of the pandemic?

“Living together is about recognizing all types of diversity and discrimination and facilitating peaceful living within a community. There is a tendency in cities to separate properties based on social class or ethnicity. What Montreal is trying is making housing projects fit different types of people by putting in place a regulation where real estate developers should include a minimum of 20% of properties that are big enough for families, 20% of affordable housing, and 20% of social housing to obtain the permit. Thus, designing the housing complexes should be inclusive of different categories of people. This kind of regulations is to encourage more social mixing to promote inclusion and living together.

On another note, when it comes to gathering COVID statistics and providing support, the city of Montreal also showed inclusion by going to itinerants to undertake tests, offer help and provide help and not only to typical houses.”

**Henri-Paul Normandin**

Ambassador and Director for International Relations, Montreal

**Thomas Thrun**

Desk Officer in the Senate department for urban development and housing, Berlin

**Onur Eryuce**

Counselor to the Mayor, Izmir

**Mohanna Kattan**

U20 City Sherpa, Amman

**Microsoft Word - U20 Mayors’ Summit Report.docx**
"From the supply side, and as presented in the whitepaper, there are several levels related to urban planning and policies, land and construction. It was estimated in 2015 that there will be 2.3 billion additional people by 2050. The estimation also shows that 40% of the world population will need access to housing in the next 10 years. This translates into a huge demand. On top of all that, COVID increased the urgency of the demand, with underprivileged and homeless people having greater risks.

In the whitepaper, our supply/demand approach was based on the housing value chains. Also, finding resources must be addressed to ensure affordable housing. There is a dire need to secure the coverage of costs of planning design through a sustainable finance infrastructure. This is the essential backbone for the realization and continuity of an affordable housing sector. When we are analyzing the supply side, it is crucial to understand the demand side as well."

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3. Focus Session 2.2 – Mainstreaming Gender Equality, Youth Empowerment and the Future of Work


- U20 has been able to successfully reflect a true gender mainstreaming approach for urbanization.
- The whitepaper, which the Women 20 happily contributed to, highlights key challenges and opportunities for women.
- In urban development, challenges for women are related to unpaid and underpaid work and care, their access and approaches to development, lack of gender mainstreaming in approaches of urban planning, violence against women in some cities, women’s access to services, housing, security of housing, and lack of access to technology.
- Several opportunities include a true gender mainstreaming approach provided in several cities, an approach that starts with an inclusive decision-making process that acknowledges the need for gender based data to create better policies and design better with a gender lens on today’s urban issues. The collection, analysis and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative data on gender equality supports women’s empowerment and women’s access to social political and economic opportunities, whether in local governments or in the public and private sectors. It also supports prioritizing the protection of women and girls from violence.
- Women 20 is pleased to see the reflection of some of the main asks of the Women 20 translated in the U20 Communiqué and in the U20 whitepapers.

Moderator:

Being Metropolis the leading knowledge partner of the Inclusive and Prosperous Communities taskforce and addressing these issues in a comprehensive way, how do you think the connection between fostering affordable housing and building social safety nets and cohesion could be strengthened in cities?

Metropolis:

"Linking the supply side to the demand side, cities need to consider a wider approach, an integrated approach to ensure everybody is on board. In a city, all stakeholders should be involved in discussions: private sector, public sector, academia, and organized communities. Also, one needs to ask themselves some important questions: how do you want to design your city? Are you facilitating access to basic social services? Mobility? Access to healthcare facilities? How are you designing public space to make it accessible to everybody? If you ask yourself these questions in the first place, you would not even need to have the safety nets in place. Also, one single policy can have an impact on multiple policies. For instance, mobility is not only about transportation. It is about safety, environment, opportunities. We need to look at policies in an integrated way."

Gora Mboup
President & CEO of GORA Corp and Executive Partner of AUDI

Octavi de la Varga
Secretary General, Metropolis

 removing Barriers to Mainstreaming Gender Equality

The paper advocates for enhanced cooperation among different levels of government and civil society in the collection, analysis, and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative data on gender equality, to strengthen development of innovative policy initiatives and best practices.

Key Challenges and Opportunities

- Urgent and underpaid work and care
- Right to the city: acknowledgement of the importance of public space, transport, and facilities
- Gender equality in urban governance: implementation of inclusive decision-making processes
- Women’s role in urban planning: development of innovative solutions
- Gender mainstreaming approach applied in several cities; an approach that starts with an inclusive decision-making process that acknowledges the need for gender based data to create better policies and design better with a gender lens on today’s urban issues. The collection, analysis and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative data on gender equality supports women’s empowerment and women’s access to social political and economic opportunities, whether in local governments or in the public and private sectors. It also supports prioritizing the protection of women and girls from violence.
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Cities and “Inclusive Creative Economy and the Future of Work” they discuss youth empowerment which should first start at the local level, with a nurturing local environment, and then expand nation-wide.

b. Overview presentation on the U20 whitepaper “Youth Empowerment for Prosperous and Inclusive Cities”, prepared by the cities of Izmir, Guangzhou, and Riyadh in collaboration with the knowledge partner Metropolis and G20 Engagement Group, the Youth 20 (Y20), presented by the Y20 Chair, Othman Almoammar

• Several of the U20 topics tackled by the whitepaper “Youth Empowerment for Prosperous and Inclusive Cities” align with the Youth 20 priorities has identified, specifically around the future of work, future skills, and youth empowerment.
• In addition to the importance of the U20 as the youngest engagement group, most of the youth population around the world live in cities, particularly today during COVID-19. The youth population in cities is estimated to be 60% of urban population under the age of 18 by 2030.
• Cities are facing challenges in the aftermath of the pandemic, which span across multiple factors that are no longer restricted only to health challenges, but also to employment, education, among others.
• Y20 considered that one of the key populations affected are youth (and women) working within the sectors that have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, such as the tourism and the service industries.
• While young people may not be affected as much when it comes to the health domain, they are heavily affected in terms of future economic opportunities and the negative impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on that.
• As countries are witnessing a huge urbanization worldwide, the topic on global citizenship is of great importance, especially when it comes to service learning, development and implementation of the SDGs, all that require cities to heavily engage with youth.
• Among the challenges faced by youth is that the level of engagement of new youth within cities is not always equal, and it does not happen organically in some parts of the world. This is one of the many areas where the national governments can promote engaging with their youth population, specifically for developing countries.
• The Y20 focuses on three main priorities: (1) Youth empowerment, (2) Global citizenship and (3) Preparing Youth for the Future. With reference to the U20 whitepapers “Youth Empowerment for Prosperous and Inclusive Cities” and “Inclusive Creative Economy and the Future of Work” they discuss youth empowerment which should first start at the local level, with a nurturing local environment, and then expand nation-wide.
c. Overview presentation on the U20 whitepaper “Inclusive Creative Economy and the Future of Work”, prepared by the cities of Indonesia Creative Cities Network and the cities of Izmir and Riyadh, and delivered by the lead facilitator for the U20 Taskforce on “Nature-Based Solutions”, Co-founder and President of Grand Paris Alliance for Metropolitan Development, Nicolas Buchoud

- The whitepaper “Inclusive Creative Economy and the Future of Work” is connected to a process that was launched by Indonesia a couple of years ago under the headline of World Conference on Creative Economy, following the resolution passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations at the end of 2019 to make 2021 the international year of creative economy for sustainable development.

- The summit was planned to be held in Indonesia in the beginning of 2021 in the presence of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Indonesia Creative Cities Network and the Future of Work, prepared by the Alliance for Metropolitan Development, Taskforce on “Nature-Based Solutions”, and the cities of Izmir and Riyadh, and several others.

- It also calls for strengthening applied research and applied research models bringing universities and students together.

- The paper also shows that reservoirs of creativity might no longer be exclusive to the global North only but also present in the global South, in countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, and several others.

- Local governments should facilitate the integration of culture and creativity at all stages of the educational process enabling blended learning methods that are considered local customs and capacities especially in remote and rural areas.

- The paper also calls for the need to add a new perspective to educational process such as including digital skills and lifelong learning in education curricula and strengthening technical and vocational training whenever possible.

- Because it is a connecting link between the upper economy and informal economic sectors.

- The whitepaper does not just present the cradle of the future of work, but also the catalysts for inclusion and regular advocacy through regulations that encourage business sector financing and innovative partnerships.

- The whitepaper elevated the scattered experiences shared through networks into something much more systematic, highlighting the job creation potential of creative economy, and more importantly, recognizing the intelligence and the human capital potential.

- The whitepaper recommends advocating for recognition of the role of creative economy as one of the pillars of competitiveness for a country through social sustainability and public cultural and creative contribution.

- It is all about a series of initiatives that are clearly addressing grassroots and community lead aspects, but also connect with governments. The City of London has introduced creative enterprises zones for example, while the City of Tomsk in Siberia has insisted on the role of partnerships with the academia in creative economy, and in Thailand for example the “Thailand creative and design” has also allowed to lay the focus on human capital, which is also the case in Saudi Arabia.

- Creative economy is a global trend that is important and powerful especially in emerging markets and developing countries.
d. Panel discussions: extracts from the questions and answers, highlighting key messages from speakers:

Moderator:
Can Izmir share with us the city’s experiences with initiatives such as the “Fairy Tale Houses,” “The Agora Co-existence Life Atelier” and the “Job Factory”? And what are your recommendations, as mayor, to cities for empowering youth through equal access to education and technology, especially in the post-COVID-19 recovery?

Izmir:
“The Izmir Education Center provides training in business lines that guarantees employment for women, youth and disadvantaged members of the communities by gaining them qualification needed to participate in the labor market. In the past two years, nearly 20,000 people trained in these facilities, employment rate of the attendees is around 20%. The initiative provides on-the-job training for unemployed mothers so they can improve their skills and earn money. The municipality provides supervision and care for children to 6-year-old during the daytime providing them with courses on painting, chess, music, gymnastics and others, enabling mothers to hold a job within the same village. It ensures intercultural dialogue and focuses on creating new opportunities for women and youth. Citizens also received free legal counsel, the training and courses given in the center contribute to the personal development of the attendees in domains such as health, human rights, discrimination and communication.

In the post pandemic phase, we plan to invest resources to transform our city for future risks through restructuring our economy. However, we are still to know what the exact consequences of this tragedy on the economy and social sectors. The situation is difficult for certain sectors of the economy it will have a deep impact on the most vulnerable. Now, we should avoid falling back to our unsustainable habits, instead cities need to build bounce back better from this pandemic. Cities need to provide indiscriminate opportunities and services for all people, including the youth who have potential and energy which are extremely important for the future and development of our Urban communities”

Moderator:
Considering 2021 has been declared as “The International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development” by the United Nations General Assembly, placing creative economy as crucial to the achievement of the 2030 agenda. What are Jakarta’s key experiences in the sector of the creative economy and building a future of work that is resilient to external shocks like the current pandemic?

Jakarta:
“We would like to share Jakarta’s experience in responding to how the pandemic impacted the economy. Jakarta’s economic growth dropped to -8.2% compared to the Indonesian growth that dropped to 5.3%, and the pandemic also forced us to enforce social restrictions at a large scale, where only 11 sectors were being operational. This situation forced companies to change their way of doing business. Many companies in Jakarta have diversified their business manufacturing and same goes to hotels, restaurants and automotive industry. 5 out of 100 companies have entirely moved to a new business line. Additionally, due to COVID-19, businesses in Jakarta have gone online with 25% businesses having adopted an online platform. The city provided internet access gradually in 9 locations, including all poor neighborhoods, that also provided access for education sector for long distance education for 1.5 million students in Jakarta.”

Moderator:
Knowing that Helsinki will be hosting the International Data Corporation IDC Future of Work Conference later in October, and Finland being an innovative leader in the world of flexible work, what experiences would you like to highlight from your city initiatives and platforms that deal with this transformative change in the work scene?

Helsinki:
“Flexible working hours have been successful in Finland for more than two decades and this is largely attributed to the Working Hours Act in 1996, which allowed people to adjust the typical working hours by starting or finishing up to two hours earlier or later. By 2011, Finland was offering the most flexible working schedules on the planet.”

Suharti Sutar
Deputy Governor for Population Control and Human Settlement, Jakarta

Pia Pakarinen
Deputy Mayor of Education, Helsinki
Moderator: "Where do you see W20 and U20 priorities intersecting, and what is the relationship between thriving urban economies and women's empowerment?"

Women 20 (W20):

"The key to advancing and thriving economies and cities is inclusive decision making. The greater the diversity at the highest level, the better cities and communities can thrive. One of the main W20 policy recommendations is promoting women's inclusion in decision making and the public and private sector and at all levels, by setting quotas or targets. Diverse and inclusive decision making bodies and cities can support the whole community to thrive and develop better. The key element is to ensure equal representation in inclusive decision-making bodies. One of the many challenges cities are facing is the challenges related to women; 70% of the health care workers are women while nearly 740 million women work in the informal economy. It is crucial that cities address this challenge, especially since COVID-19 is a gendered pandemic and cities are obligated to address the gender implications of COVID-19 to ensure that we can build back better.

When we look at the urban centers, the Women 20 believes that these can be drivers for gender equality, offering solutions when it comes to the need of childcare, employment opportunities, access to banking to financial inclusion and women's access to the job. Cities can be at the forefront of creating these changes, they can provide solutions to mainstreaming gender equality and they can be a hub and lab to test these solutions in these urban environments so that we can translate them also apply to rural environments."

Salma Al-Rasheed
the W20 Sherpa
for the Saudi G20 Presidency

Moderator: "As the Youth 20, what more can you tell us about local government efforts in empowering the Saudi youth and building a resilient future of work landscape?"

Youth 20 (Y20):

"We have seen a huge divide between developed countries and developing countries. We worked on the Global Youth Index and in that research, we asked the youth in 25 countries how do your countries prepare you for the knowledge economy and within the ranking, Saudi has ranked 20 out of 25.

One of the key challenges when it comes to youth is that approximately 50% of the world’s population is younger than the age 30 and 90% of those youth live in developing countries.

When considering the global challenges related to education and specifically during COVID-19, 1.5 billion youth approximately have been affected by the pandemic from an education perspective, and this is just from an access perspective.

One of the things that we’ve seen as a global citizenship focus area within the research is that even though youth today are among the most connected generation ever, still populism is huge challenge that we’re seeing and of course all around the world we have seen a lot of inequality that has arisen and exacerbated due to COVID-19."

Othman Almoammar
Chair of the Y20
for the Saudi G20 Presidency
D. Session 3 on Nature-Based Urban Solutions: Thematic Overview and Focus Session

Overview of the session

The purpose of this session was to provide an interactive platform that encourages dialogue among city mayors and knowledge partners on urban topics prioritized for the U20 this year. Cities and knowledge partners were given the opportunity to showcase a few examples on the topics under discussion, promoting knowledge exchange and focused discussions.

The chairing city was requested to answer questions related to the priority topics, presenting an overview on Nature-Based Urban Solutions and paving the way to more in-depth focus sessions (second segment, total of 2) where cities and knowledge partners engage in a constructive dialogue on urban challenges, success stories, lessons learned, and others. The focus sessions addressed “Urban contributions to achieving biodiversity and climate agendas” (focus session 3.1) and “Urban sanitation and waste management for all” (focus session 3.2).

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The chairing city was requested to answer questions related to the priority topics, presenting an overview on Nature-Based Urban Solutions and paving the way to more in-depth focus sessions (second segment, total of 2) where cities and knowledge partners engage in a constructive dialogue on urban challenges, success stories, lessons learned, and others. The focus sessions addressed “Urban contributions to achieving biodiversity and climate agendas” (focus session 3.1) and “Urban sanitation and waste management for all” (focus session 3.2).

D. Session 3 on Nature-Based Urban Solutions: Thematic Overview and Focus Session

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D. Session 3 on Nature-Based Urban Solutions: Thematic Overview and Focus Session

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Key messages and takeaways

1. Thematic Overview on Nature-Based Urban Solutions

a. Overview presentation delivered by U20 lead knowledge partner, ICLEI, summarizing the following main points:

- Nature-Based Urban Solution is part of G20 for the first time and this is the beginning of the journey.
- ICLEI was tasked with the role of lead knowledge partner, ICLEI, summarizing looking at nature). The last whitepaper addressing the priority topics:

- Recognize the economic valuation of natural ecosystems and include cities in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)
- Invest in Nature-Based solutions with IFIs and the private sector to enable the provision of green and blue infrastructure and set minimum standards and guidelines ensuring access to nature and green space in cities
- Adopt a universal right of access to urban sanitation
- Guarantee food security for all by strengthening urban-rural linkages and investing in physical and social infrastructure
- We are looking forward to keeping pushing for Nature-Based urban solutions and to pursue this agenda in the next events.

b. Overview presentation delivered by U20 lead knowledge partner, ICLEI, summarizing looking at nature). The last whitepaper addressing the priority topics:

- Recognize the economic valuation of natural ecosystems and include cities in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)
- Invest in Nature-Based solutions with IFIs and the private sector to enable the provision of green and blue infrastructure and set minimum standards and guidelines ensuring access to nature and green space in cities
- Adopt a universal right of access to urban sanitation
- Guarantee food security for all by strengthening urban-rural linkages and investing in physical and social infrastructure
- We are looking forward to keeping pushing for Nature-Based urban solutions and to pursue this agenda in the next events.

Nature-Based Urban Solutions Whitepapers

U20 Whitepaper addressing the priority topic:

- Ecosystem services for health, safety and well-being
- Green and blue infrastructure
- Green and blue infrastructure

Lead Authors:

- Durban
- Mexico City
- Amman
- Johannesburg

Contributors:

- IADB
- OECD
- ICLEI
- ICES

Knowledge Partners:

- WWF
- ICLEI
- ICES

Ecosystem services for health, safety and well-being

“Addressing finance and capacity barriers for nature-based solutions implementation at city level”

“Urban health, safety, and well-being: cities enabling the provision and access of ecosystem services”

City region food systems & food security

Sustainable water management, clean air & healthy soils

U20 Whitepaper addressing the priority topic:

- “Empowering cities for the development of sustainable food system policies”
- “Urban sanitation and waste management for all”

Lead Authors:

- Rio de Janeiro
- Moscow
- Durban

Contributors:

- IADB
- OECD
- ICLEI

Knowledge Partners:

- WWF
- ICLEI

Kobie Brand

Director, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
2. Focus Session 3.1 – Urban contributions to achieving biodiversity and climate agendas

a. Overview presentation on the U20 whitepaper “Urban Health, Safety, and Well-being: cities enabling the provision and access to ecosystem services”, delivered by U20 knowledge partner and lead author of the paper, Inter-American Development Bank, Lead Specialist, Opheline Chevalier

- The paper highlights a premise that I trust we all agree on which is that urban green spaces have the potential to restore biodiversity in the city and recover important ecosystem services. Although we agree on this, the reality is that local governments operate under tight budgets. In that context, the paper is asking two questions:
  - How can we adapt cost benefits and cost-effective methodologies? To answer the first question, the paper looks at two outcomes associated with ecosystem service delivered by urban green spaces:
    - Improvement in health, measured in terms of quality of air, physical activity space and noise reduction.
    - Well-being measured in terms of recreational and social value.

- The challenges in both cases are:
  - Assigning a monetary value to the outcomes, measuring the social value of ecosystem services, differentiating the value of ecosystem services at the local level compared to the national level, and analyzing the bundle of services without double counting or overestimating.
  - How can cities be more prepared to make a case in favor of urban green spaces to improve public health? On the second question, we reviewed a series of indicators to assess these outcomes, and the paper defines a roadmap for cities to start building a system to evaluate urban green spaces. After completing the study, we produced some recommendations regarding urban green spaces, including (non-exhaustive):
    - Recognize the importance of deployment and maintenance of urban green spaces as it relates to health and wellbeing.
    - Developing tools and governance mechanisms for urban green, including new partnerships to accelerate transformational change.
    - An integrated valuation of urban green spaces is needed to recognize the benefits in enhancing community health, safety and well-being.

- Durban:

"Today, 60% of our city’s area sits under traditional authority leadership. That is where most of our preservation worthy assets are. This, together with the fact that 25% of the open space is under private ownership, meant that, as a city, we needed to be transformative in our approach to the protection of these ecological assets.

The interventions that we have put in place so far have not only bolstered the ecosystems concerned, but has also built resilience to climate change, protected critical infrastructure and created many jobs, while also raising the much-needed public awareness. We want to provide the most benefits to society and nature in cost effective ways.

As a city, we recognize the economic benefits of these assets to the growth of our country and we recognize that the survival of the ecosystem is crucial. We are beginning to produce results and we would like to share them with the global community, along with the lessons that we have learned along the way. We have a lot to contribute to the narrative.”

Chumisa Thengwa
Deputy Head: Environmental Planning and Climate Protection, Durban

Moderator:

“Durban has been one of the leading cities to recognize the economic contribution of open spaces and ecosystems services as Nature-Based urban solutions to sustainable development. Tell us more about the rooted importance of this topic that aligns with one of three overarching themes for the U20 this year.”
b. Panel discussions: extracts from the questions and answers, highlighting key messages from speakers:

**Moderator:**

“The implementation of the global biodiversity, climate and sustainability agendas greatly depends on how action is being taken by subnational levels of governments, starting with cities. What are the main challenges faced by Durban so far and expected in the coming years particularly in the aftermath of COVID-19?”

**Durban:**

“Historically, as we moved through the journey of protecting our open spaces, we quickly understood that what we are protecting is not the Amazon or something as amazing as the ecosystems that they have in Cape Town. Thus, making a business case to have Durban’s open spaces prioritized was a challenge. However, with the interventions that we put in place, we managed to create a lot of awareness amongst our citizens. With COVID, many of the challenges that we’re facing before are even more magnified such as unemployment, and if we do not align our message with economic development and social messages, the city will lose their environment.”

**Montreal:**

“As ICLEI previously mentioned, the UN recently had a summit on biodiversity. The UN is a classic institution made by countries. However, some city officials were invited to the summit including a Canadian mayor. I think this is quite significant and indicative of the fact that cities are gradually getting a seat at the table of major world issues including biodiversity. In order to achieve that, there has been a lot of collaboration between cities. Internally in Canada, there is still a lot of work going on between cities and the national government which is also promising. For biodiversity, collaboration between different levels of private and public sector is essential. What we do or what we don’t do in one city influences neighboring cities. Thus, national governments should set policies on a range of issues: land use planning, risk prevention, evasive species, data sharing. This would help smaller cities make stands in issues such as biodiversity. Also, for big and influential projects, cities need funding and support from the higher level of government. We need to look at ourselves as partners.”

**Moderator:**

“Montreal, being the pioneer city it is on the tangible action in building cities with nature, has called upon mayors and leaders of local and subnational governments from around the world to jointly take urgent action to cease and reverse the trends of biodiversity loss, raising the ambition of cities in support of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Do you see any change in how national governments and cities can work together and in complementary ways?”

**Riyadh:**

“Riyadh has already launched several mega projects in different aspects related to urban services: Riyadh Metro, Riyadh bus system, public transport and others related to environment enhancement and restoration. The mega project in this regard is the Green Riyadh. We also have the King Salman Park (one of the largest urban parks in the world). In addition, another mega project is the Sports Boulevard of 25km of length. Those are some of the key mega projects being launched. The city of Riyadh is trying to deliver these projects as soon as possible. We are determined to restore our environment and preserve our open spaces. The city also undertook the Wadi project, a 100-km natural river that runs through the desert. The wadis are a very good example of how to restore nature by building green and blue infrastructures to provide opportunities for the city population, whether it be for sports, recreation or events. This will also improve the biodiversity of the city. We want to encourage the government, the private sector and NGOs to undertake such encouraging projects.”

**Moderator:**

“Riyadh has launched several large scales and long term investment programs tackling among others, mobility and the environment. The ‘Green Riyadh’ project is a multi-billion-dollar investment process meant to create green and blue infrastructure to transform the city and ensure sustainable development. Following the examples of Montreal and Durban do you feel Riyadh could contribute to the global efforts of cities in achieving global environment and development goals?”

**Ibrahim Alshaye**

General Director for Urban Strategic Planning, Royal Commission for Riyadh City

**Henri-Paul Normandin**

Ambassador and Director for International Relations, Montreal

**Chumisa Thengwa**

Deputy Head: Environmental Planning and Climate Protection, Durban
"We need to articulate two dynamics: international agreements on a series of subjects and how to translate international commitments to local action and how to report on them. Those challenges are not new but are more and more complex, specifically for small cities. IFIs are in close contact with national governments, which makes it easy to define roadmaps. Also, they have loads of technical corporations to solve local and national issues.

There are three important actions we are already doing at the IADB and should be useful for the IFIs: Adapting international commitments to the local level; Tracking the results of policy and investment decisions; and Piloting, evaluating and bringing to scale.

Moderator:

"You are a recognized global advocate of connecting ‘nature’ and biodiversity with the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on the Paris Agreement, in short, biodiversity and climate. Now, and especially in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, can Nature-Based Solutions help enhance the NDCs, and how can cities become a global catalyst to do so?

Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF):

"I just want to emphasize that we are in the moment of three crises at the same time: COVID, climate change and biodiversity loss. We are in the perfect moment where everything that we must do globally needs to meet multiple objectives at the same time. Nature-Based solutions can do that for us. We know for example that 25% of global carbon emissions come from management of resources on land. Thus, there is enormous potential to increase carbon sequestration through Nature-Based approaches. Cities need to think of themselves within that larger landscape well outside of city borders. Resilience is also very important to think about. Cities are often coastal and there are many coastal initiatives that can be undertaken. Again, we need to work by keeping in mind all 3 crises. Also, Nature-Based solutions can counter the global recession by creating new jobs and providing huge benefits in the COVID world.

Finally, and because cities are in the frontlines of climate change impacts, they are some of the most effective advocates in the global scale. They should be the testing grounds to prove what solutions work."

Ophelie Chevalier
Lead Specialist, IADB

Moderator:

"Ahead of the COP15 Biodiversity and COP26 on Climate to be held in 2021, one key question is how to coordinate national and local efforts to reinforce the convergence among the Paris Agreement’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) / the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the Agenda 2030 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). How can multilateral institutions, starting with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) support cities in dealing with such new perspectives of global problem solving?"

Inter-American Development Bank (IADB):

"You are a recognized global advocate of connecting ‘nature’ and biodiversity with the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on the Paris Agreement, in short, biodiversity and climate. Now, and especially in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, can Nature-Based Solutions help enhance the NDCs, and how can cities become a global catalyst to do so?"

Ryan Bartlett
Director, Climate Risk Management 
Resilience, WWF

3. Focus Session 3.2 – Urban sanitation and waste management for all

a. Overview presentation on the U20 whitepaper “Urban sanitation and waste management for all”, delivered by U20 knowledge partner and co-author of the paper, the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) represented by Deputy Dean, Chul Ju Kim

- The whitepaper urges global leaders to create effective national strategies to provide appropriate facilities and services for sanitation and waste management for all citizens.
- The whitepaper is built on the legacy of the U20 Tokyo last year and the issues of quality infrastructure investments. A declaration from the G20 2019 Osaka Summit proposed practice strategies to combine facilities and services delivery facilitation on waste management.
- The paper highlighted ways to deal with the current situation and impact, especially with regard to COVID-19, and the lessons learned from success stories achieved by six cities in three continents: Yokohama in Japan, Indore in India, Durban in South Africa, Lomé in Togo, Moscow in Russia, and Paris in France. These cities shared invaluable experiences in managing sanitation and solid waste.
- The challenge of risk prioritization resulted in ineffective institutional and regulatory framework and investments, especially in developing countries where central and local governments lack proper capacity and financial resources. This leads to huge consequences in mismanagement of urban water and water at the local and national levels. This challenge has the potential to be a global concern with high cost in health, air, soil and water. Thus, the return on investment in this sector is substantial.
- Enabling the development of the low cost accountable solutions is one of the opportunities discussed in this paper, but it requires government policies to effectively engage with the market and private sectors, as well as enabling an ecosystem with proper regulatory framework and innovative financing methods, and certainly includes international corporations amongst various partners.

Lead Authors:
Asian Development Bank Institute & National Institute of Urban Affairs

Contributors:
• Durban
• Moscow
• Knowledge Partners:
  • ADBI
  • NEIA
  • AFD

Key Message:
Global leaders are urged to adopt new urban development programs addressing climate and pollution and to create more “effective nature-based strategies to achieve sustainable city development to pre-empt property risks and enhance urban resilience to climate shocks, including social and operational costs consequences.

Key Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges
- COVID-19 lack of Urban Sanitation and Waste Management (USWM) Systems (income, impacts, urban areas)
- Post-COVID-19 Misconceptions in economic and GDP growth, USWM not a priority, although global consequences of local and urban environments have high costs (health, air, soil and water)

Opportunities
- Political economy and the COVID-19 Pandemic, building on the prioritizations of citizen society, to address the acute vulnerabilities of secondary markets of recycling
- Co-creation innovation: Government interventions for USWM successful strategic action in government policies and governance, reviewing opportunities in international cooperation

Case Studies

Urban sanitation and waste management for all

This white paper urges global leaders to create effective national strategies to provide appropriate facilities and services for sanitation and waste management. The paper dedicates an (1) challenge for developing countries in providing sanitation and waste management, (6) ways to deal with the current situation and impact, and (3) lessons learned from success stories achieved by six cities in three continents: Yokohama in Japan, Indore in India, Durban in South Africa, Lomé in Togo, Moscow in Russia, and Paris in France. These cities shared invaluable experiences in managing sanitation and solid waste.
Policy recommendations presented in the whitepaper

- Create a universal right of access to essential services starting with sanitation and waste management.
- Include USWM in the urban development policies of countries and comprehensive development plans of cities.
- Create policy guidance for countries to develop urban sanitation and waste management.
- Identify sources and mechanisms of innovative financing for sanitation and waste management.
- Engage with stakeholders in the city (city government officials, elected representatives, and civil society) during policy preparation.
- Provide capacity building and training for stakeholders during implementation of effective sanitation and solid waste management practices.
- Strengthen existing research and city-to-city networks and collaborate with wider research networks among the G20 countries and beyond on urban planning and implementation of sanitation and waste management practices adapted to each context and level of development of the country.

b. Panel discussions: extracts from the questions and answers, highlighting key messages from speakers:

**Moderator:**

"AFD (Agence Française de Développement) has extensive experience of implementing cooperation and projects worldwide. In many developing and emerging economies, the mismanagement of solid waste has been polluting land, water and air, thus leading to spread of disease and generation of greenhouse gases. Is international cooperation fit for purpose to meet the challenges of urban sanitation and waste in the next decade?"

**Agence Française de Développement (AFD):**

"In the urban solid waste management sector I see the opportunity to approve the Solid Waste Management System by supporting programs and projects that aim to provide a quality service to all in order to reduce waste production through a waste management theory, which includes prevention, reuse, recycling, recover, and only then final disposal of waste. AFD adopts an integrated approach that is different depending on the context. In low income countries, our intervention will be more of the urgency and the solution that can help to predict the issue right away, and more developed and high-income countries, we can adopt a more complicated and more strategic solution which depends on the organization of the country. We integrate all the actors, by that we mean all the vulnerable actors including informal actors of the sector, who are very present in the sector of waste management, and we don’t want to put them apart to avoid the issue of social inclusion and to also promote gender equality. So being a major player of the investments, we commit to having 100% of our fund that meet the Paris agreement, but also 50% commit positive impact on climate change by the greenhouse initiative. So for instance, we are now part of the clean ocean initiative that intends to reduce the pollution of the oceans in terms of plastic."

**Moderator:**

"Building effective infrastructure for waste management requires substantial financial resources. In developing countries, this coincides with other growth priorities like transportation and manufacturing, only redoubled by the current COVID-19 pandemic crisis. How can MDBs contribute effectively to upscale waste and sanitation issues as a global concern?"

**Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI):**

“We need general guidelines and some pressure from international and multilateral development banks to help countries achieve targets for sanitation and waste management facilities. The MDB should get an international forum, create a target or commitment by trying to reach a certain level, and then each country that are actually in a lower standard can put the assistance to that area so the assistance can be effectively allocated. Also, I would like to use our recommendation on the universal right to access; because we know that sanitation and waste management is not highly profitable so of course it could not be compensated from waste recovery and recycle. So, the market is not profitable, and we press on subsidies to enforce regulation and many external partners. Thus, MDB can proceed to have operation opportunities among local government and their agencies across the globe."

**Moderator:**

"After the several massive national campaigns launched in Indian cities to modernize waste and sanitation systems and involving your organization, would you say India is now considering urban sanitation and waste management infrastructure at the right level? How can the lessons learned in India serve within the G20 and beyond to tackle GDP losses due to the lack of sanitation and waste management?"

**National Institute for Urban Affairs (New Delhi):**

“There is a Solid Waste Management Rule, which was introduced in 2016 by the Ministry of Environment and foreign government of India, that made it mandatory for all waste generators to make sure waste is segregated and it mandates all cities to segregate waste, at least into three categories that are biodegradable, non-biodegradable and domestic sanitary waste. Furthermore, there is also something called the Swachh Survekshan that was launched around 2016 and is one of the world’s largest nationwide cleanliness service that covers 4370 cities as of now and every day the number of cities is also growing. The objective has been to eliminate open defecation, ensure that there is solid waste management and 100% treatment of solid waste.. There has also been a lot of focus on decentralized waste management with policy incentives. As well as policy shift in the way government is being looked at, earlier government was looked at as a provider of services, now government is being looked at as a facilitator. We focus on segregation of waste, recovery of waste through material recovery facilities, construction and demolition waste, and remove legacy waste."

**Moderator:**

"There are two ways to approach the problem of waste management in urban areas. The first is through the provision of essential services, such as sanitation and waste management, and the second is through the promotion of sustainable behaviors and practices. How can we ensure that these two approaches complement each other effectively?"

**Chul Ju Kim**

Deputy Dean, ADBI

**Paramita Datta Dey**

Specialist, NIUA

**Alexandra Monteiro**

Senior Projects Team leader and Waste Expert, AFD
E. Session 4 - Special Working Group on COVID-19 Session

Overview of the session

The purpose of this session is to provide an overview of the Special Working Group (SWG) objectives, process and outcomes, as well as a summary of the efforts put forth by the G20 to address COVID-19 pandemic. The session will include a summary of SWG outcome report; policy recommendations that were finalized based on the input received from more than ten cities and five knowledge partners; and an overview of the proposed Global Urban Resilience Fund objective and concept.

Speakers

- U20 Chair, Fahd Al-Rasheed
- Assistant Minister for International Financial Affairs and Macro-Fiscal Policy at the Ministry of Finance of Saudi Arabia, Abdulaziz M. Al-Rasheed
- U20 Sherpa, Royal Commission for Riyadh City, Abdulmohsen AlGhannam
- Former Mayor of Quito (2014-2019) and Visiting Scholar of University of Pennsylvania Mauricio Rodas
Under the U20 Riyadh Chairmanship, the response to COVID-19 was agile. The U20 was able to respond to and address the pandemic and its impacts on cities and the global economy. The U20 adopted the implementation of unparalleled fiscal, monetary and financial stability actions. Key actions and measures taken include:

- **G20 countries injected $11 billion in the global economy, which is over four times as compared to the amount provided during the financial crisis in 2008-09.**
- In April, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors launched the G20 Action Plan that include key commitments across five pillars –
  1. Health Response, especially compliance with the International Health Regulations
  2. Economic and Financial Response, especially raising funds to address the emergency and galvanizing support for businesses and households
  3. Returning to Strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth
  4. International Support for Countries in Need including rapid access to capital and debt relief
  5. Lessons for the Future

In addition to the economic and financial measures, the G20 finance track is also committed to quality infrastructure investment by engaging the private sector. The G20 is also committed to urban infrastructure investment aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Agenda and endorse G20 Riyadh InfraTech Agenda.

G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative provided liquidity relief to emerging and low income countries estimated at $14 billion for 73 countries.

Selected recommendations:

- **1. Global response to avoid deep and prolonged negative economic impact while addressing health concerns**
- **2. Medium and long term actions that will foster recovery**
- **G20 will continue to enable inclusive growth and opportunities for all, reduce inequality and the impact on the marginalized section of the society.**
- **The G20 Presidency, endorse the G20 menu of policy options for supporting immediate responses to Covid-19 and build sustainable and inclusive recovery.**

Fahd Al-Rasheed
Speaker - U20 Chair, His Excellency

The G20 Finance track took swift and collective actions to address the pandemic impact and support nations in recovering. The G20 adopted implementation of unparalleled fiscal, monetary and financial stability actions. Key actions and measures taken include:

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  3. Returning to Strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth
  4. International Support for Countries in Need including rapid access to capital and debt relief
  5. Lessons for the Future

In early 2020, IMF deployed a comprehensive agenda and endorse G20 Riyadh InfraTech Agenda.

Abdulaziz M. Al-Rasheed
Assistant Minister for International Financial Affairs and Macro-Fiscal Policy at the Ministry of Finance of Saudi Arabia

Key messages and takeaways

1. Working Group Overview

   **Speaker - Assistant Minister for International Financial Affairs and Macro-Fiscal Policy at the Ministry of Finance of Saudi Arabia, Fahd Al-Rasheed**

   - Cities are at the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak and have encountered greater impact owing to their high density and concentration of economic activities.
   - Ensuring public safety and continuation of key services requires increased resources for healthcare systems, while containment measures intensify economic impacts and exacerbate socio-economic issues. This domino effect has put immense pressure on cities, which are home to over half of the world’s population and generate almost 80% of world GDP yet have limited access to financing mechanisms.
   - The U20 was agile in responding to COVID-19 and established a Special Working Group to develop action-oriented response and recovery recommendations.
   - Under the U20 Riyadh Chairmanship, the working group brought together two Co-Chair cities, Rome and Buenos Aires, ten participating cities and seven knowledge partners from around the world that shared best practices as well as cultivated evidence-based innovative policy solutions for managing the pandemic and economic recovery.
   - The COVID-19 Special Working Group took a collaborative approach and brought diverse stakeholders together.

   - The SWG examined the challenges, impacts and responses to COVID-19 as well as anticipated future shocks that may affect cities.
   - It leveraged the practical experiences of city mayors, who have been managing the pandemic, to bring G20 leaders actionable, informed, evidence-based solutions. Finance was SWG’s primary focus area, and the group identified effective and innovative mechanisms that are being successfully implemented during the pandemic.
   - Tackling the economic, social and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic will take years. Nations and their cities will need ample financial assistance to develop, adapt and implement their resilience frameworks for dealing with this crisis and future shocks that will inevitably come.
   - This U20 Special Working Group offers the Group of 20 (G20) key recommendations to address current and future shocks, to be achieved through collaboration among national and local governments, international organizations, the private sector and civil society.

   - We are grateful to have this opportunity to speak and discuss the Special Working Group outcomes with all of you today and look forward to your continued engagement.

2. G20 response to COVID-19

   **Speaker - Assistant Minister for International Financial Affairs and Macro-Fiscal Policy at the Ministry of Finance of Saudi Arabia, Abdulaziz M. Al-Rasheed**

   The G20 Finance track took swift and collective actions to address the pandemic impact and support nations in recovering. The G20 adopted implementation of unparalleled fiscal, monetary and financial stability actions. Key actions and measures taken include:

   - **G20 countries injected $11 billion in the global economy, which is over four times as compared to the amount provided during the financial crisis in 2008-09.**
   - In April, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors launched the G20 Action Plan that include key commitments across five pillars –
     1. Health Response, especially compliance with the International Health Regulations
     2. Economic and Financial Response, especially raising funds to address the emergency and galvanizing support for businesses and households
     3. Returning to Strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth
     4. International Support for Countries in Need including rapid access to capital and debt relief
     5. Lessons for the Future
   - **In early 2020, IMF deployed a comprehensive support worth over $88 billion for 81 countries.**

   - **Selected recommendations:**
     - **1. Global response to avoid deep and prolonged negative economic impact while addressing health concerns**
     - **2. Medium and long term actions that will foster recovery**
     - **G20 will continue to enable inclusive growth and opportunities for all, reduce inequality and the impact on the marginalized section of the society.**
     - **The G20 Presidency, endorse the G20 menu of policy options for supporting immediate responses to Covid-19 and build sustainable and inclusive recovery.**

   - **In addition to the economic and financial measures, the G20 finance track is also committed to quality infrastructure investment by engaging the private sector. The G20 is also committed to urban infrastructure investment aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Agenda and endorse G20 Riyadh InfraTech Agenda.**

   - **Saudi Arabia and G20 will continue to work to overcome the pandemic and build sustainable, balanced and inclusive recovery.**
3. Special Working Group Policy Recommendations Overview

**Speaker 1 - U20 Sherpa, Royal Commission for Riyadh City, Abdulmohsen AlGhannam**

Finance was the Special Working Group’s primary focus area, and the group identified effective and innovative mechanisms that are being successfully implemented during the pandemic. It leveraged the practical experiences of city mayors who have been managing the pandemic, to bring G20 leaders actionable, informed, evidence-based solutions.

The U20 Special Working Group proposed five key recommendations to the G20 leaders to address current and future shocks, to be achieved through collaboration among national and local governments, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society. These include:

- Steer recovery programs to encompass seven key areas that affect cities and other areas that drive national economies (green construction, clean mobility, renewable energy, active transport, Nature-Based solutions, waste and resources, and research and development for clean technologies).
- Develop and coordinate innovative collaborative tools, partnerships, or contracts across all levels of government while fostering citizen engagement to meet concomitantly place-specific needs, national objectives, and global commitments related to health, resilience, and sustainable development.
- Create a city-led Global Urban Resilience Fund to support short-term (rapid-fire emergency interventions) and long-term (resilience-building investments in public infrastructure/public goods) recovery efforts.
- Harness innovative mechanisms to engage the private sector in investing in cities’ infrastructure and resilience capacity-building.
- Work to increase the channels of direct collaboration between cities and international financial institutions.

**Speaker 2 - U20 Chair, Fahd Al-Rasheed**

The U20 Riyadh Chair announced the creation of the “Global Urban Resilience Fund” acknowledging that cities worldwide have a fundamental role in recovering from the pandemic and achieving sustainable resilient development. The key objective of the fund is to increase cities’ ability to access international financing in order to effectively tackle the world’s most pressing issues, like pandemics, climate change, and rapid urbanization.

The “Global Urban Resilience Fund” is the first-ever cities-led fund managed and governed from a city perspective under the U20 umbrella for tackling COVID-19-related challenges and future external shocks. The U20 aims to deliver financial facilities for cities, therefore changing the nation-level, rather than city-level rationale, in which the international financial architecture has currently been led. The fund will be a transformation in city financial empowerment and can prove to be a milestone where cities get direct and timely access to resources to develop resilient infrastructure and strengthen their capabilities.

**Speaker 3 - Former Mayor of Quito (2014-2019) and Visiting Scholar of University of Pennsylvania Mauricio Rodas**

The Global Urban Resilience Fund intends to serve focused objectives:

- Act as a globally shared and accessible fund for cities and governed by cities.
- Provide agile disaster response funds for cities based on their needs to ensure effective, unbureaucratic, transparent, and rapid emergency actions.
- Provide access to infrastructure investments that increase the resilience of cities around the globe.
- Provide multiple financial products and instruments including grants and loans to cities while providing new opportunities for investors.
- Unlocking new financial instruments and funding mechanisms currently unavailable through the existing international finance architecture.

**F. 20 Mayors’ Closed Meeting**

**Overview of the session**

The session was designed to encourage interventions by city leaders and agree on specific policy priorities for the G20, and subsequently engage city leaders on the future of U20. The session covered perspectives from different U20 cities on the endorsed Communiqué.

The purpose of this session was to provide a space for an open dialogue among U20 Mayors to hear perspectives from cities and identify the key messages and priorities from the U20 Communiqué. The session also aimed to facilitate advocacy with the G20, maximizing of policy recommendations adopted into the G20 agenda, encourage dialogue across the G20 and continued engagement on the U20 agenda into the next chairmanship.

The session was commenced by the U20 Chair, followed by remarks from the Conveners, and divided into two segments: the first for city interventions on the U20 Communiqué priorities and key messages facilitated by the U20 Sherpa and the second for presenting key messages to the G20 that was facilitated by the U20 Conveners, UCLG, and C40.

**Speakers**

Attendance for this session was restricted to city leaders only, represented by both mayors and delegated mayoral officials. Time frames were provided to each speaker, in the call order of mayors first in alphabetical sequence followed by mayoral representatives, also in alphabetical sequence. Twenty-four cities were present during this session and the cities of Tokyo and Sao Paulo shared pre-recorded messages that were played during the meeting. The table below presents these cities and their respective speakers who attended the U20 Mayors’ Closed Meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Representative Name</th>
<th>Representative Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dubai</td>
<td>Dawood Al Hajiri</td>
<td>Director General of Dubai Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helsinki</td>
<td>Jan Vapaavuori</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>Sylvester Turner</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>Mpho Moerane</td>
<td>Councilor (Acting) Mayor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotterdam</td>
<td>Ahmed Aboutaleb</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>Johnny Araya Monge</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strasbourg</td>
<td>Jeanne Barseghian</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tegucigalpa</td>
<td>Nasry Asfoua</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tshwane</td>
<td>Mpho Nawa</td>
<td>Lead Administrator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“My dear mayors, governors and city leaders,

Let me express my most heartfelt thanks for the time, effort and energy that you and your teams have invested in the U20 process this year. We have come quite a distance together, even though we have spent most of the year apart.

As I open this session where we can speak frankly and honestly, I remind us all that with the huge challenges we face as city leaders – climate change, future shocks, increases in population – we need to look towards our future together. We believe in a better tomorrow.

We want to achieve a better tomorrow, or we wouldn’t be here doing what we do. But this can only be achieved through collaboration. In the U20 so far we keep hearing the same theme, over and over; “We are better together than we are apart” “Now is the time to harness the infrastructure connection of urbanization” – these are all quotes from some of the brilliant speakers we have been lucky enough to listen to over the course of this Summit.

I leave you with this thought as I hand over the session to you. Our cities – all cities – have a shared destiny and common ground to cover. Through collaboration we can overcome adversity.

Thank you.”

From the Opening Remarks for the Mayors’ Closed Session
U20 Chair, Fahd Al-Rasheed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
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<th>Representative Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abu Dhabi</td>
<td>Abdullah Al Marzooqi</td>
<td>Representative from the Department of Municipalities and Transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
<td>Sabine Gimbrere</td>
<td>Mayor representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>Barbara Berninger</td>
<td>Mayor representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buenos Aires</td>
<td>Fernando Straface</td>
<td>Mayor representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Izmir</td>
<td>Onur Eryuce</td>
<td>Mayor representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisbon</td>
<td>Pedro Vaz</td>
<td>Mayor representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>Dilpreet Sidhu</td>
<td>Mayor representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>Henri-Paul Normandin</td>
<td>Mayor representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moscow</td>
<td>Evgenya Semutnikova</td>
<td>Mayor representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osaka</td>
<td>Takayuki Toriyama</td>
<td>Mayor representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio de Janeiro</td>
<td>Antonio Mello</td>
<td>Mayor representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>Luca Trifone</td>
<td>Mayor representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seoul</td>
<td>Hyoung zhin KIM</td>
<td>Acting Mayor representative</td>
</tr>
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Cities’ interventions: Key Messages
Structured by the Chatham House Rule, cities who attended this Meeting provided interventions reflecting on their alignment with the U20 priorities and recommendations set in the endorsed U20 Communiqué. Below are highlights from the cities’ remarks.

- “The focus of the U20 should be leveraging the channel to the benefit of cities and their development needs.”
- “Cities must be an active voice to ensure the concerns of climate change, human rights, building more resilient cities and equitable economic development remain at the top of the global agenda.”
- “Smart cities cannot exist and be realized without smart citizens.”
- “In these times, there is a need to take advantage of this window of opportunity to implement a sustainable economy that socially respects people and keeps the environment ecologically balanced.”
- “COVID has made cities aware that there is a need to accelerate the transition of society.”
- “All cities must work together to win this harsh battle against COVID-19 and achieve equitable, sustainable, inclusive and healthy societies.”
- “Investing in youth development as a key resource for the future and building on the creativity and motivation through involvement in civic and development programs.”
- “Another future challenge is Climate change. Cities need to ensure that changes are socially just, and responsibility is distributed equally.”
- “To be effective and efficient, the U20 should help bring the work of other networks and multilateral organizations to a next level and to reopen controversial issues already agreed upon like climate change and human rights.”
Overview of the session
The purpose of this session was to conclude the U20 process for 2020 chaired by the city of Riyadh with the formal handover of the U20 Communique, the work product of U20 cities, to the G20 Presidency of the Saudi Arabia. The session took the form of a virtual assembly of the U20 Chair and the U20 Executive Team with the presence of virtual guests representing the Saudi Presidency of G20, ending with the ceremonial handover of the Communique. This session was divided into four consecutive segments: i) Remarks by the G20 Saudi Sherpa; ii) Keynote speech by the G20 Presidency; iii) Handover of the U20 Communique to the G20 Presidency; and iv) Closing remarks by the U20 Chair.

Speakers
- G20 Saudi Sherpa remarks delivered by His Excellency Fahad Al Mubarak
- Keynote speech by G20 Presidency delivered by the royal delegate of His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz, chair of the Saudi Arabia presidency of the G20, Minister of Housing and acting Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs His Excellency Majid Al Hogail
- Handover of the U20 Communique to the G20 Presidency and Closing remarks delivered by the U20 Chair Fahd Al-Rasheed

G. Handover of the U20 Communique

It is now time to evaluate to what extent did the U20’s appeals and calls have really impacted the G20 process and how did they influence the G20 resolutions and which of the cities’ proposals were translated into national policies and action.”

We are very proud that many of the agendas of cities that were set before the COVID pandemic were part of the Communique”

We are happy to see that all cities are extending their capacities to orchestrate the resources needed to overcome these global challenging times.”

A degree of novelty was introduced by the U20 this year, which is the importance highlighted by the Communique attached to the Nature-Based Solutions along with ecosystem services and biodiversity.”

Cities must act towards sustainable development and to leave no one behind.”

The development of the taskforces, the Special Working Group on COVID-19 and the U20 Communique will send a strong message to the G20 leaders to commit to the interventions needed to overcome the current crisis in order to build back better.”

Cities need to come up with more innovative ideas and strategies to provide for citizens and visitors to cities.”

The U20 instilled a sense of community among cities when addressing the common urban challenges related to climate change, among others.”

Mayors must face all the problems cities have, that is why it is of utmost importance to have the tools to be able to move them forward.”

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Cities need to come up with more innovative ideas and strategies to provide for citizens and visitors to cities.”
The advent of COVID-19 has challenged the world in ways that could not have been anticipated since the start of our journey of the Saudi G20 presidency year. The U20 was very active in participating in 8 side events and issuing several statements to the extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit on COVID-19, in producing 15 whitepapers, two U20 Sherpa meetings, and taskforces reviewing meetings and by establishing a special working group on COVID-19.

The Summit will also focus on making economic recovery sustainable and inclusive, thus laying the foundations for a resilient future for humanity and a recovery that protects the hardcore of our values and development for the coming decades. The U20 Sherpa remarks.
3. Summit Closing Remarks and Handover of the U20 Communique

The U20 handover of the Communique to the G20 Saudi Presidency:

"Your Excellency,

Thank you for being with us on behalf of the Saudi Presidency of the G20, I now have the honor to present to you on behalf of the Urban 20 the final Communique which has received a record number of endorsements from cities around the world in the history of the Urban 20.

"His Excellency Mr. Majid bin Abdullah al-Hogail, Saudi Minister of Housing, and Acting Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, Official Representative of the Saudi G20 Presidency,

His Excellency Dr. Fahad bin Abdullah al-Mubarak Saudi Minister of State and Member of the Council of Ministers, and Saudi Arabia’s G20 Sherpa,

Your Excellencies and Highnesses; our honorable guests from all over the world,

At this moment, as we conclude the U20 Mayors’ Summit and reach this important milestone, I am honored to extend my immense gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, for their patronage of this Summit.

Today, we are honored to reach the pinnacle of the U20 process by delivering our Communique to the G20 Presidency. In our Communique, we convey the voice of urban populations all over the world to the leaders of the G20.

I feel immensely proud of my colleagues in the Riyadh team, and I thank them for their hard work. I would also like to thank our partner cities and institutions for their participation, communication, and cooperation, which culminated today in the endorsement of 39 cities for this Communique, a new record for the U20.

But our work does not stop here, nor at the end of our role as Chair. We will continue to support the U20 in every possible way, and we extend our best wishes for success and good fortune to Italy’s U20 Presidency.

Peace, mercy and blessings of God.”

U20 Chair for 2020 Fahd Al-Rasheed
04. About the U20 Riyadh team

Fahd Abdulmohsan Al-Rasheed is the Chair of the U20 2020 and the President of the Royal Commission for Riyadh City. In his capacity as the U20 Chair, Al-Rasheed steered and oversaw the strategic direction, agenda and goals of the group, and spearheaded the dialogue with city leaders, international think-tanks and multi-lateral organizations.

As President of the Royal Commission for Riyadh City he oversees an ambitious program to develop the city into a world hub. Projects currently underway include Riyadh’s Four Megaprojects (King Salman Park, Green Riyadh, the Sports Boulevard, and Riyadh Art) and the transformative Riyadh Metro. Al-Rasheed is an advisor at the Royal Court of Saudi Arabia, and the Founder and Chairman of the non-profit Red Sea Foundation. In addition, he is the Chairman of the Board of King Faisal Specialized Hospital & Research Centre and Chairman of the Board of King Abdullah Financial District. Al-Rasheed also serves on the Boards and Committees of several organizations including Emaar The Economic City, King Abdullah Port, Harvard Kennedy School Dean’s Council, Qiddiya Investment Company, Diriyah Gate Development Authority, and the New Cities Foundation.

Hosam Al Qurashi is the U20 Vice Chair for 2020 and an advisor to the Royal Commission for Riyadh City. Hosam has nearly two decades of experience in Brand Development, Corporate Strategy & Retail Management. In 2015, he was awarded the prestigious Retail Professional of the Year Award across MENA by the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC). Hosam was the Chief Commercial Officer of Panda, the largest grocery retailer in MENA overseeing marketing, category management and central trade buying. Before that, he was the Chief Executive Officer of Whites Pharmacies.
The U20 Sherpa

Abdulmohsen Al Ghannam is the U20 Sherpa. Al Ghannam is an Urban Planner in the Transit-oriented Development Department at the Royal Commission for Riyadh City. The U20 Sherpa was heavily involved in the planning and preparatory activities of the U20 2020 taskforces and all content, city diplomacy and the Communique. Al Ghannam led the discussions on several sessions during the first and second Sherpa meetings and moderated the Mayors’ Summit Closed Meeting.
05. Summary of the U20 2020 Mayors' Summit Side Events

U20 Mayors' Summit 2020: Side Events, September 30

Following is the agenda of side events that took place on September 30 followed by a succinct description of all eight side events held during the U20 Mayors' Summit. Key discussion points and takeaways are also highlighted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Side Event 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hosted by</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>Virtual Break</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hosted by</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:15</td>
<td>Virtual Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>Side Event 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hosted by</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Virtual Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19:45</td>
<td>Side Event 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hosted by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:45</td>
<td>Virtual Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each side event will be hosted on a separate link. Please click on this link to register for side events and receive the meeting links.

Side Event 1: Future Cities: Beyond COVID-19

Screenshots showing the panelists on Side Event 1 and images of U20 Chair and session moderator from Riyadh.
Key Discussions and Takeaways –

- The side event addressed cities’ preparedness in facing recurring pandemics and natural or man-made disasters in terms of social, economic, and environmental aspects and the required investments in the enablers: governance, financing, and technology.
- The U20 Chair, Fahd Al-Rasheed, emphasized the importance of improving cities’ preparedness for future crises by adopting a risk management framework, increased resilience and smart risk management. This means identifying potential risks, the likelihood of them happening, the magnitude of their impact, defining the resources needed for mitigation, and understanding the different kinds of investment needed: “Digitalization and this new virtual reality won’t change us as human beings and in the sense, it won’t change us as social creatures, but it will drive our productivity and our economic recovery going forward.”
- Christopher Olson discussed how the city of Houston dealt with the changes that resulted from the pandemic, highlighting that the coronavirus has hit harder their most vulnerable communities and those that are both socially and economically disadvantaged. This demanded an aggressive solution in Houston, and the city was successful early on in flattening their curve. However, as the state began to reopen through June, Houston unfortunately witnessed a very rapid increase at a very high rate of cases with infection rates approaching 30%.
- "Before the pandemic we hired a Chief Resilience Officer and we hired a Sustainability Officer during the pandemic, we released both Houston’s Climate Action Plan, and the resilience strategy. These were not ideas and concepts that that grew out of the most recent pandemic, but really a realization that we needed to change the way we run a business and as His Excellency said, There are a lot of those challenges that cities knew existed... Over the course of the last five years we were making measurable investments in climate action, we were making investments into trying to build a smarter city, and address the digital divide”
- Luca Trifone summarized the challenges faced by the City of Rome in five main fields, the health consequences, social consequences, the need to restore the economic situation to the maximum extent possible, the consequences on the tourism sector, and ensuring an environmental protection framework to restore urban life.
- Mauricio Rodas highlighted three main points that are the reality of Latin American cities regarding COVID-19 the dissonance between the national governments’ regulations and local needs at this specific time, the lack of coordination between national and local governments, and the impact of COVID-19 when it comes to health services and other kinds of services “I think it is so urgent to call for international support for cities in order for them to keep advancing these kinds of very positive initiatives that were on their way, and that might be affected because of all the transformation that COVID has generated in cities in the Latin American region”
- Michael Berkowitz stressed some basic capacities that cities can build in order to help themselves survive, thrive, and become stronger and more able to withstand whatever comes next, those are: cohesive communities where neighbors check on neighbors, diverse economies with a strong middle-class job space, good governance with strong stakeholders at the table, and sustainable multi-use infrastructure.
- The following are preparedness measures and investments that the cities are making today to allow them to deal with future pandemics and natural or man-made disasters:
  - The U20 Chair: Riyadh city is investing in mass transit removing 2 million trips a day and lowering carbon emission, as well as investing in the quality of life.
  - Chris Olson: Houston is looking at long term actions to build a more resilient city, and then aligning those to the SDGs to really make sure the city is moving holistically forward.
  - Luca Trifone: Rome is working on sustainable mobility programs in order to reduce the number of private cars, including partnerships with the private sector with the objective to increase environmentally friendly means of transport in the city.

Screenshots showing the panelists on Side Event 2, hosted and moderated by ICLEI

Hosted by –  
ICLEI and the City of Durban

Moderator – 
Ingrid Coetzee, Senior Programme Manager ICLEI-Cities Biodiversity Center

Speakers/ Panelist – 
Chumisa Thengwa, Deputy Head: Environmental Planning and Climate Protection, City of Durban  
Shahid Solomon, Project Advisor C40 Cities Finance Facility  
Jeet Mistry, Program Manager, Funding and Partnerships, WWF Cities;  
Edoardo Croci: Academic Fellow at Department of Social and Political Sciences Bocconi University  
Louise Stafford, Director Source Water Protection South Africa, The Nature Conservancy (Water Funds)

Key Discussions and Takeaways –

- This side event objective was to explore how cities:
  - Balance urban challenges associated with climate change, disasters and pandemics with developmental priorities as we respond to the current crisis;
  - Build better to a green recovery going forward;
  - Redesign urban infrastructure in more sustainable ways going forward
- The side event further focused on building the financial, economic and Social justice case for Nature-Based solutions (NBS) in a green recovery, now and in the future
- The side event consisted of two parts. The first was a presentation session profiling the experiences, challenges, learnings and actions that the City of Durban faces in addressing its development and economic growth priorities post-COVID 19 in ways that will ensure sustainable, equitable, and just service delivery and infrastructure provision, and enhance resilience, while harnessing youth empowerment and building a green and just recovery. This was followed by a structured panel discussion among experts from academia and international organizations reflecting on the Durban case study, as well as global best practices and innovations
- The Durban case study also presented the key approaches that the City is undertaking to deal with its capacity and financial constraints
- Dealing with capacity constraints –
  - Comprehensive assessment of capacity needs by C40 CFF
  - Capacity Development Plan produced
- The side event addressed the issue of balancing urban challenges associated with climate change, disasters and pandemics and developmental priorities as cities respond to the current crisis
- Durban City brought forward during its presentation the capacity and financial constraints for implementation of Nature Based Solutions (NBS)
  - Capacity constraints include –
- Durban City brought forward during its presentation the capacity and financial constraints for implementation of Nature Based Solutions (NBS)
  - Low levels of awareness of: Ecological Infrastructure and Community based delivery of ecosystem services & ecological infrastructure
  - Skills are heavily biased to grey infrastructure design, construction & maintenance
  - No department has a mandate for NBS and weak transversal capability
  - Much talk, much theory: little action.
- Financial constraints include –
  - Heavy pressure on budgets to meet backlogs with grey solutions
  - Ecological infrastructure is not considered a capital asset in the accounting systems so cannot be funded from capital budgets. This also means that maintenance funding is not available
  - Extraordinary needs emerge from devastating impacts of climate change

- The Durban case study also presented the key approaches that the City is undertaking to deal with its capacity and financial constraints
  - Dealing with capacity constraints –
    - Comprehensive assessment of capacity needs by C40 CFF
    - Capacity Development Plan produced
    - Quick wins:
      - Climate Emergency Masterclass
      - Training in source funding
      - Mentoring in programme management
      - Emergence of a new culture of working together
• Dealing with financial constraints –
  • Mobilizing new sources of finance and funding
  • Raising finance from partnerships:
    • Within municipality through ring fencing
    • With property owners
    • With business
    • With global climate funds
• During the discussion on “Why it is critical for cities to understand the economic value of nature assets as well as the ecosystem services they provide” the panelist emphasized –
  • That cities need to conduct an economic valuation of natural assets and ecosystem services that unlock the “hidden” values of natural capital and provide monetary and financial business cases that encourage policy-makers and the private sector to support and advance the implementation of Nature Based Solutions
  • This collaboration will help address societal challenges in a cost-effective way while simultaneously providing environmental, social and economic benefits thereby helping to achieve green recovery and build resilience
  • Economic valuation must assess the following for building a comprehensive economic case –
    • The direct value (food and water) and indirect value (recreational, cultural and aesthetic values)
    • Cost reduction and resource efficiency opportunities
    • Insurance value of Nature-Based Solutions

Side Event 3: Transitioning Energy & Buildings in 100 Cities by 2030

Images showing Side Event 3 host, World Economic Forum, (top), the U20 Chair (middle) and Mayor of Helsinki (bottom) as part of the panel

Hosted by –
• World Economic Forum

Moderator –
• Alice Charles, Lead Cities & Real Estate, World Economic Forum

Speakers/ Panelist –
• Fahd Al-Rasheed, U20 Chair and President, Royal Commission for Riyadh City
• Jan Vapaavuori, Mayor, City of Helsinki, Finland
• Vincent Minier, Vice President, Global Strategy, Prospective & External Affairs, Schneider Electric, France
• Robert Denda, Head of Network Technology & Innovability, Enel, Italy
• Cristina Gamboa, CEO, World Green Building Council, UK
Key Discussions and Takeaways –

- The session focused on discussion around developing an actionable cooperation framework for accelerating the net-zero carbon transition in cities by embracing a systemic approach.
- The Net Zero Carbon Cities initiative aims to align and scale efforts to transition energy and buildings in cities. The Systemic Efficiency approach addresses the need to reduce carbon emissions through energy-efficient buildings and technology, smart energy infrastructure, and clean electrification.
- The City of Riyadh emphasized that cities need to be respectful of the local environment, local culture, heritage, but most importantly, the ecology around cities while developing the city infrastructure. Riyadh also emphasized the importance of following a multi-stakeholder collaboration approach between developers, investors, regulators, and especially citizens to build smart and energy-efficient buildings in cities.
- The private sector representatives resonated with the collaborative approach to accelerate the net-zero carbon transition in cities and additionally emphasized the necessity of integrating policy, financing and technological solutions that leverage digitalization to accelerate the transition. Energy grids of cities need digital upscaling that can conduct real-time optimization and management of energy flows to enable better consumption, decarbonization, resilience and sustainability.
- The World Green Building Council apprised on leveraging a whole life cycle approach (i.e energy generation to consumption) that will enable cities to better manage carbon budget and deliver societal benefits, while also safeguarding resources that can create more resilience.
- A Holistic leadership approach, complete systemic changes within the whole ecosystem are needed to succeed in the transition targets, suggested the Mayor of Helsinki. Helsinki is committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2045 and has laid a comprehensive plan consisting of 147 action points for making it happen.
- Panelists also advised to measure accurately the energy flow across the city demand and supply value chain to draw conclusions for urban planning and future refurbishments in order to make the system efficiently deliver on the objective. Panelists also stressed integrating policies around carbon pricing, decarbonization, retrofitting and renovation to enable systematic efficiency in cities.
- The session concluded the following key actions that cities must consider –
  - Energy optimization measures to reduce consumption across urban infrastructure, buildings, and transportation
  - Promoting electrification of buildings and transport powered by clean, renewable energy
  - Digitalization to measure energy flow across city demand and supply side infrastructure to drive policy decision and urban planning for socio-economic benefits
  - Encouraging circularity of materials for buildings

Side Event 4: Harnessing the Force of Urbanization to Accelerate SDG Delivery: The VLR and SDG Cities Global Initiative

Hosted by –
- UN-HABITAT

Moderator –
- Shipra Narang Suri, Chief, Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat

Speakers/ Panelist –
- Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group
- Tunç Soyer, Mayor of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, Turkey
- Begoña Villacís, Deputy Mayor of Madrid, Spain
- Anton Kulbachevsky, Head of Moscow Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Russia
- Mounir Tabet , Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCWA
- Amadou Thermo Diallo, Director General, Global Practices, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments
- Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Screenshots of panelists from Side Event 4 hosted by UN-Habitat
Key Discussions and Takeaways –

- Izmir City Mayor shared Izmir’s progress in achieving the SDGs and the ways they are measuring them. The mayor highlighted that the 17 sustainable development goals along with an additional 10 regional priorities are integrated into the new strategy for Izmir. The strategy includes a green city action plan and infrastructure investment. Izmir has defined parameters in the strategic plan to annually measure the accomplishment of municipal units in fulfilling their SDGs. Izmir is also developing policies to provide education, reduce inequalities and provide decent equal job opportunities. Izmir has also set up a Sustainable Urban Development network that brings together city stakeholders to co-create solutions to city-specific problems.

- Representatives from Madrid also emphasized the value of voluntary local reviews in advancing cities towards global goals and agendas. He mentioned that all cities can learn from this enriching process and each other how to make more effective and comparable progress towards the global agendas. The city of Madrid is currently building on previous work to localize SDGs and putting them at the core of the current political context. Madrid is developing a strategy for effective implementation and monitoring of SDG that also includes recovery from the current situation. Madrid is able to garner the political support of the current government and opposition parties and has agreed on a set of 352 short and long term actions that cover all aspects of municipal policies for vulnerable people, the elderly, the unemployed, housing, public transport, decarbonization, climate action, economic recovery, innovation, culture, tourism and many other aspects. Madrid’s aim is that the SDGs are not seen as an independent indicator but as integrated indicators that will enable recovery and help in achieving sustainable development.

- A common theme that is reflected by both Izmir and Madrid is that the SDGs are not standalone goals. They need to be integrated with city strategies, programs and infrastructure development plans.

- The Voluntary Local Reviews’ (VLRs) can become a highly useful contribution to local planning processes if they meet the following conditions –
  - The VLRs must not only be seen as a reporting tool, however, must be seen as an opportunity for a first step towards addressing the gaps and challenges in achieving the SDGs at the local level.
  - VLRs must be seen as an integral part of the national development agenda that recognize the importance of the local level and must support the development of integrated people-centered strategies to manage land, resources, and rising urbanization.
  - A whole society approach involving not only local authorities, but also representatives of NGOs, private sector, academics and communities must be involved for the continued contribution of local solutions to challenges that the VLR highlights.

- The representative from the Islamic Development Bank highlighted the multiple commonalities in the Islamic principle and the Sustainable Development architecture as both emphasize ethics, justice, fair treatment, equity, and inclusiveness. The Islamic principles and Finance address 12 out of 17 SDGs. The bank is focusing on supporting the infrastructure gap in cities and helping achieve the SDG targets.

- UCLG reinforced the importance of VLRs as a planning and advocacy tool that allow for conversations between the local national and international communities level to better shape outcomes from SDGs. It shows the important developments that are being made at the local level, and why some of the policies succeed and areas for improvement. VLRs are more of a learning tool rather than a monitoring tool.

- During the closing remarks, UN-Habitat stressed that the importance of an effective collaboration between all relevant actors across all levels is imperative to accelerate and the implementation of all the 17 SDGs Development Goals in the remaining decade of action and realization. VLRs translate the performance review into strategy action aimed at mobilizing partners, governance policy, stakeholders, multi-level actions, prioritizing strategy and impactful intervention in cities to improve the well-being and human settlements.

Side Event 5: Taking Action to Build Inclusive, Accessible Smart Cities

Screenshots of panelists from Side Event 5 co-hosted by Global Smart Cities Alliance and World Enabled
Hosted by –
• Global Smart Cities Alliance partnering with World Enabled

Moderator –
• Harrison Wolf – Aerospace and Drones Lead, World Economic Forum

Speakers/ Panelist –
• Victor Pineda, President of World Enabled and Fellow at World Economic Forum
• Christy Mitchell, Platform Curator, World Economic Forum
• Erol Özgüner, Chief Information Officer, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality
• Frances McAndrew, Diversity and Inclusion Lead, Transport for London
• Laura Ruby, Director, Accessibility Policy & Standards, Microsoft
• Hannes Juhlin Lagrelius, Program Manager, World Blind Organisation
• James Thurston, Vice President for Global Strategy & Development, G3ict

Key Discussions and Takeaways –
• The session focused on the global policy framework for ethical smart cities ahead of the G20 Summit in November. ICT accessibility is a flagship policy within this new framework, under the principle of equity, inclusivity, and social impact.
• This year’s U20 Summit in Riyadh marked a milestone for the smart cities sector, with the elevation of inclusivity and accessibility agenda to the forefront of the policy-making agenda for smart cities through the release of a landmark model policy for ICT accessibility by the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance. This new model policy, building on years of work by G3ict and World Enabled, will feature as one of five foundational model policies to be launched at the Smart City Expo ahead of the G20 summit.
• Our Urban 20 Summit outlined this development to a global audience of city representatives, helping to disseminate the model policy to key cities. Victor Pineda of World Enabled provided an overview of the history that led us to this point, and Christy Mitchell from the World Economic Forum explained the context of the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance and its work. James Thurston from G3ict then went into detail on the content of the model policy, before introducing and moderating a panel discussion.
• The panel discussion focused on how cities can take action to improve accessibility in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. We heard from Erol Özgüner, Chief Information Officer of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, about the people-centered approach that Istanbul is taking, and exciting new wearable devices including a bracelet that alerts deaf people to alarm sounds, and a smart walking stick that helps blind people walk outdoors.
• Frances McAndrew, Diversity and Inclusion Lead at Transport for London (TfL), described how using thorough data analysis and research has enabled TfL to build a granular view of the challenges and priorities that London needs to address for disabled people while making a compelling case that disabled people need fewer apps and more culture change among the staff that plan and run city services.
• Laura Ruby, Director of Accessibility Policy Standards at Microsoft, built on this point to emphasize that there is already a plethora of accessibility solutions that are not taken up due to lack of awareness, and she recommended that cities take stock of the accessibility features already available to them and engage with suppliers on that basis. She highlighted the gap between the city’s decision-makers and those advocating for accessibility. Hannes Lagrelius from the World Blind Organisation took this further, arguing that organizations representing disabled people need to be involved in how cities are designed systematically. He revealed that findings from a study of 75 countries showed that 50% of people with visual impairment are facing intensified challenges in their mobility, their independence, and their mental health.
• The session closed with a call to action to consider existing accessibility standards more often, tying back to the model policy that the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance has created for exactly this purpose. With this conclusion, the attendees were invited to attend the launch of the full policy roadmap in November.

Side Event 6: Living Together: Social Cohesion and Urban Inclusiveness in the Time of a Pandemic

Screenshots of panelists from Side Event 6 hosted jointly by the cities of Montreal and Izmir and Metropolis
Key Discussions and Takeaways –

• The session explored the concept of living together and how cities are dealing with issues related to social cohesion and inclusion at the local level and particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

• Building cohesive communities requires taking into account all forms of diversity (e.g., cultural, racial, social, gender, physical capabilities, religion, political, etc.) and ensuring human rights.

• The concept of “Living Together” is about values - such as respect, equality, solidarity, inclusion - which are particularly relevant in the current context, both at the local and global levels.

• The approach of Living Together is based on three key principles (3D) –
  • Respecting diversity
  • Fighting discriminations
  • Fostering dialogue

• Izmir is advancing the Living Together concept and will be hosting the 3rd Mayors Summit on Living Together in 2021 laying special focus on fostering solidarity, citizen participation and inclusiveness.

• In an age of “super-diversity”, we are all built of overlapping and complex identities - and our differences are not always visible. In this scenario, innovative governance structures are needed to design and implement urban and metropolitan policies addressed to rethink the way all the diversity present in our cities becomes an opportunity to have inclusive and healthier communities.

• The current COVID-19 crisis has highlighted and exacerbated already existing inequalities and tensions within society. Cities are on the frontline to address these issues.

• Cities and metropolises are able to develop concrete solutions as well as tailor-made policies which take into account the specific needs of their citizens.

• For effective crisis management, it is very important to co-create solutions through multi-stakeholder engagement. Digital platforms can enable reaching more citizens in a limited time.

• Addressing social cohesion and inclusion issues as well as gender equality requires bold political leadership and vision. Social inclusion and cohesion - including gender mainstreaming is key to improving quality of life and, ultimately, to build better communities.

Side Event 7: Urban Aerial Mobility Liberates Skies

Hosted by –

• World Economic Forum - Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Moderator –

• Harrison Wolf – Aerospace and Drones Lead, World Economic Forum

Speakers/Panelist –

• Julia Thayne – Head of Mobility Innovation, Office of the Mayor of Los Angeles
• Lorenzo Murzilli - Head of Innovation and Digitalization at the Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation
• Oliver Reinhardt, Head of Certification and Quality – Volocopter
• Parimal Kopardekar - Director of NASA Aeronautics Research Institute
• David Tait – Head of Innovation, UK Civil Aviation Authority
• Khaled Abusalem - Saudi Aramco Fellow at Aerospace and Drones Lead, Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution
Key Discussions and Takeaways –

- The session focused on mainstreaming electric aerial solutions and platforms into city mobility networks in a safe, clean, and equitable manner.
- The Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution apprised the group about the progressive work done by the center along with Los Angeles and international organizations in the area of Urban Air Mobility for shaping better mobility systems for the greater public good. The collective effort produced principles for policymakers and industry to ensure a more, equitable, safer, more inclusive aviation future designed in order to meet the demand for disruption, as it begins to emerge, rather than being disrupted by it. Cities and regions are planning to work with industry and civil society and academia to mitigate the disruption and to create a mobility system that’s greater for all.
- The Los Angeles city representative mentioned with high traffic congestion rates, both people transit and distribution of goods, autonomous airborne delivery presents a good case for the city of LA. As the city grows, LA needs to re-invent public spaces, using this sort of three-dimensional view of how it moves its people and goods around.
- The Swiss federal office representative thoughts resonated with the overall thinking put forward by WEF and the city of Los Angeles for Urban Air Mobility and additionally emphasized fostering the concept and its application further for the public good by conducting projects trials, demonstrations and implementations.
- On the emerging relationship between city stakeholders and the federal government around Urban Air Mobility, Los Angeles and the Swiss Government representative shared that the multi-level government collaboration is crucial and it must be extended further to include the private sector, civil societies and citizen communities to understand the opportunities, challenges, added value and the overall action plan for mainstreaming Urban Air Mobility in cities.
- Private Sector representative from Volocopter, reinforced the discussion that cities find value in Urban Air Mobility and the transformation potential it carries. Cities like Paris, Singapore, Helsinki and Dubai have advanced in their implementation of Urban Air Mobility for commercial services and started conversations on using the emerging mobility system for social benefits.
- The member from NASA Aeronautics shared how drones and unmanned aircraft systems will transform the transportation of the future where lesser infrastructure would be needed thereby freeing up space for greener urban planning. It will also provide opportunities for businesses to avail cheaper transit options and enjoy more integration with the market across the globe irrespective of their business locations.
- The WEF representative working with Saudi Aramco shared how the Saudi government enabled the adoption of drones for the manufacturing sector for heavy lifting and transportation. The government is planning on scaling up the urban air mobility and evaluating the infrastructure investment, regulation and other enabling conditions.
- On the question of how the urban air mobility especially the drones are better than helicopters which have been operational for so many years, the panelists highlighted key value proposition of drones including - lower operation costs making it affordable, reduced noise levels, increased accessibility due to higher landing sites, lesser environmental footprint and lower project development economics, etc.
- On Mobility Data specification, the panelists emphasized that UAM has a complex interconnected ecosystem that generates a huge volume of data making it critical for national and local regulators to analyze and shape regulations and policies that ensure data sharing is done following privacy guidelines and security principles.
- Regarding the security aspects in the context of UAM, the panelists suggested engagement with local and national security agencies is required during the initial stages of planning along with detailed risk assessment and testing for public safety.
- The session concluded with the following guiding principles that cities must consider for advancing the Urban Air Mobility future plans and shaping better outcomes -
  - Equity – Creating this a sustainable service that’s available to everybody
  - Public Engagement – Proactive communication with the public for support, participation and adoption
  - Public Safety – Regulations for UAM management and public safety
  - Political Will – Ensuring support of political parties and proactive leadership
  - Coordinated strategy and ecosystem maturity (Urban mobility maturity levels)
  - Engagement with existing stakeholders for shaping better outcomes and gathering early support
  - Collaboration with the private sector, academia and across all levels of government.
Side Event 8: Cities for People, the Key Role of Public Transport to Build Back Better

Hosted by –
- The International Association of Public Transport (UITP) and UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments)

Moderator –
- Roundtable 1 - Mohamed Mezghani, Secretary General of UITP
- Roundtable 2 - Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG

Speakers/ Panelist –
- Maria Neira, Director, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization (WHO)
- Gonzalo Muñoz, High-Level Champion for Climate Action (COP 25)
- Karla González, Director for Transport for Europe and Central Asia, World Bank
- Debashish Bhattacharjee, Lead for the Urban Mobility Unit, UN-Habitat
- Khalid Alhogail, CEO of Board Director, Saudi Public Transport Company (SAPTCO)
- Miguel Gaspar, Deputy Mayor for Mobility, Safety, Economy and Innovation, Lisbon
- Juan José Méndez, Secretary of Transport and Public Works, Buenos Aires
- Dolores Ortiz, Director General of Transport Infrastructures, Madrid
- Rodrigo Díaz, Under Secretary of Transport, Mexico City

Key Discussions and Takeaways –

The session started with an introduction by Mohamed Mezghani, Secretary General of UITP (the International Association of Public Transport) who highlighted the key role of public transport to help cities build back better. The Covid-19 crisis has shown how essential public transport is to guarantee access and continuity of basic services.

Now is the time to devise visionary solutions and strengthen policy-making that foster inclusive, sustainable, resilient and smart urbanization, protect the rights of citizens and the foundations of local democracy, and support prosperity and wellbeing. The global agendas such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda require urgent implementation.

Key actions proposed during his speech were:
- First, public transport should be the backbone of urban mobility across all exit strategies that aim to shift car traffic in cities towards more sustainable mobility;
- Second, the public sector must guarantee a certain level of stability through dedicated mobility funds. Alternative funding schemes, such as congestion charging or road pricing, must be considered along with a robust regulatory framework to make it possible to adapt to changing context;
- Integrate public transport and urban planning

Screenshots of panelists from Side Event 8 hosted by UITP and UCLG
• Travel demand management, such as flexible working and school timetables, should be further encouraged to avoid rush hour effects, wherever feasible.
• There is enough evidence to demonstrate that the risk of COVID-19 transmission in public transport is very low.
• Adopt positive communication measures to restore public trust in urban transport systems.
• Neira, the Director of the Department of Public Health at the World Health Organization, reiterated that public transport has a lesser impact on air pollution and climate change and will be critical in ensuring that cities build back better while building public trust for urban transport systems.
• Public transport should be a priority for decision-makers in all countries. The derived economic, social and environmental benefits are indisputable and are the basis for public trust for urban transport systems.
• Effective Governance – Must act as an equalizer rather than a deterrent.
• Enhancing capacity and technology.
• UN-Habitat Lead for the Urban Mobility Unit, Bhattacharjee, explained the main lessons learned from Covid-19 that will help in building safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable public transport, and these are better demand analysis for frequency and scheduling, evidence-based planning, making walking and cycling an integral part of public transportation planning, integrating health with urban transport, responding to the needs of the citizens and rebuilding their trust in public transport.
• Saudi Public Transport Company CEO and UITP Vice-President for MENA Region, Alhogail said that the pandemic further amplified the implementation challenges, however, would not shift the priorities of the Saudi government to build a safe, reliable and sustainable public transport network for its cities. The Saudi Public Transport Company’s efforts and thinking resonate with the U20 Communique of investing more in building public transport networks in cities.
• The second roundtable, moderated by Emilia Saiz, Secretary-General of United Cities and Local Governments and co-convenor of the Urban 20, with a panel of city representatives who showcased the importance of mobility and public transport in their cities during the COVID-19 outbreak as well as illustrated measures taken to support sustainable mobility-related actions in both the short and long term.
• Emilia Saiz highlighted the importance of maintaining public transportation in providing safe and efficient local public services, the key pillar of protection for people and the planet during the COVID-19 crisis. Moreover, Saiz stressed that Carbon-Neutral, quality mobility systems and accessible, affordable public transportation will be key to our recovery and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
• Deputy Mayor of Lisbon, Gaspar, shared with the group that the city has addressed the revenue losses in public transportation with public funding to keep the system running, to protect jobs, to maintain company operations, and to be ready for the day after the pandemic is completely over, in preparedness of a post-pandemic era. The Deputy Mayor emphasized that it is important for cities to keep investing in augmenting and running the city transport systems and leading by example (using public transport) in order to achieve green recovery and the environment targets.
• Mendoza, the representative from Buenos Aires, shared that the city government is augmenting the public walking and cycling networks and also using effective communication mechanisms to rebuild trust in its citizens to travel without fear in Buenos Aires transit systems. Low traffic levels in cities around the world have been a fantastic opportunity for tactical cost-efficient investments such as allocating safer spaces for public transport and active mobility, and other effective measures to protect citizens. These measures do count with the support of the population.
• Ortiz, the Madrid representative, reinforced the discussion that cities need to invest more in public transport and shared key priorities –
  • Enhancing and facilitating proximity mobility
  • Ensuring quality, flexible and active public transport
  • Improving environmental quality of the city
  • Optimizing the city mobility system.
• Diaz, the representative from Mexico City, shared key initiatives like increasing the city cycle network, improving attractive public transport that is safe and affordable and optimizing transit network efficiencies. “Let’s make public transport great again!”, he added.
• Transport representatives from Saudi cities, Lisbon, Buenos Aires, Madrid and Mexico, all shared that the public transport revenue has gone down and observed a loss in public trust, however, shared a common voice that the pandemic did not shift any sustainable mobility priorities but only accelerated them. All cities are investing more in augmenting their public transport systems to be safe, affordable, reliable and more resilient.
• The session concluded with a clear message that public transport is the backbone of city planning and growth. During the lockdown, all over the world, the public transport supply was maintained to ensure the mobility of essential front-line workers. It’s urgent to adopt recovery measures to compensate for losses and a stable funding framework to plan for the medium-long term.
• Public transport is an inclusive and accessible service that can be used by everybody, regardless of socio-economic standing. It is critical to bear this in mind, to serve people and not cars. Decision-makers must prioritize accessible, safe, breathable, and walkable streets through urban planning, putting people at the heart, by implementing the careful coordination of land use and long-term mobility planning with the engagement of all stakeholders from the project outset.
• Efficient mobility systems, based on public transport as their backbone, not only offer health benefits and reduce congestion, accidents, noise and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, but also provide access to education, jobs, markets and a range of other essential services to ensure that no one and no place is left behind. The math is simple: The more people easily access employment, studies and businesses will result in more opportunities for all. This, in turn, spurs social and territorial cohesion and local development.
More flexible and agile contractual forms should be included in future tender procedures, moving from a customer-supplier relationship to a more fluid public-private partnership, in order to share risks and benefits among all stakeholders (national and local governments, public transport authorities, public transport operators, new mobility providers, industry, and citizens).

UCLG Secretary General, Emilia Saiz, closed the panel thanking the speakers for their contributions and recalled the importance of accessible, inclusive and sustainable transport and local public service provision during and beyond the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Engaging with local and regional authorities is essential to uphold these services and, within the context of the Urban 20, this has been made clear by a strong 2020 Urban 20 Communiqué set to be delivered to the G20 by U20 participating cities.

UCLG and UITP thanked U20 Secretariat for the opportunity to organize this side event and committed to keep working together on this critical agenda.
06. Additional Resources

U20 Riyadh official website: https://www.urban20riyadh.org/

U20 Whitepapers: https://www.urban20riyadh.org/knowledge-hub


U20 Communique:
https://www.urban20riyadh.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/U20%202020%20Communique.pdf

U20 Summit Videos:
https://www.urban20riyadh.org/media