

AGENDA



14-17 April 2025 | OECD, Paris



OECD URBAN DAYS

14-17 April 2025 | OECD HQ, Paris



CITIES FOR ALL DAY

Monday
14 April

Morning session: 9:00 – 13:00
7th Meeting of the OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative (by invitation only)

Cities for All in Times of Uncertainty

Spotlight on the Future of Mobility for Inclusive Cities

Afternoon sessions: 14:30 – 18:15

OECD Urban Days: Kick-off Ceremony

Cities for All Ages

Confronting the Housing Crisis in Cities

CIRCULAR CITIES DAY

Tuesday
15 April

Morning sessions: 9:30 – 13:00
Closing the Loop: Circular Economy in European Cities and Regions

Circular Cities and Regions in Action: Insights from 10 Policy Scans

Masterclass: "The Proximity Revolution" by Carlos Moreno

Afternoon sessions: 14:30 – 18:00

Deep Dive #1: Beyond Bricks – Circular Buildings for a Greener Tomorrow

Deep Dive #2: From Drain to Gain – Rethinking Water in a Circular Economy

SUSTAINABLE CITIES DAY

Wednesday
16 April

Morning sessions: 9:30 – 13:00
Local Action, Global Impact: Towards a Global Stocktake of SDGs Localisation

SDGs in Action: Impact Stories from Cities and Regions

Masterclass: "The Geopolitics of Climate" by François Gemenne

Afternoon sessions: 14:30 – 18:00

Deep Dive #1: A Territorial Approach to Climate Action and Resilience (TACAR)

Deep Dive #2: A Territorial Approach to the Blue Economy

FINANCING CITIES DAY

Thursday
17 April

Morning sessions: 9:00 – 13:00
Financing the Cities of Tomorrow: a Shared Responsibility

Harnessing City-to-City Partnerships to Finance Urban Development

Real Estate Investment in a Changing Climate

Afternoon: Side events (by invitation only)

OECD Real Estate Investment Taskforce Meeting

SDSN Global Commission for Urban SDGs Finance Taskforce Meeting

World Observatory on Subnational Finance and Investment (SNG-WOFI) Scientific Committee

Steering Committee on A Territorial Approach to the SDGs

What's the issue?

This event will gather global leaders, experts and changemakers to discuss how to shape and finance inclusive, circular and sustainable cities. Sessions will feature the latest OECD evidence and explore bold solutions to create cities for all ages, tackle the housing crisis, close the loop on resource use, build climate-resilient communities and imagine the post-2030 agenda, among other hot topics.

About the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) helps national, regional and local governments unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), promote inclusive and sustainable growth in regions and cities, boost local job creation and implement sound tourism policies.

Event partners



8:00-9:00	Registration and Welcome Coffee
9:00 - 13:00	7th Meeting of the OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth (by invitation only) (Room C, Château) Chaired by Matúš Vallo , Chair of the OECD Champion Mayors and Mayor of Bratislava (Slovak Republic)
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome remarks: Mathias Cormann , Secretary-General, OECD
9:15-11:00	Cities for All in Times of Uncertainty

In an era of global uncertainty, mayors are at the forefront to counter mounting pressures – from high living costs and persistent inequality to the challenge of ensuring equitable access to quality jobs and embracing climate, digital and demographic transitions. Amongst other challenges, cities are grappling with housing shortages, digital divides and escalating climate risks – calling for a renewed social contract to uphold socio-economic stability. Rebuilding public trust in institutions is more critical than ever amid political polarisation and shifting global dynamics. To navigate these complex challenges and turn disruptions into beacons of positive change, mayors must work hand in hand with other levels of government, harness the power of city-to-city diplomacy and cultivate international partnerships to drive impactful local solutions. During this session, mayors will be invited to share bold, forward-looking strategies to champion inclusive economic growth and shape resilient, competitive and sustainable cities.

Questions for discussion:

- In a global landscape marked by political and trade volatility, how can mayors leverage their local leadership to foster economic prosperity while balancing sustainability and inclusivity goals?
- What can mayors do to rebuild trust in public institutions and engage diverse urban communities in shaping cities where everyone has a chance to thrive?
- What practical steps can mayors take collectively through international collaboration to address local challenges such as climate change, economic instability, polarisation and climate change?

Free-flowing dialogue with Mayors (2 minutes per intervention)

11:00-11:30	Coffee break & family picture
11:30-13:00	Transforming Urban Mobility: Ensuring Accessibility, Resilience, and Equity in a Changing World Co-hosted with the International Transport Forum (ITF)
11:30 - 11:35	Scene setting: Mary Crass , Head of Institutional Relations and Summit, International Transport Forum

The future of urban mobility is being reshaped by profound shifts, from rapid population growth in some cities to ageing and shrinking in others, alongside climate change, rising inequality and a new geography of remote work. The COVID-19 pandemic has also shifted the focus of urban mobility from simply moving people around to ensuring equitable accessibility. Some cities struggle with congestion and overstretched transport systems, while others face the challenge of maintaining viable transport networks despite declining ridership. At the same time, outdated infrastructure, digital transformation and evolving work patterns call for a rethinking of how cities connect people to jobs, services and opportunities, and for making resilience to future disruptions a core principle of urban mobility. However, this transition may face significant barriers, including insufficient funding, a lack of co-ordination between different stakeholders and public resistance to change. Cities can either seize the chance to become more accessible and resilient for all, or risk remaining fragmented by inefficient, car-centric planning. Mayors stand at the centre of these transformations, with the power to drive policy change through their responsibilities over land use, spatial planning and infrastructure. They also play a key role in fostering collaboration between public and private sectors while actively engaging citizens in the process, as well as leveraging digital technologies to enhance accessibility and resilience. Mayors will be invited to share how they adapt transport systems to changing urban realities in order to serve diverse communities, foster economic vitality and support environmental goals, making cities not only more liveable but also more just, competitive, sustainable and resilient.

Questions for discussion:

- How can cities rethink urban mobility to ensure that transport options ensure equitable access to jobs, services and opportunities for all residents – including low-income communities and people with disabilities – while also strengthening cities’ resilience to future disruptions?
- What are the most effective strategies to transition away from car-centric urban design to walkable, bike-friendly and transit-oriented urban environments, which provide credible, affordable alternatives to private vehicles?

- How can mayors mobilise sources of funding, foster stronger collaboration between the public and private sectors and engage citizens, to transition towards more accessible, sustainable and resilient mobility solutions in cities?

Free-flowing dialogue with Mayors (2 minutes per intervention)

Next steps: **Lamia Kamal-Chaoui**, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD

13:00-14:30	<p>Champion Mayors Lunch with OECD Ambassadors (Room George Marshall, Château)</p> <p>Reinforcing Local and Regional Resilience: A Call to Action</p> <p>Ahead of the upcoming OECD Regional Development Policy Ministerial Meeting (19-20 May 2025, Warsaw, Poland), mayors will endorse a “Call to Action” for more resilient regions and cities. Mayors will highlight the need to align national-level regional development policies with local realities, while empowering local governments to drive meaningful change in building resilient places where every resident has a chance to thrive.</p> <p><i>Master of Ceremony: Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director, CFE, OECD</i></p>
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14:30-15:15	<p>OECD Urban Days: Kick-off Ceremony (Room CC9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathias Cormann, Secretary-General, OECD • Anacláudia Rossbach, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Habitat • Yuriko Koike, Governor of Tokyo, Japan • Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, France • Hon. Shakeel Mohamed, Minister of Housing and Lands, Mauritius • Fahri Hamzah, Vice Minister of Housing and Settlements, Republic of Indonesia
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Master of Ceremony: Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

15:15-16:15	<p>Cities for All Ages (Room CC9)</p> <p>Co-hosted with UCLG</p>
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While cities across the OECD continue to grow and attract young residents, the share of older adults in the urban population is also rising fast. Without age-sensitive policies, cities can incur significant social and economic costs, from weaker economic growth to higher public health burdens and reduced resilience. By contrast, age-inclusive cities can create vibrant communities where everyone can live, work and thrive. To achieve this goal, local authorities, urban planners and developers must work together to support urban residents at every stage of life. The new OECD report *Cities for All Ages* provides a framework for national and local governments to make cities more age-inclusive, with practical solutions ranging from accessible infrastructure to adaptable housing. The session will explore avenues for collective action to meet the needs of an ageing population in cities while expanding opportunities for residents of all ages.

Questions for discussion:

- How can cities balance the need for age-inclusive policies with the demands of rapid urban development and economic growth? What age-based strategies can turn trade-offs into synergies and lasting benefits for all?
- What effective, actionable steps can cities implement to create more inclusive environments for people of all ages, and how can these be tailored to different local contexts?
- How can local authorities, developers and planners move beyond short-term fixes to ensure lasting, structural change towards age-inclusive cities?

Video	<p>Key findings from the report <i>Cities for All Ages</i></p>
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MODERATOR: Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division (CFE), OECD

Speakers

- **Emilia Sáiz**, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- **Akira Yoshii**, Vice Minister for Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan
- **Matúš Vallo**, Mayor of Bratislava, Slovakia
- **Kazuhisa Takeuchi**, Mayor of Kitakyushu, Japan
- **Stefano Lo Russo**, Mayor of Turin, Italy
- **Hiba Debouk**, Director General for Territories, AREP

Free-flowing dialogue with participants (2 minutes per intervention)

“Youth Moment” (2 minutes): **Laura Silva**, Sciences Po Paris

Discussant: **Tommaso Vitale**, Full Professor of Sociology, and Dean of Urban School, Sciences Po Paris (CEE)

16:15-16:45	Coffee break
16:45-18:15	Confronting the Housing Crisis in Cities – High-level Dialogue (Room CC9) Co-hosted with UN-Habitat, Eurocities and Housing Europe

MODERATOR: Nadim Ahmad, Deputy Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD

Across the world, cities are grappling with a severe housing crisis, with soaring costs and limited supply, making affordable homes unattainable for many. But affordability is only one part of the challenge – governments at all levels must also take bold action and commitments to tackle homelessness, improve housing quality and deploy housing policy as a tool for climate change action. Momentum for global action on housing is building up. For example, the OECD Horizontal Housing initiative leveraged multidisciplinary expertise to develop an OECD Housing Reform Agenda and Policy Toolkit. UN -Habitat recently set up an Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All co-chaired by France and Kenya, calling for stronger co-operation and concrete solutions to ensure affordable and sustainable housing for all. The European Commission appointed its first-ever Commissioner for Energy and Housing to lead efforts to address the root causes of housing supply shortages and unlock public and private investment for affordable and sustainable housing. This session will unpack key drivers of the housing crisis and explore policy responses at national and local levels, from land-use and planning reforms to financial incentives and public-private partnerships. Mayors, national governments and stakeholders will share innovative and scalable solutions to ensure access to affordable, quality and sustainable housing for all in cities.

Questions for discussion:

- What are the most significant barriers to increasing the supply of affordable and sustainable housing, and how can policymakers at national and local levels work together to overcome them?
- How can housing policies be better integrated with climate and energy goals to ensure that new and existing homes are both affordable and environmentally sustainable?
- What role can public-private partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms play in unlocking investment for long-term urban housing solutions, and what successful examples can cities and regions learn from?

Opening

- **André Sobczak**, Secretary General, Eurocities
- **Emmanuelle Cosse**, President, Union Sociale pour l’Habitat (USH), Housing Europe, former Minister of Housing, France
- **Matthew Baldwin**, Deputy Director General, DG ENER, European Commission

Speakers

- **Nathalie Appéré**, Mayor of Rennes, France
- **José Manuel Ribeiro**, Mayor of Valongo, Portugal
- **Angelica Nunez**, Practice Manager for Urban and Land, World Bank
- **Jonathan Reckford**, Director General, Habitat for Humanity International
- **Aline Matta**, Head of the United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC), UN Habitat

Free-flowing dialogue with participants (2 minutes per intervention)

“Youth Moment” (2 minutes): **Maxwell Garcia**, Sciences Po Paris

Discussant: **Alain de Serres**, Acting Director, Policy and Research Branch, Economics Department, OECD

18:15-19:30	Networking event
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<p style="text-align: center;">Day 2 – Tuesday, 15 April 2025 (Room CC9) “CIRCULAR CITIES DAY”</p>	
09:30-11:00	Closing the Loop: Circular Economy in European Cities and Regions Co-hosted with the European Commission’s Circular Cities and Regions Initiative
Opening remarks	Lamia Kamal-Chaoui , Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD
Video	Key findings from the report The Circular Economy in Cities and Regions of the European Union
<p>Cities and regions are the engines of Europe’s transition to a circular economy to prevent waste generation, keep resources in use as long as possible and regenerate nature. From sustainable urban planning to circular business models, local governments and communities are game changers towards more sustainable production and consumption models. This session will mark the launch of the new OECD report, <i>The Circular Economy in Cities and Regions of the European Union</i>, developed in collaboration with the European Commission’s Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI). Based on a survey of over 60 cities and regions and 10 in-depth circular economy scans, the report offers the latest insights into the state of circularity across the EU. It identifies key challenges and opportunities and provides targeted recommendations for the European Commission, as well as national and subnational governments. Mayors and stakeholders will be invited to discuss how cities and regions can accelerate the circular transition with actionable policies and innovative solutions.</p>	
<p>Questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the most common challenges cities and regions face when transitioning to a circular economy, and how can these be tackled through policy and collaboration? • How can local governments and communities leverage circular business models to drive sustainability, foster economic growth and create job opportunities? • How can the EU and national governments accelerate the circular transition in both urban and rural areas? 	
<p>MODERATOR: Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, CFE, OECD</p>	
Spotlight	Luca Parmitano , Lead Astronaut, European Space Agency
<p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astrid Ladefoged, Head of Unit, DG Research and Innovation, CCRI, European Commission • Marie-Louise Rönnmark, Mayor, Umeå, Sweden • Mirjam van’t Veld, Mayor, Groningen, The Netherlands • Margot Roose, Deputy Mayor responsible for circular economy and innovation, Tallinn, Estonia • Francisco de Paula Blanco, Deputy Mayor, Valladolid, Spain • Jacqueline Cramer, Global Circular Economy leader and former Minister of Environment, the Netherlands • Karen van Dantzig, Chair of the OECD Working Party on Urban Policy and Urban Envoy • Jocelyn Blériot, Executive Lead – Policy & Institutions, Ellen MacArthur Foundation 	
<p>Free-flowing dialogue with participants (2 minutes per intervention)</p>	
<p>“Youth Moment”: Laura Elena Zuluaga, Architect and Urbanist, Richez_Associés (2 minutes)</p>	
<p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henning Wilts, Director of Circular Economy, Wuppertal Institute • Jose Antônio Puppim de Oliveira, Professor, Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) & Coordinating Lead Author of the IPCC Special Report on <i>Cities and Climate Change</i> 	
11:00-11:30	Coffee break

11:30- 13:00	Circular Cities and Regions in Action: Insights from 10 Policy Scans Co-hosted with the European Commission's Circular Cities and Regions Initiative
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The transition to a circular economy is gaining momentum across Europe, with cities and regions leading the way through innovative policies and strategies. This session will dive into real-world circular stories and journeys, policy breakthroughs and scalable solutions that make circularity the cornerstone of resilient cities. Building on the findings from 10 OECD policy scans conducted across diverse urban and regional settings, mayors and stakeholders will be invited to discuss how cities and regions are embedding circularity into urban planning, business models, waste management and resource management in the EU.

Questions for discussion:

- What insights from the 10 policy scans could inspire circular economy initiatives across diverse urban and regional contexts in the EU and beyond?
- How to strengthen co-operation across governments, businesses and communities to advance the circular economy?
- In what ways can local and national governments accelerate the circular economy transition through targeted regulations, funding instruments and policy frameworks?

MODERATOR: **Oriana Romano**, Head of the Water Governance, Blue and Circular Economy Unit, CFE, OECD

Speakers

- **Timo Koivisto**, Mayor, Jyväskylä, Finland
- **Anders Riise**, County Mayor, Møre and Romsdal, Norway
- **Ivan Goychev**, Deputy Mayor for Digitalisation, Innovation and Economic Development, Sofia, Bulgaria
- **Pia Imbs**, President, Eurométropole de Strasbourg, France
- **María Ángela Cano García**, Regional Minister for Innovation, Industry, Trade and Tourism, Valencia Region, Spain
- **Britta Behrendt**, Secretary of State for Climate Change and Environment, Berlin, Germany
- **Manuela de Carvalho Álvares**, Councillor, Environment and Energy Transition, Matosinhos, Portugal
- **Robert Tekke**, Transition Manager, Circular Economy, Zuid Holland, The Netherlands
- **Anne Graham**, Community & Green Finance Manager, Western Development Commission Ireland
- **Konstantinos Gioutikas**, Deputy Regional Governor of the Metropolitan Unit of Thessaloniki, Greece

Free-flowing dialogue with participants (2 minutes per intervention)

“Youth Moment” (2 minutes): **Kassandra Frua De Angeli**, Sciences Po Paris

Discussant: **Peter Borkey**, Circular Economy Unit Lead, Environment Directorate, OECD

13:00-14:30	Lunch break
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13:30 14:15	MASTERCLASS #1: “The Proximity Revolution” Carlos Moreno , Scientific Director of research lab ETI (Entrepreneurship, Territory, Innovation), IAE, University Paris 1 - Panthéon-Sorbonne
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14:30-16:00	Deep Dive #1: Beyond Bricks – Circular Buildings for a Greener Tomorrow Co-hosted with the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC)
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Buildings contribute to carbon emissions not only through their day-to-day operations—such as lighting, heating and cooling—but also throughout their entire lifecycle, from design and construction to operation and eventual demolition. Traditionally, decarbonisation efforts in the built environment have focused on operational carbon, such as energy use, while largely overlooking embodied carbon (the carbon emissions associated with materials and processes throughout the building's lifecycle, including material extraction, manufacturing, transportation, construction and eventual disposal or recycling). However, embodied carbon is projected to account for up to 50% of the carbon footprint of new buildings by 2050 if left unaddressed. Tackling embodied carbon is essential not only for reducing emissions but also for enhancing resource efficiency, promoting material circularity and fostering innovation in construction practices. Despite its importance, whole life carbon has often been a blind spot in global climate policy. This session will discuss framework conditions and good practices to adopt a whole life-cycle approach, addressing both operational and embodied carbon to minimise the total carbon footprint of buildings. Mayors, governments and stakeholders will be invited to discuss their

respective strategies to achieve net-zero emissions in buildings.

Questions for discussion:

- How can circular economy principles be effectively integrated into building design, construction and renovation to reduce both operational and embodied carbon throughout a building's lifecycle?
- What are the key barriers to addressing embodied carbon in the building sector, and how can governments, industries and stakeholders collaborate to overcome these challenges?
- How can circular approaches in the building sector contribute to achieving net-zero emissions, and what role should the renovation of buildings play in accelerating this transition alongside new construction projects?

MODERATOR: Nadim Ahmad, Deputy Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD

Video	Key findings from the report “Zero-Carbon Buildings in Cities: A Whole Life-Cycle Approach”
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Speakers

- **Gulnara Roll**, Head of the Cities and Buildings Unit, Climate Change Division, UNEP/Global ABC
- **Yves-Laurent Sapoval**, Ministerial Delegate for Sustainable Cities, France
- **Itsuhiro Miura**, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan
- **Robert Dijksterhuis**, Sustainable Buildings Envoy, Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning, the Netherlands
- **Anne-Claire Mialot**, Director General of the National Agency for Urban Renovation, France
- **Florian Flachenecker**, Taskforce Leader, Circular Economy Act, DG ENV, European Commission
- **Lily Munson**, Secretary General, Villes Vivantes

Free-flowing dialogue with participants (2 minutes per intervention)

“Youth Moment” (2 minutes): **Ebou Ceesay**, Sciences Po Paris

Discussant: **Gaëtan Siew**, International Union of Architects’ Ambassador to COP

16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-18:00	Deep Dive #2: From Drain to Gain – Rethinking Water in a Circular Economy Co-hosted with the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB)

Water is one of humanity's most precious resources, yet growing demand, pollution and climate change are placing immense pressure on existing water systems worldwide. The circular water economy offers a transformative framework for managing water as a resource — focusing on reducing waste, increasing efficiency and creating sustainable solutions across the entire water cycle, producing energy and secondary materials. This session will explore the principles of the circular economy applied to water, from reducing consumption and preventing water pollution to optimising wastewater treatment and enhancing water reuse. Building on the findings of the new report, *The Circular Water Economy in Latin America*, mayors, governments and stakeholders will be invited to share best practices on regulatory frameworks, financing mechanisms and capacity-building to transition from a linear to a circular water economy. The session will also discuss innovative policies for sustainable use and regeneration of water resources, including collaboration between governments, businesses and local communities to drive solutions at scale.

Questions for discussion:

- What are the key challenges and opportunities in implementing circular economy principles in water management?
- How can integrated water management strategies help enhance water reuse and reduce consumption, and what successful examples can guide future actions?
- How can collaboration between governments, businesses and local communities scale up circular water solutions, and what policies or incentives are necessary to support this collective action?

MODERATOR: Jose Antonio Ardavin, Head of the Latin America and Caribbean Division, Global Relations and Co-operation Directorate, OECD

Opening remarks	Presentation of the report “The Circular Water Economy in Latin America” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aziza Akhmouch, Head of Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, CFE, OECD • Sergio Campos, Chief of the Water and Sanitation Division, IADB
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Speakers

- **Claudio Nicolás Castro Salas**, Mayor of Renca, Chile
- **Mohamed Sefiani**, Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco and GCOM Ambassador for Africa
- **Philippe Rio**, Mayor of Grigny, France
- **Carlos Fernando Galan, Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia**
- **Carlos Cordero**, Director, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica
- **Claudia Crosa**, Director of Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Public Works, Paraguay
- **Beatriz Martins Carneiro**, Coordinator, Latin America and the Caribbean Circular Economy Coalition
- **Lionel Goujon**, Head of Water & Sanitation Division, French Development Agency (AFD)

Free-flowing dialogue with participants (2 minutes per intervention)

Film Projection “Mayors Make Movies” – by **Linda Lilienfeld**, Film researcher and Director of Let’s Talk About Water

“Youth Moment” **Léo Michallet**, Project Engineer, DnA Consult (2 minutes)

Discussant: **Maria Salvetti**, Head of Water and Waste Department, Florence School of Regulation

18:00-19:30	Networking event (joint with the <i>OECD Working Party on Territorial Indicators</i>)
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Day 3 – Wednesday, 16 April 2025 (Room CC9)

“SUSTAINABLE CITIES DAY”

09:30-11:00

Local Action, Global Impact: Towards a Global Stocktake of SDGs Localisation

Co-hosted with **UN-Habitat** and **Local2030**

The world is facing an unprecedented set of crises that have hindered progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with only 17% of targets on track for 2030. Inequalities persist, the climate crisis intensifies, and global conflicts have displaced millions of people. Cities and regions are at the forefront of driving progress towards the SDGs, yet global and regional data shows that many are falling behind, with 83% of SDG targets registering only limited progress or even regression. As cities continue to grow, local and regional governments are uniquely positioned to drive solutions and champion sustainability. This session will explore the role of SDGs localisation in adapting global goals to the specific needs of cities and regions, while highlighting challenges and opportunities in overcoming barriers like resource gaps, political misalignment and data limitations. The session will also kick-start an OECD/UN-Habitat joint initiative aimed at guiding future local, regional and national actions to accelerate SDG implementation and shape forward-looking sustainable development policies.

Questions for discussion:

- What are the critical lessons learned from the past decade of SDGs localisation that can inform strategies for long-term progress towards sustainability?
- What key barriers are cities and regions facing in localising the SDGs, and how can they effectively address them through multi-level governance?
- How can the OECD and UN-Habitat’s joint initiative support local and regional governments in accelerating SDGs implementation in a context of uncertainty?

Opening remarks

- **Anacláudia Rossbach**, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Habitat (video)
- **Aziza Akhmouch**, Head of Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development, CFE, OECD
- **Eva Hagsten**, Chair of the OECD Working Party on Territorial Indicators

MODERATOR: Rudiger Ahrend, Head of the Economic Analysis, Statistics and Data Division, CFE, OECD

Speakers

- **Ximo Puig**, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OECD
- **Anja Wagner**, Head of the Federal States and Local Authorities Division, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany
- **Gulnara Roll**, Head of the Cities and Buildings Unit, Climate Change Division, UNEP and Local2030 Coalition

- **Ricardo Rio**, Mayor of Braga, Portugal, Rapporteur of European Committee of the Regions (CoR) on the SDGs
- **Fatimatou Abdel Malick**, President of the Region of Nouakchott, Mauritania, President of UCLG Africa
- **Mara Cossu**, Sustainable Development Coordinator, Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security, Italy
- **Carrie Exton**, Senior Counsellor, OECD Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity
- **Aline Matta**, Head of the United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC), UN Habitat

Free-flowing dialogue with participants (2 minutes per intervention)

“**Youth Moment**”: **Aïssatou Sy Savane**, Geographer and Urbanist (2 minutes)

Discussant: **Paolo Veneri**, Professor of Economic Policy, Gran Sasso Science Institute

11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	SDGs in Action: Impact Stories from Cities and Regions Co-hosted with UN-Habitat and Local2030

While countries take different approaches to SDGs localisation, there is a growing commitment of subnational governments to sustainability globally. The increasing number of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) published across the world – over 330 VLRs to date – underscores a consistent trend towards greater granularity in leveraging global frameworks to shape local and regional development strategies, plans and programmes. Cities and regions are deploying the SDGs to address interconnected challenges ranging from mobility and emissions to inclusive growth and housing. They are also articulating national and subnational strategies, and aligning financial resources with the 2030 Agenda through SDG-based budgeting and sustainable public procurement. The session will explore how different cities and regions are integrating the SDGs into their governance and policymaking and provide insights into how territorial approaches can be tailored to regional contexts.

Questions for discussion:

- What tangible impacts have cities and regions observed from integrating the SDGs into their policies and governance, and how can these successes be scaled up or replicated in other contexts?
- What key challenges are cities and regions facing when integrating the SDGs into their local development strategies, and how can stronger multi-level governance be put into practice?
- How can a territorial approach to the SDGs, including through Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), help drive concrete policy actions and foster peer learning among cities and regions globally?

MODERATOR: **Soo-Jin Kim**, Deputy Head of Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, CFE, OECD

Speakers

- **Asier Aranbarri**, Director, Social Innovation and 2030 Agenda, Basque Country, Spain
- **Christian Hübel**, Head of Department, Democracy and Strategy, City of Mannheim, Germany
- **Keli Guimarães**, General Superintendent, State of Parana, Brazil
- **Stefan Wagner**, Head of International Affairs and Global Sustainability, City of Bonn, Germany
- **Klaus Egger**, Sustainability Manager, Autonomous Province of Bolzano, Italy

Free-flowing dialogue with participants (2 minutes per intervention)

“**Youth Moment**”: **Ulysse Burel**, Public Sector Manager, Hub Institute (2 minutes)

Discussant: **Razzy Hammadi**, Urban Transitions MBA Director, Université Léonard de Vinci

13:00-14:30	Lunch break
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13:30 14:15	MASTERCLASS #2: “The Geopolitics of Climate” François Gemenne, Professor, HEC Paris
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14:30-16:00	Spotlight on SDG 13 “Climate”: A Territorial Approach to Climate Action and Resilience (TACAR)
	Co-hosted with GCOM – Global Covenant of Mayors
<p>As the world nears the critical 1.5°C warming threshold, cities are at the forefront of the fight against climate change, driving decarbonisation and building resilience. The diversity of challenges and opportunities across places requires locally tailored solutions and engagement across all levels of government. Several global frameworks have called for greater collaboration on climate action within countries to develop place-based policies. For instance, 10 years ago, the Paris Agreement highlighted the essential role of cities in driving local climate action and fostering partnerships for sustainability. More recently, the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action endorsed by 74 countries, emphasised the importance of co-ordinated climate action. Launched at COP28, the OECD’s Territorial Approach to Climate Action and Resilience (TACAR) provides cities and countries with assessment tools and policy guidance to unlock the potential of multi-level climate action. This session will take stock of ongoing efforts and shape ways forward for accelerating the role of cities and regions in the net-zero transition. Mayors and stakeholders will draw lessons from a decade of localising climate action and learn from two new OECD TACAR pilot studies: one focused on the national scale in Japan and the other on the city scale in Yokohama (Japan). These studies showcase the shared commitment to urban climate action. On the road to COP30 and the IPCC’s special report on Cities and Climate Change, the session will also explore how local climate action can be integrated into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and how national governments can empower cities to scale up their efforts.</p>	
<p>Questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What lessons can be learned from a decade of local climate action to accelerate the net-zero transition, while ensuring locally tailored solutions and recognising effective city leadership in global frameworks? • In the run up to COP30, how can national governments better integrate local climate action into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and further empower cities and regions in their efforts? • How can cities and regions design and implement climate policies that reconcile short term economic and political challenges with the long-term goals of environmental sustainability? 	
Opening remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD • Jo Tyndall, Director, Environment Directorate, OECD • Paolo Caridi, Deputy-Director, DG Clima, European Commission
<p>MODERATOR: Tadashi Matsumoto, Head of the National Urban Policy and Climate Resilience Unit, CFE, OECD</p>	
<p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asif Shah, Head of CHAMP Impact and Global Partnerships, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy • Yutaka Matsuzawa, Vice Minister, Ministry of the Environment, Japan • Fahri Hamzah, Vice Minister of Housing and Settlement, Indonesia • Lola Vallejo, Diplomacy and Partnerships Director, European Climate Foundation • Rogier van den Berg, Global Director, Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, World Resources Institute • Lin O’Grady, Deputy Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Group, EBRD • Norio Tomioka, Executive Director, International Affairs Bureau, City of Yokohama, Japan • Vincent Foucher, Director of Prospective Studies, Partnerships and Territorial Innovations, Aix-Marseille-Provence Métropole, France • Ruth Do Coutto, Deputy Director, Climate Change Division, UNEP • Kirsten Dunlop, CEO, Climate KIC 	
<p>Free-flowing dialogue with participants (2 minutes per intervention)</p>	
<p>“Youth Moment”: Samih Laraki, Architect urbanist, Aprc Group (2 minutes)</p>	
<p>Discussant: Goksen Sahin, Senior Advocacy Officer, ICLEI Europe</p>	
16:00-16:30	Coffee break

16:30-18:00	Spotlight on SDG 14 “Life below water”: A Territorial Approach to the Blue Economy Co-hosted with the Ocean and Climate Platform
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The blue economy is a major driver of urban and regional development, creating millions of local jobs in sectors such as fisheries, tourism and shipping. However, it can also contribute to carbon emissions and ecosystem degradation, while its reliance on freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems exposes it to the impacts of climate change. As the places where the blue economy takes place, creates value and provides jobs, cities and regions play a key role in unlocking the potential of a blue economy that preserves the ecosystems that sustain it. A territorial approach – where local governments, businesses and communities work together – can help determine a resilient, inclusive, sustainable and circular blue economy. This session will explore best practices and lessons learned from cities and regions that are leading the way towards resilient, inclusive, sustainable and circular blue economies, to raise their profile on the road to the third United Nations Ocean Conference (9-13 June 2025, Nice, France).

Questions for discussion:

- How can cities and regions develop integrated strategies to connect freshwater and seawater management, balancing the needs of economic development with ecosystem preservation in the blue economy?
- What roles do local stakeholders, such as businesses, communities and local governments play in fostering a sustainable and resilient blue economy, and how can their collaboration be strengthened?
- How can cities and regions encourage innovation in key sectors of the blue economy, while mitigating the risks of biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change impacts?

MODERATOR: Aziza Akhmouch, Head of Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, CFE, OECD

Opening remarks	• Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, Special Envoy of the French President for the United Nations Ocean Conference, Ambassador for Poles and Oceans to the Ministry of Europe
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Speakers

- Romain Troublé, President, Ocean & Climate Platform
- Richard Chemla, Deputy Mayor of Nice, France
- Rui Martins, Regional Director of Marine Policies, Azores Government, Portugal
- Alberto Cappato, Vice-President, International Association of Port Cities, AIVP
- Elisabetta Balzi, Active Senior, Ocean, Seas and Waters Unit, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

Free-flowing dialogue with participants (2 minutes per intervention)

“Youth Moment” (2 minutes): Alain Jabbour, Sciences Po Paris

Discussant: Céline Kauffmann, Chief Programmes Officer, IDDRI, Sciences Po

18:00-19:30	Networking event
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Day 4 – Thursday, 17 April 2025 (Room CC9)

“FINANCING CITIES DAY”

8:00-9:00	Leveraging Decentralised Development Co-operation to drive and finance the SDGs <i>Breakfast conversation with delegates from the Development Assistance Committee (DAC)</i>
9:00-9:30	Opening remarks
	• Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD • Carsten Staur, Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)

09:30-10:30	Financing the Cities of Tomorrow: A Shared Responsibility Co-hosted with the SDSN Global Commission for Urban SDG Finance
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By 2050, nearly 5 billion people will live in cities, up from 3.5 billion people in 2015. Cities will not only need massive infrastructure investment to accommodate this growth, but also to adapt their infrastructure to climate change and harness the opportunities of the digital transition. As economic, social and environmental hubs, cities face the critical

challenge of securing sustainable financing to drive innovation and resilience. Strategies range from new forms of urban planning to leveraging private investment, notably in a tighter fiscal environment. Catalysing sustainable finance, such as green, social and sustainable bonds will be key to unlocking infrastructure investment. This session will explore cutting-edge solutions for financing the cities of the future. While the focus on financing is essential, the role of funding revenues should not be overlooked. Discussions will draw from two new OECD reports, *Mobilising Sustainable Finance for Regions and Cities* and *Financing Sustainable Cities in Southeast Asia*, alongside insights from the Global Commission for Urban SDG Finance, which is mandated to develop actionable recommendations for cities to secure more effective financing for SDG-aligned projects. Outcomes will feed into the preparations for the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) to be held in Seville, Spain (30 June to 3 July 2025).

Questions for discussion:

- What innovative financing models can cities adopt to meet the growing demand for sustainable infrastructure and climate adaptation by 2050?
- How can cities attract more private investment and mobilise sustainable finance instruments to bridge funding gaps and accelerate progress towards the SDGs?
- What actionable solutions can break down barriers and unlock funding and financing for inclusive and resilient urban development?

MODERATOR: Dorothée Allain-Dupré, Head of Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division, CFE, OECD

Speakers

- **Itsuhiro Miura**, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan
- **Andy Deacon**, Co-Managing Director General, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)
- **Alice Charles**, Director for Cities, Planning and Design, ARUP
- **Kristiina Yang**, Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance manager, Climate Policy Initiative (CPI)
- **David Jackson**, Lead Advisor on Local Finance and Manager of the Sustainable City Guarantee Facility start up, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
- **Georges W. McCarthy**, President and CEO, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
- **Anthony Berthelot**, Mayor of Indre and Metropolitan Counsellor of Nantes Métropole, France

Free-flowing dialogue with participants (2 minutes per intervention)

Discussant: **Eugenie Birch**, Co-Director and Professor, University of Pennsylvania

10:30-11:30	Harnessing City-to-City Partnerships to Finance Urban Development
	Co-hosted with the European Commission's DG International Partnerships (INTPA) and CEB

By fostering peer learning, knowledge exchange and capacity building among local governments, city-to-city co-operation can accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, advance solidarity and help mobilise finance for urban development. Through collaborative networks, cities can share best practices on innovative financing mechanisms, such as municipal bonds, public-private partnerships and blended finance models, helping each other overcome financial constraints. These partnerships also enhance access to international funding opportunities, including climate finance and development grants, by strengthening advocacy and demonstrating collective impact. Furthermore, twinning arrangements and peer-to-peer dialogues enable cities to co-develop solutions for common challenges such as affordable housing, resilient infrastructure and sustainable mobility, ensuring more efficient use of financial resources. Drawing on a new OECD report, *Harnessing City-to-City Partnerships to Finance Urban Development*, the session will showcase how cities in advanced economies work with their peers in developing countries to facilitate access to public and private investments for sustainable urban development and discuss the role of national governments and international organisations in unlocking the potential of such partnerships.

Questions for discussion:

- How can city-to-city partnerships help strengthen knowledge and capacity for greater access to public and private investment for sustainable urban development, particularly in developing countries?
- How can initiatives like the EU Global Gateway strategy enhance city-to-city co-operation to drive impactful, long-term investments in urban infrastructure and sustainability?
- What platforms, networks and financial instruments can cities utilise to effectively share experiences, best practices and financing models for sustainable urban development?

MODERATOR: Stefano Marta, Head of the Smart and Sustainable Cities Unit, CFE, OECD

Speakers

- **Marlene Holzner**, Head of Unit, Local Authorities, Civil Society Organisations and Foundations, DG INTPA
- **Elisa Muzzini**, Senior Technical Advisor, Council of Europe Development Bank
- **Anja Wagner**, Head of the Federal States and Local Authorities Division, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany
- **Agustí Fernández de Losada Passols**, Secretary for European and Multilateral Affairs, and Development Cooperation, Government of Catalonia, Spain
- **Christophe Rouillon**, Vice President of the European Committee of the Regions ECON Commission, and Mayor of Coulaines, France
- **Hervé Dubreuil**, Deputy Head of the Urban Planning and Housing Department, French Development Agency

Free-flowing dialogue with participants (2 minutes per intervention)

Discussant: **Patrick Le Galès**, Research Director at CNRS, and Professor at Sciences Po Paris

11:30-12:00	Coffee break
12:00-13:00	Real Estate Investment in a Changing Climate Co-hosted with the Ministry of Ecological Transition, France

The global real estate market, encompassing residential and commercial properties as well as agricultural land, reached a staggering USD 379.7 trillion in 2022. Real estate remains the world's most significant store of wealth, surpassing the combined value of global equities (USD 98.9 trillion) and debt securities (USD 129.8 trillion) and nearly four times the global GDP (USD 100.6 trillion). However, this vast concentration of capital is increasingly exposed to climate-related risks. On the one hand, the increasing frequency of heatwaves, floods and wildfires is causing **physical risks** to real estate assets, with devastating human, environmental and financial consequences. On the other hand, **transition risks** associated with evolving regulatory requirements for decarbonising buildings and enhancing resilience could potentially reduce property values. Governments and public funding alone cannot lead the transition to sustainable real estate. The private sector must play a pivotal role in addressing these challenges. In this context, it is crucial to understand how both physical and transition risks are assessed and incorporated into financial decision-making in the real estate sector. This session will bring together public and private actors to discuss how to evaluate these risks and explore how they translate into financial risks and de-risking strategies in the real estate sector.

Questions for discussion:

- How are different actors in the real estate sector assessing both physical and transition risks?
- What metrics currently exist to evaluate a property's resilience to climate risks?
- How are such risks financially accounted for by stakeholders in the short, medium and long term?
- What gaps remain in current climate risk assessment tools for the real estate market?

MODERATOR: Yves-Laurent Sapoval, Ministerial Delegate for Sustainable Cities, France

Speakers

- **Christine Lemaitre**, CEO, German Sustainable Building Council
- **Renata Haseth**, Vice President, Bankers without Boundaries
- **Kai Karolin Wunsch**, Senior Manager, Munich Re Risk Management Partners
- **Pierre-Antoine Nougue**, Lead Consultant, AXA Climate
- **Oliver Marchand**, Global Head of Climate Research, MSCI
- **Zoe Duvall**, Principal Consultant, Mott MacDonald
- **Pierre Evrard**, Associate Director, Synergiec
- **Antoine Bateman**, Director, Sustainability, Aridian

Free-flowing dialogue with participants (2 minutes per intervention)

Discussant: **Raphael Jachnik**, Team lead, Finance for Climate Action, Environment Directorate, OECD

SIDE EVENTS: 17 April 2025 (afternoon)

14:30-16:30	SDSN Global Commission for Urban SDGs Finance Taskforce Meeting (Hybrid, by invitation – Room MB S034)
14:30-16:30	World Observatory on Subnational Finance and Investment (SNG-WOFI) Scientific Committee (Hybrid, by invitation – Room MB S036)
14:30-16:30	OECD Real Estate Investment Taskforce Meeting (Hybrid, by invitation – Room CC18)
14:30-17:30	Steering Committee on A Territorial Approach to the SDGs (In person, by invitation – Room MB S026)

Contact

For further information, please contact cfcities@oecd.org

About the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation and support sound tourism policies.

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