

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**29 – 31  
October  
2021**

Language:  
English, 中文  
Français, Español

# SDG CITIES GLOBAL CONFERENCE

Hosted by:

  
UN HABITAT  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Shanghai Municipal  
People's Government, China

Partner:



Transformative actions by cities  
to accelerate SDG impacts

With 55% of the world's population living in urban areas and an additional 2.5 billion urban residents expected in the next 30 years, and with 65 percent of SDG targets being relevant to cities, it's no surprise that the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost in cities. Mitigating climate change, adapting, and building resilience to the enormous climate related risks the world is increasingly facing, and recovering from pandemic in a way that is just and green, that puts our planet and its most vulnerable people first, requires a renewed vigour and global joint action towards accelerating the achievement of the SDGs in cities.

Cities worldwide are embracing the need to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. Momentum is building on reporting progress through Voluntary Local Review (VLR), and efforts have been made to harmonise urban data analysis through the Global Urban Monitoring Framework. The New Urban Agenda provides a blueprint on how cities can drive the achievement of sustainable development, and responding to this, there is a demand to strengthen local institutions and to implement transformative actions locally that can scale up and accelerate SDG achievement and bring lasting change to our people and planet.

During the World Urban Forum in 2020 the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) announced the flagship programme SDG Cities. It is a collaborative action of diverse urban actors to support cities worldwide to advance the achievement of sustainable urban development. It provides an array of digital tools and expert backstopping to support data and analysis, strategic planning, institutional capacity strengthening and vehicles to channel investment into SDG impact projects. It recognises achievement through the SDG Cities Certification process.



The conference, jointly hosted by UN-Habitat and the Municipality of Shanghai, together with the Global Sustainability Index Foundation, is one of a global series of events that make up Urban October 2021. Commencing on the 29 October, it closes with China's National Observance of World Cities Day in Shanghai, and the global observance of the same in Luxor, Egypt on 31 October. With the theme Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience, World Cities Day 2021 contributes to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) that immediately follows.

The conference links climate change, pandemic recovery and SDG acceleration in cities. It reflects on progress in monitoring cities and reporting SDG progress through VLR and introduces the Global Urban Monitoring Framework as an approach to harmonise urban data analytics. The conference then brings into focus transformative actions by cities to accelerate SDG impacts and highlights the roles of nationally coordinated multi-city SDG localisation initiatives and city networks to build momentum for action at scale. Finally, it delves into the challenges and opportunities to meet the enormous finance gap – in its trillions of dollars – to achieve the SDGs in cities. The SDG Cities Global Programme and its City Investment Facility are introduced in the context of promoting systematic action and movement building of diverse actors to accelerate transformation.



# Formal Events

## Friday 29 October (GMT / UTC +0)

- 10:30 – 11:45 1. Opening and Setting the Scene – Climate, COVID 19, SDGs and Cities
- 12:00 – 13:30 2. Global Urban Monitoring Framework, its local application & the Shanghai Adapted Index
- 13:45 – 15:15 3. Voluntary Local Reviews and their role in accelerating SDG implementation locally

## Saturday 30 October (GMT / UTC +0)

- 11:00 – 13:00 4. SDG Cities: Collaborative action to unleash the potential of cities to accelerate the global achievement of SDGs
- 13:15 – 15:15 5. Investing in Urban Impact

## Sunday 31 October (GMT / UTC +0)

- 11:30 – 13:00 6. Health, wellbeing and resilience to pandemic in Cities
- 13:00 – 14:00 7. SDG Cities Way Forward and Close

# Side Events

Digital Transformation accelerating SDG impact in cities

Digital Toolkit EGMs: Own Source Revenue Diagnostic Tool; Effective Local Governance Diagnostic Tool; Urban Planning Systems Diagnostic tool; Mobility Systems Diagnostic Tool; Waste-wise Cities Tool; Perception and Spatial Data approaches

EGM: City Development Strategies

EGM: City Investment Facility

Accelerating SDGs in cities through high impact projects: learning from the UK Global Future Cities Programme

Financing SDG Cities – Development Banks and Funds dialogue

