

Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience

— LUXOR, EGYPT —

Innovate4Cities Conference Outcome

Background:

The Innovate4Cities Conference will be an international gathering at the nexus of cities, climate change science and innovation. This ground-breaking meeting will be co-hosted by UN-Habitat and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) from 11-15 October 2021 as a virtual multi-day global/regional event. It will bring together over 1,000 city leaders, scientists, researchers, innovators, academics, youth, and businesspeople to advance pragmatic and action-oriented research and science that will help cities reduce their carbon footprint and increase resilience to climate change.

The first Cities and Climate Change Science conference, attended by over 800 participants in Edmonton, Canada in 2018, led to the Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science, the GCoM's Innovate4Cities Initiative to drive climate action in cities and the Edmonton Declaration on Climate Change signed by over 3,400 cities.

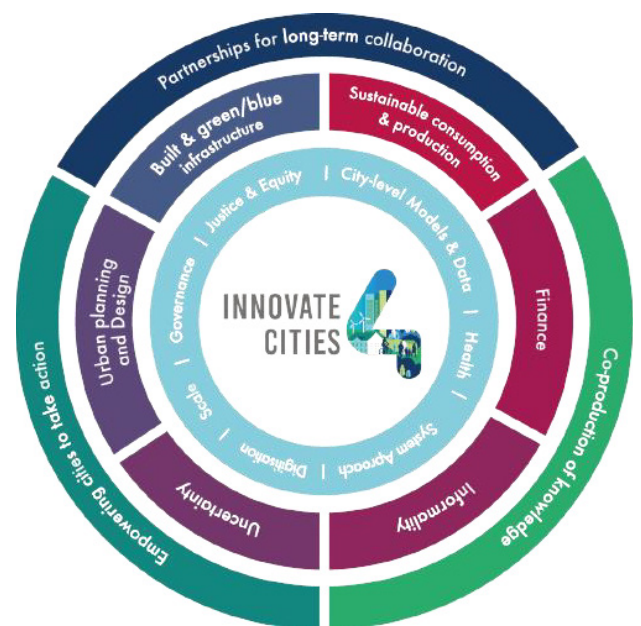
As a follow-up to the 2018 Edmonton Conference, the Innovate4Cities 2021 Conference aims to bolster knowledge creation and solutions implementation and to mobilize the transformative potential of cities towards zero-carbon and climate-resilient cities. Particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, cities will be integral to identifying knowledge and innovation gaps, facilitating cooperation and securing necessary green investments in transitioning to a more just, healthier, safer and sustainable world.

The Roundtable:

This roundtable, at the occasion of World Cities Day on 31 October 2021, will provide a first look at the outcome of the Innovate4Cities Conference (I4C) just two weeks after its conclusion.

One of the innovation pathways that I4C pursues, is the co-creation approach beyond the "science arena". This round table will reflect upon the innovation themes of the conference by featuring the voices of the various stakeholder groups that I4C brings together, including city leaders, scientists, researchers, innovators, academics, youth, and businesspeople.

This roundtable will analyse key outcomes from the conference as a potential input into the discussion at COP26 (that begins on the same day) and into the upcoming IPCC's Special Report on Climate Change and Cities. Panellist will be invited to share impressions, observations, and personal highlights from the conference.



Specific Objectives:

- To provide a first glance at the outcome of the Innovate4Cities Conference just two weeks after its conclusion:
 - What are the key messages for COP26 regarding adaptation, mitigation, collaboration, and finance, as well as integrated action and development co-benefits?
 - Where there any new points/ideas or suggested actions for a research agenda, especially relevant to the current assessment cycle and for IPCC's Special Report on Climate Change and Cities? What will be the next steps now?
- To discuss the practical uptake of the research outcome of the I4C Conference at the triple nexus of science, innovation and policy:
 - What are the main knowledge and innovation gaps that became apparent?
 - What new pathways should be taken in terms of cooperation in research, for innovation and knowledge generation?
 - Which research outcome of I4C is particularly relevant for a direct uptake by projects?
 - How can research help to leverage cities' access to necessary green investments?

Key Outputs:

This roundtable will be documented in form of a report with key messages and conclusions.