

Rio Pavilion Cities Day Programme

22 June 2012, Athlete's Park, Rio+20

Sustainable cities through integrated local solutions

The Rio Conventions Pavilion is an outreach platform that explores trade-offs, synergies and alignment between the three Rio conventions and also water-related development goals. It aims to raise awareness, promote knowledge exchange and foster collaboration with a view to breaking down silos to enable integrated approaches to sustainable development.

The Rio Pavilion Cities Day presents an opportunity to take stock and reflect on the environmental movement to date and to consider the role of cities in paving a more sustainable, equitable, and ultimately more prosperous future. With over half of the world's burgeoning population now living in urban areas, local governments are increasingly responsible for the wellbeing of citizens and the health of the natural environment. Cities are not discrete, self-contained entities, but rather are dynamic nodes of activity, draining vast quantities of natural resources, producing massive amounts of waste and substantially altering both near and distant ecosystems. At the same time, cities offer unprecedented and often untapped opportunities for innovation, social organization and leadership. The imperative for action to harness these opportunities has never been stronger and cities across the globe are rising to the challenge, engendering socio-ecological resilience in the context of global change.

So what exactly are cities striving towards and how can strong local leadership and integrated urban development solutions catalyse their progress? Are the Rio Conventions sufficiently sympathetic to urban issues? How might local governments be provided with greater recognition and support? What is role of the private sector and which partnerships need forging and strengthening? The Rio Pavilion Cities Day will provide an interactive platform for political and business leaders, foresighted visionaries, and acclaimed researchers to deliberate over such questions and to consider how cities can fulfil their remarkable potential as drivers of sustainable development.

Mayoral panellists will each be invited to propose three recommendations to the international community for effecting positive societal change. The audience will vote for a preferred selection of the recommendations to be carried forth to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and disseminated through global networks.

Agenda: 22 June 2012

SESSION 1: Local Leadership Driving Global Change

Description: *What are the characteristics of an ideal sustainable city that fulfils the aspirations of its citizens? Following a short opening ceremony, this question will be addressed by way of a documentary and visioning exercise. Attention will then turn to a panel of political leaders representing local governments which have demonstrated outstanding commitment to sustainable development. The panellists will discuss the contributions of local initiatives to global sustainability and consider how to ‘cross-pollinate’ and better align various existing agreements. Panellists will each be invited to propose three recommendations to the international community for effecting positive societal change. The audience will vote for a preferred selection of the recommendations to be carried forth to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and disseminated through global networks. The session may conclude with a short signing ceremony.*

Chair: *David Cadman, President, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and Councillor, Vancouver, Canada*

11:15-11:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks:

- *David Cadman, President, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and Councillor, Vancouver, Canada*
- *Mercedes Bresso, President, EU Committee of the Regions*

11:30-11:45 Visioning – An Integrated Sustainable City

- *Short video – “My Vision for My City” directed by Tremayne Ward Smith*
- *Richard Register, Founder and President, EcoCity Builders*

11:45-12:45 Local Leadership Driving Global Change

Panellists:

- *Daniel Scioli, Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina*
- *Hélène Mandroux, Mayor, City of Montpellier, France*
- *James Nxumalo, Mayor, eThekweni Municipality, South Africa*
- *Silvio Barros, Mayor, Maringa Municipality, Brazil*
- *Carlito Marrs, Mayor, City of Joinville, Brazil*
- **Martha Delgado, Minister of the Environment, Mexico City, Mexico*
- **Kadir Topbas, Mayor, City of Istanbul, Turkey*

SESSION 2: Cities Spurring Change – Tools and Techniques for Integrated Urban Planning

Description: *How can competing urban development goals be aligned and when trade-offs remain, how should such goals be prioritised? What is the optimal balance between urban densification and the provision of urban green space? How can poverty alleviation and the need to provide housing, infrastructure and jobs be reconciled with the need to conserve ecosystems? The gravity and complexity of city planning challenges, coupled with an ongoing crunch on local government finances, render integrated urban development solutions particularly attractive. Integrated solutions meet several objectives simultaneously and give rise to multiple co-benefits thereby cutting costs and reducing antagonism between line functions. Following two scene-setting presentations by world-renowned leaders of the environmental movement, a panel comprising technical experts from various sectors will draw from their rich experiences to explore the practicalities of sustainable urban development receiving questions from the audience.*

Facilitator: *Michael Schmitz, Executive Director of ICLEI USA*

13:15-13:25 **Cities as drivers of sustainable development**

- *Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General, International Union for Conservation of Nature*

13:25-13:35 **Cities as Engines of Green Economic Growth**

- *Pavan Sukhdev, Founder-CEO, GIST Advisory and Study Leader of TEEB - The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity*

13:35-13:45 **Partnerships for Development**

- *Sithole Mbangwa, CEO, South African Cities Network*

13:45-14:45 **Participatory Question & Answer Session on Integrated Urban Planning**

Panellists:

- *Javier Corcuera, President of Environmental Protection Agency, City of Buenos Aires, Argentina*
- *Tulsi Tanti, Chief Executive Officer, Suzlon Energy*
- *Alencar Adalberto, Secretary of Environment, Fortaleza City Hall, Brazil*
- *Jonas De Miguel, Country Director, Aguabar Brazil*
- *NN, CAPES – Brazilian Federal Agency for Research*
- *Mark Batty, Executive Manager- Environment and Waste, Western Australian Local Government Association*

**To be confirmed*