

**Meeting Sustainable Development Commitments in Cities:
The Science We Need for the Cities We Want**

July 16, 2018 | 10:30-11:45am

Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, 885 2nd Ave, New York, NY 10017

Preamble: Cities are major catalysts of change and implementing actors of recent international sustainability agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement. Cities are showing increasing political leadership in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 13, through local level climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience planning. Their work locally and within city networks is driving ambition and providing unique space for peer-to-peer learning. However, to unleash the transformative sustainability potential in cities, national commitment to sustainable development objectives and engagement with local government is imperative. To facilitate cross-sector collaboration and action, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) accepted a proposal by nine global organizations to co-sponsor a scientific conference on Cities and Climate Change in Edmonton, Canada. This purpose of this event is to showcase the success of this cross-sector collaboration and to feature some of its outputs.

Event Description: The event will feature a keynote address from the Canadian Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development highlighting the national imperative to commit to climate objectives and work with local government. Following the keynote address will be a multi-stakeholder panel, bringing together academia, urban practitioners and policy makers working with and in cities to address climate change. This panel will discuss the actions needed from national and local governments to achieve sustainable development commitments, as well as the kinds of supportive scientific inputs that are required. In particular, the meeting will present the conclusions of the recent [Cities and Climate Change Conference](#), including the primary conference deliverable – the Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change. It will also highlight initiatives which have been spurred by the Cities and Climate Change Conference.

Panellists will cover the following perspectives:

- The motivation from the perspective of city networks to bring together academics, urban practitioners and policy makers to further develop the evidence base for cities and sustainable development. This will address more of a historical context, and the accelerated momentum for cities as primary climate actors, thanks to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the signing of the Paris Agreement.
- The scientific case for further research and action on mitigation and adaptation to climate change in cities. This will be done by framing the co-benefits of climate action in addressing multiple SDGs, in addition to targets set out under SDG 11.
- Engagement of the academic, the urban practice and the policy communities at the Cities and Climate Change Science Conference, March 5-7 2018 in Edmonton, Canada. This will highlight the primary output of the conference, the Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change with details given on the priority topics for research and action specified in the agenda.
- The city perspective in the form of a presentation of the Edmonton Declaration, which was established during a pre-conference Mayoral Summit on March 4th, also in Edmonton,

Canada. This declaration calls for mayors around the world to commit to developing evidence-based policy to address climate change within the context of their city.

- Presentation of the *Innovate4Cities: A Global Climate Action Accelerator*, which has directly followed from the CitiesIPCC conference. This is a bold new commitment to develop a city-focused research and innovation agenda to address critical data, innovation, and technological gaps that will enable cities to take accelerated and more ambitious climate action. It will be co-developed by cities, city networks, scientists and research institutions, and leading private sector entities. A finalized agenda will be announced, along with support from national governments, at the Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS) taking place in San Francisco this September.
- How national governments can encourage and provide enabling legal, institutional and financial frameworks to enhance the science-policy-practice interface for sustainability action in and with cities.

Event organisers will then open the floor for questions and comments from attendees.

Closing remarks will propose ways forward for further develop and implement the research, knowledge and actions needed to address sustainable development in cities, and to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable for all citizens.