



At the occasion of the  
United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit

***Dinner and panel discussions on  
"Sustainable Cities: Hubs of Climate Action and Innovation"***

*Hosted by*

*Mr. Li Yong, Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization*

*Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme*

*Ms. Martha Delgado Peralta, President of the UN-Habitat Assembly*

*In collaboration with the Governments of Kenya and Turkey  
Co-leads of the Infrastructure, Cities and Local Action Track*

**Monday, 23 September 2019, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
South Dining Room, UNHQ, New York**

**Background:**

While cities are economically and socially vulnerable to climate change impacts, they are also responsible for 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. The vulnerability of the urban poor, mostly in informal settlements, is at breaking point and they are at risk of being left behind in the climate finance being mobilized. With the Paris Agreement paving a path to low-emission and climate-resilient development, cities are squarely in the driver's seat accelerating our collective movement on this path to sustainability. Cities are hubs for climate action and innovation. Mayors and urban youth are key agents of change. We need to fully utilize their power and valour to sustain life on our planet by slowing down climate change and reversing environmental degradation.

**Format:**

The event will include two panel discussions featuring national and city decision-makers and representatives from international organizations, financial institutions and youth groups. Panelists will be invited to showcase specific, concrete and impactful initiatives, as well as innovative mechanisms that can be deployed to ensure adequate resources are available for city climate action.



Arrival and seating of guests (6:00pm-6:15pm)	
<b>Opening Session (6:15pm-6:30pm)</b>	
6:15- 6:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome remarks by the host, Mr. LI Yong, Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization</li> <li>• Opening remarks by the co-host, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, USG and Executive Director, UN-Habitat</li> <li>• Opening remarks by the co-host, Ms. Marta Delgado, President of the UN-Habitat Assembly</li> </ul>

<b>Session 1: Combating climate change with urban innovation (6:30pm-7:00pm)</b>	
<p>Cities have high potential to prevent and resolve climate change issues and contribute to human prosperity due to their ability to devise and implement innovative locally viable solutions. Solutions can be crafted and tested in collaboratively between the private sector, local governments and communities. Replication and adaptation across cities and regions then becomes easy. Cities can also serve as a testing ground for innovative approaches to greening the economy, including concepts of sustainable consumption and circular economy concepts, while contributing to prosperity and better quality of life for all inhabitants. The panel will address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which innovative approaches, in terms of technology, partnerships and business models, best support the implementation of national climate action plans (Nationally Determined Contributions, or "NDCs"), as well as local and city climate action plans?</li> <li>• What role can digital and disruptive technologies play in promoting and advancing climate mitigation and resilience at urban and local levels? How to ensure just transition while introducing such technologies?</li> </ul>	
6:30- 7:00pm	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ani Dasgupta, Global Director, World Resources Institute, Ross Center For Sustainable Cities</li> </ul> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Keriako Tobiko, Cabinet Secretary for Environment &amp; Forestry, Kenya</li> <li>• Ms. Sheela Patel, Chair of the Board, Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI), and member of the Global Commission for Adaptation</li> <li>• Mr. Frederick Werner, President of Major Pursuits, AECOM</li> </ul>

**Intermezzo:** opportunity for short reflections per table animated by local government and youth representative (7:00pm-7:15pm)

## Session 2: Mobilizing finance at scale for city climate action (7:15pm-7:45pm)

Financing of city level climate action is a major bottleneck to leverage the potential role cities and local governments can play. The investment gap is especially acute in cities of the Global South. National government budgets nor international aid are enough to meet this shortfall. Private investors have been largely unwilling to fill the financing gap due to the high risks, low returns and lack of bankable projects. Combined action between various players, including national and local governments, international organizations and the private sector, will be key to access financing for mitigation and adaptation action in cities. A particular focus will be needed to ensure climate resilience for the urban poor. The panel will address the following questions:

- What are concrete steps that can be taken by different actors, including financial institutions, the private sector and national and local governments, to ensure the increased mobilization of adequate resources for city climate action?
- Which innovative financing and business models should be considered by local government units to mobilize the financing required to advance climate change mitigation and enhance resilience at urban and local levels?
- Who are the key actors in mobilizing resources for city climate action and how could cooperation between different actors be improved to maximize effectiveness?

7:15- 7:45pm

Moderator:

- Mr. Erion Veliaj, Mayor, Tirana, Albania

Panelists:

- Ms. Naoko Ishii, CEO, Global Environment Facility (TBC)
- Mr. Mikko Ollikainen, Manager, Adaptation Fund
- Mr. German Velasquez, Director, Mitigation and Adaption, Green Climate Fund

## Closing Session

7:45- 8:00pm

- Call for Action by Youth Representative (TBC)
- Closing remarks by the Mehmet Emin Birpinar, Deputy Minister and Chief Negotiator or Climate Change, Turkey
- Closing remarks by Mr. LI Yong, Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization



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