



Borgarráð

Reykjavík, 30. september 2025

MSS25090125

Fyrirhuguð ferð borgarstjóra til Genf á UN Forum of Mayors

Fyrirhuguð er ferð borgarstjóra til Genf dagana 5.-7. október nk. Þar mun borgarstjóri taka þátt í fimmta fundi UN Forum of Mayors. Fundurinn er haldinn af Efnahags- og félagsmálaráði Sameinuðu þjóðanna fyrir Evrópu (UNECE) í samstarfi við Global Cities Hub. Fundurinn er hluti af stærri fundaröð sem hefur það að markmiði að efla rödd borga og þéttbýlissvæða í alþjóðlegu samhengi og sýna hvernig borgarstjórnir geta lagt sitt af mörkum til heimsmarkmiða Sameinuðu þjóðanna og lausna á brýnum áskorunum. Yfirskrift fundarins er *Cities Shaping the Future* og þar hittast tugir borgarstjóra til að skiptast á reynslu og hugmyndum, kynna nýsköpun í borgarþróun og ræða leiðir til að bregðast við sameiginlegum áskorunum. Borgarstjóri mun jafnframt flytja ávarp á hliðarviðburðinum *Woman and Mayor*, þar sem rætt verður um leiðtogahlutverk kvenna í borgarstjórnnum og mikilvægi jafnréttis í stjórnsýslu og ákvarðanatöku.

Með borgarstjóra í för verður aðstoðarmaður borgarstjóra.

Heiða Björg Hilmysdóttir
borgarstjóri

Hjálagt:

Boðsbréf UNECE á UN Forum of Mayors, dags. 1. apríl 2025.

Dagskrá borgarstjóra vegna UN Forum of Mayors 2025.



Reykjavík

Ref.: 2025/OES/74/FLH

1 April 2025

**Invitation to the United Nations Forum of Mayors' meeting "Cities Shaping the Future"
(Geneva, 6-7 October 2025)**

Dear Mayor,

We have the pleasure to invite you to participate in the fifth meeting of the **UN Forum of Mayors, "Cities shaping the Future", to be held in Geneva, on 6–7 October 2025**, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The meeting is organized in cooperation with other UN Regional Commissions and with the support of United Cities and Local Governments and the Global Cities Hub.

The Forum of Mayors is a United Nations body of a unique nature that enables mayors to directly engage in UN deliberations, ensuring that local governments have a strong voice in shaping international policies, including by making recommendations to member States. The Forum also offers opportunities to exchange good practices and lessons learned with mayors from around the world.

You are invited to the UN Forum of Mayors' meeting following an official selection process: The Forum's Bureau decides on the mayors to be invited, based on countries' nominations of cities or, if there are no nominations, suggestions from the secretariat.

Detailed information on the meeting, its side events and the modalities of your participation are provided in annex to this letter. Please note that, during the plenary sessions, mayors will be invited to address specific sustainable development goals (health, gender equality, decent work); climate funding mechanisms; and housing related challenges. Mayors will also have the opportunity to discuss and report on their cities' Voluntary Local Reviews, if any. Further, the Forum will be expected to elect its next Bureau for the period 2025–2026.

Ms. Heiða Björg Hilmisdóttir
Reykjavík
Iceland

You are also most welcome to attend the ministerial meeting on housing affordability and sustainability that will take place on 8 October 2025 as the high-level segment of the eighty-sixth session of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (8–10 October 2025). Details of this meeting are available at: <https://unece.org/housing/events/cudhlm-session86>.

The UN Forum of Mayors and the ministerial meeting will be held in person only, in Geneva (Palais des Nations, room: “Tempus”). All meeting participants will be invited to register online (including to obtain the identification badges to access the UN premises).

You are kindly invited to confirm your participation to the UNECE secretariat by emailing Mr. Matyas Kalan, Secretary to the Forum of Mayors at matyas.kalan@un.org, with a copy to forum-of-mayors@un.org by no later than 19 April 2025.

We look forward to welcoming you at the Forum.

Yours sincerely,



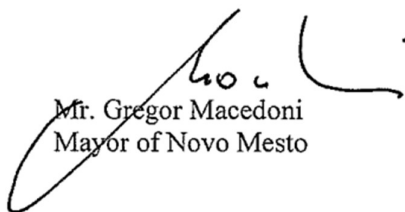
Tatiana Molcean
Under Secretary General and UNECE Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



Ms. Susan Aitken
City Leader of Glasgow Council



Mr. Eckart Würzner
Mayor of Heidelberg



Mr. Gregor Macedoni
Mayor of Novo Mesto



Mr. Sami Kanaan
Vice Mayor of Geneva

Annex

Information on the UN Forum of Mayors, the upcoming meeting and expected interventions

The **UN Forum of Mayors** is a United Nations body that enhances coherence and complementarity between the local, regional and global levels in addressing common challenges related to sustainable urban development and governance, contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Since 2020, the Forum's annual meetings have facilitated collaboration and the exchange of good practices among mayors and fostered dialogue among cities, member States and relevant international organizations. More than 160 cities¹ have thus far participated in its meetings (see: <https://land.unece.org/forumofmayors/>).

The Forum is currently at its fifth edition. The meeting will extend over four plenary sessions of 3 hours each (10.00–13.00 and 15.00–18.00). During each of these sessions, you will have the opportunity to address the audience and provide insights into your city's experience, good practices/success stories and strategic solutions (existing or planned actions, policies, strategies, projects, collaborative efforts, innovative approaches), as well as share any lessons learned or recommendations with respect to any of the issues on the agenda.

The meeting programme will cover the following **topics**:

- In alignment with the 2025 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, 14–23 July 2025), mayors will be first invited to address some of the themes under in-depth review at the global level – that are of key relevance also to the local governments, namely:
 - **Good health and well-being (SDG 3)**
 - **Gender equality (SDG 5)**
 - **Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8).**
- Mayors are then expected to discuss **climate finance mechanisms** – which are essential to cover the substantial funding cities and municipalities need for tackling the multiple climate change-related challenges that they are at the forefront to confront.
- Next, given the critical importance of accelerating the SDG localization to achieve the 2030 Agenda, a session will be dedicated to **Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)** - as key tools for the local governments to monitor and to report on their progress in implementing SDGs. Mayors will be invited to report on their cities' VLRs. They may wish to highlight their approaches for: integrating the SDG implementation into urban planning and for aligning the VLRs with national and regional plans and voluntary reviews, fostering multilevel governance and stakeholder consultations.
- The last thematic discussion will focus on **housing-related challenges** faced by local authorities as regards affordability and sustainability. Mayors will have the possibility

¹ Please see the list of the cities that attended the previous meetings of Forum of Mayors at the end of this letter.

to present their related experience and good practice solutions as well as to agree on recommendations to be transmitted to the ministerial meeting on housing of 8 October.

Towards the end of the meeting, as an outcome, the Forum of Mayors is expected to collaboratively finalize and agree on a **set of recommendations** covering each of the substantive themes discussed. The mayors will receive for their consideration draft recommendations prepared ahead of the meeting by the Bureau of the Forum, with support from the secretariat, in consultation with the mayors' offices of the participating cities. In June-July, the secretariat will convene online consultations on the draft outcome document to facilitate consensus on the document. During the meeting in October, all participating mayors will have the opportunity to further contribute to and refine the document prior to its adoption.

Mayors are encouraged to actively participate throughout the meeting by requesting for the floor on any of the topics they would wish to intervene (by raising their city's nameplate placed before them). The Chairperson will give them the opportunity to speak. A mayor may choose to intervene either from his/her seat or from behind a lectern by the podium. To ensure that all participating mayors have the chance to speak, each intervention should be concise, not exceeding 2 minutes, and be directly related to the topics discussed, covering the key aspects outlined above. This approach will enable efficient and inclusive dialogue among all participants. Interventions can be delivered in one of the official languages of UNECE, namely English, French, or Russian. (Simultaneous interpretation in two other UN languages, Arabic and Spanish, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary donor funding.)

To ensure that your contributions are accurately reflected by the interpreters and recorded in the summary of the event, your office is kindly invited to provide the secretariat with 1-2 bullet point(s) per intervention highlighting your most important points and take-aways.

Elections of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Forum and their role

Before the closing of the meeting, on 7 October, the Forum of Mayors is expected to elect a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons for its next meeting (preliminarily scheduled for 12–13 October 2026), who will hold office until the end of that meeting and provide guidance to the secretariat for its preparation. Should you be interested to serve as a Chair or Vice-Chair of the Forum of Mayors, kindly indicate this clearly in your reply to the secretariat.

The Bureau of the Forum of Mayors holds brief (1 hour) online meetings to prepare for the Forum's meetings. A Chair or a Vice-Chair is expected to participate in about 2 to 3 of them per year as a maximum, when issues necessitating the presence of a mayor would be on the agenda. For the participation in the remaining Bureau meetings and communication on the preparatory work, the elected mayors are invited to nominate a representative from their office and communicate his/her name and contact details to the secretariat at the earliest convenience.

Side events

A series of events will be organized in the margins of the 5th meeting of the Forum of Mayors, offering additional opportunities for engagement and networking. A preliminary list of these events and their tentative timing include:

1. A side event on urban peace, "Cities of Reconciliation" (6 October 2025, 8.30-9.45)

2. A side event on **women mayors** (6 October 2025, 13.15–14.45).
3. A **cocktail reception** offered for all mayors and participants of the Forum by the City of Glasgow (6 October 2025, as of 18:00)
4. A side event on **environmental challenges for cities** (7 October 2025, 8.30-9.45) (tbc)
5. A **high-level meeting between mayors and Heads of international organizations**, scheduled (7 October, 13.15–14.45)
6. A side event on localization of the **SDGs and Voluntary Local Reviews**, (7 October 2025, as of 18.00).
7. The World Economic Forum will invite participating mayors to its headquarters to discuss ‘mission-oriented public-private-partnership to promote innovation at the local level’ (8 October 2025, afternoon).

Registration

To participate in the **Forum of Mayors’ 5th meeting** and access the meeting at the Palais des Nations, **please register online by 8 September 2025** through the following link:

<https://indico.un.org/event/1011941/>.

To attend the **ministerial meeting on housing** affordability and sustainability that will take place on 8 October 2025, as part of the eighty-sixth session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (8–10 October 2025), **please register online by 8 September** through the following **separate link**: <https://indico.un.org/event/1011931/>.

Website and social media

Please kindly share with us a high-resolution picture to be used for the official website of the Forum of Mayors (<https://land.unece.org/forumofmayors/>) and event-related communication materials.

Visa

The present invitation letter may be used to obtain a visa for Switzerland for the dates extending from 5 to 14 October 2025. For questions regarding visa applications and other logistical matters, please contact Mr. Stephen Hatem at stephen.hatem@un.org.

List of cities that attended the 2020, 2022, 2023 and 2024 meetings of the Forum of Mayors

Belsh (Albania), Berat (Albania), Cërrik (Albania), Elbasan (Albania), Librazhd (Albania), Mat (Albania), Patos (Albania), Puka (Albania), Roskovec (Albania), Tirana (Albania), Vlore (Albania), Andorra la Vella (Andorra), Alaverdi (Armenia), Aparan (Armenia), Gyumri (Armenia), Hrazdan (Armenia), Ijevan (Armenia), Tashir (Armenia), Vagharshapat (Armenia), Vanadzor (Armenia), Vedi (Armenia), Yerevan (Armenia), Vienna (Austria), Chaussy (Belarus), Ghent (Belgium), Cotonou (Benin), Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Barcarena (Brazil), Conceição do Mato Dentro (Brazil), Porto Alegre (Brazil), Burgas (Bulgaria), Montreal (Canada), Quebec (Canada), Victoria (Canada), Osijek (Croatia), Split (Croatia), Athienou (Cyprus), Larnaca (Cyprus), Nicosia (Cyprus),

Ostrava (Czech Republic), Prague (Czech Republic), Otavalo (Ecuador), Damietta (Egypt), Rakvere (Estonia), Tallinn (Estonia), Dire Dawa (Ethiopia), Helsinki (Finland), Turku (Finland), Bordeaux (France), Dijon (France), Eurometropolis of Strasbourg (France), Evian les Bains (France), Ferney-Voltaire (France), Grenoble (France), Nantes (France), Kutaisi (Georgia), Tbilisi (Georgia), Bonn (Germany), Freiburg (Germany), Heidelberg (Germany), Kiel (Germany), Accra (Ghana), Ayawaso (East) (Ghana), Ayawaso (West) (Ghana), Athens (Greece), Debrecen (Hungary), Veszprém (Hungary), Reykjavík (Iceland), Tehran (Iran), Cork (Ireland), Dublin (Ireland), Hod Hasharon (Israel), Jerusalem (Israel), Alba (Italy), Arezzo (Italy), Bari (Italy), Isola Dovarese (Italy), Potenza (Italy), Rome (Italy), Savona (Italy), Amman (Jordan), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Nairobi (Kenya), Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Osh (Kyrgyzstan), Liepāja (Latvia), Riga (Latvia), Valmiera (Latvia), Vaduz (Liechtenstein), Jonava (Lithuania), Vilnius (Lithuania), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Klang (Malaysia), Balzan (Malta), St. Paul's Bay (Malta), Ta' Xbiex (Malta), Nouakchott (Mauritania), Podgorica (Montenegro), Agadir (Morocco), Rabat (Morocco), Doetinchem (Netherlands), Utrecht (Netherlands), Niamey (Niger), Ohrid (North Macedonia), Skopje (North Macedonia), Trondheim (Norway), Turbat Kech (Pakistan), Naga (Philippines), Katowice (Poland), Łódź (Poland), Braga (Portugal), Cascais (Portugal), Loulé (Portugal), Mafra (Portugal), Matosinhos (Portugal), Cantemir (Republic of Moldova), Chisinau (Republic of Moldova), Ungheni (Republic of Moldova), Alba Iulia (Romania), Bucharest (Romania), Comarnic (Romania), Cugir (Romania), Galati (Romania), Kazan (Russian Federation), Kigali (Rwanda), San Marino (San Marino), Dakar (Senegal), Belgrade (Serbia), Freetown (Sierra Leone), Bratislava (Slovakia), Kranj (Slovenia), Maribor (Slovenia), Novo Mesto (Slovenia), Bilbao (Spain), Madrid (Spain), Zaragoza (Spain), Granollers (Spain), Helsingborg (Sweden), Malmö (Sweden), Bern (Switzerland), Castel San Pietro (Switzerland), Geneva (Switzerland), Lausanne (Switzerland), Le Grand-Saconnex (Switzerland), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Khorog (Tajikistan), Dodoma (Tanzania), Nakhon Si Thammarat (Thailand), Atakpamé (Togo), Gaziantep (Türkiye), Avaza (Turkmenistan), Ashgabat (Turkmenistan), Kampala (Uganda), Irpin (Ukraine), Kharkiv (Ukraine), Mykolaiv (Ukraine), Bristol (UK), Glasgow (UK), London (UK), Boston (USA), New Orleans (USA), Pittsburgh (USA), Tashkent (Uzbekistan).

Cities Shaping the Future

Draft programme

(as of 26 September 2025)

DAY 1 – 6 OCTOBER 2025		
08:00-10:00	Badge Accreditation	Pregny Gate
08:30-09:45	Side Event - Local Leadership in Preventing and Addressing Internal Displacement UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, UNHCR and UNDP	H 200 H-Building
SESSION ONE		
10:00-10:30 (À 3 min)	I. Opening and Welcome <i>Opening of the meeting</i> Ms. Susan Aitken , Chair, 2025 UN Forum of Mayors Bureau, City Leader of Glasgow Council, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland <i>Welcoming remarks</i> Ms. Tatiana Molcean , Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) <i>Opening speeches</i> Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus , Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO) (tbc) Ms. Laura Thompson , Assistant Director-General, International Labour Organization (ILO) Ms. Sofia Calltorp , Director of the Geneva Office and Chief of Humanitarian Action, UN Women Mr. Mathieu Mori , Secretary General, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe	Tempus



FORUM OF
MAYORS
2025



Cities Shaping the Future

	<p>Ms. Christina Kitsos, Deputy Mayor of Geneva, Ex Officio member of the 2025 Forum of Mayors Bureau, President of the Global Cities Hub</p> <p>Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)</p>	
10:30-10:50	<p>Keynote speech</p> <p>Ms. Ruth Dreifuss, Spokesperson of the 5th meeting of UN Forum of Mayors; Former President of Switzerland and founding member of The Global Commission on Drug Policy</p> <p>Keynote speech</p> <p>Ms. Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, France</p>	
10:50-11:00	<p>Group Photo</p> <p>II. Adoption of the Agenda</p>	
11:00-13:00	<p>III. Key SDG themes under review at HLPF 2025</p> <p>A. Good health and well-being (SDG 3) Presenter: Ms. Nathalie Laure Roebbel, World Health Organization (WHO)</p> <p>Interventions by the Mayors Co-moderators: Ms. Christina Kitsos, Deputy Mayor of Geneva, Ex Officio member of the 2025 Forum of Mayors Bureau, President of the Global Cities Hub Mr. Sebastián Sichel, Mayor of Ñuñoa, Chile</p> <p>Closing remarks: Mr. Diego Aulestia, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)</p> <p>B. Gender equality (SDG 5) Presenter: Ms. Asya Varbanova, Deputy Chief of Humanitarian Action, UN Women</p> <p>Interventions by the Mayors Co-moderators:</p>	



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Cities Shaping the Future

	<p>Ms. Susan Aitken (Glasgow), Chair of the UN Forum of Mayors Bureau</p> <p>Mr. Ziad Rihani, Deputy Mayor of Amman, Jordan</p> <p>Closing remarks: Ms. Sukaina Al Nasrawi, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)</p>	
13:15-14:45	<p>Side Event – Woman and Mayor: Empowering Urban Leadership for a Sustainable Future</p> <p>UNECE and Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva</p>	H 200 H-Building
SESSION TWO		
15:00-18:00	<p>III. Key SDG themes under review at HLPF 2025</p> <p>C. Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8)</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Mr. Jean-François Klein, Employment Policy Advisor, International Labour Organization (ILO)</p> <p>Interventions by the Mayors</p> <p>Co-moderators:</p> <p>Mr. Eckart Würzner (Heidelberg), Vice Chair of the UN Forum of Mayors Bureau</p> <p>Mr. James Njoroge Muchiri, Deputy Governor of Nairobi, Kenya</p> <p>Closing remarks: Ms. Atkeyelsh Persson, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)</p> <p>IV. Climate Finance Mechanisms</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Mr. Dario Liguti, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE</p> <p>Interventions by the Mayors</p> <p>Co-moderators:</p> <p>Mr. Gregor Macedoni (Novo Mesto), Vice Chair of the UN Forum of Mayors Bureau</p> <p>Ms. Arlene B. Arcillas, Mayor of Santa Rosa, Philippines</p> <p>Closing remarks: Mr. Curt Garrigan, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)</p>	Tempus



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Cities Shaping the Future

18:15-19:45	Cocktail Reception By the city of Glasgow, United Kingdom	Salle des Pas Perdus A-Building
DAY 2 – 7 OCTOBER 2025		
08:30-09:45	Side event – Cooling and Building for Urban Resilience: Local Solutions, Global Impact Global Cities Hub, UNECE and UNEP	H 200 H-Building
SESSION THREE		
10:00-13:00	Opening remarks: Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach , Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat Civil society views: Dr. Nelya Rakhimova , Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism at UNECE (ECE- RCEM), RAD Platform e.V. V. Housing related challenges Presenter: Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach , Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat Interventions by the Mayors Moderator: Ms. Susan Aitken (Glasgow), Chair of the UN Forum of Mayors Bureau Closing remarks: Ms. Sorchá Edwards , Secretary General, Housing Europe VI. Voluntary Local and Sub-national Reviews (VLRs, VSRs) Presenter: Mr. Carlos Mascarell Vilar , Head of the Forum of Regions, UCLG Interventions by the Mayors Moderator:	Tempus



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Cities Shaping the Future

	Mr. Gregor Macedoni (Novo Mesto), Vice Chair of the UN Forum of Mayors Bureau Closing remarks: Ms. Anh Thu Duong , Co-director of Global Cities Hub	
13:15-14:45	Side Event – High-Level Meeting of Mayors and Heads of International Organizations UNECE and Global Cities Hub	Tempus
SESSION FOUR		
15:00-16:45	Final negotiation of the outcome document of the Forum of Mayors Moderator: Ms. Susan Aitken (Glasgow), Chair of the UN Forum of Mayors Bureau Interventions by the Mayors on the recommendations Approval and adoption of the outcome document	Tempus
16:45-17:15	Elections of Chairpersons for the 2026 meeting In accordance with the Forum's Terms of Reference: " <i>the next session Chairpersons will be elected by the Forum of Mayors until the end of the following session.</i> "	
17:15-17:45	Suggestions from the Mayors for the 2026 meeting	
17:50-18:00	Closing Ms. Susan Aitken (Glasgow), Chair of the UN Forum of Mayors Bureau Ms. Paola Deda , Director, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE	
18:15-21:00	Side Event – Action-Oriented Plans for Implementing Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) & followed by a reception Global Cities Hub	Villa Rigot
8 OCTOBER 2025		
10:00-18:00	Ministerial meeting on Housing affordability and sustainability, 86th session of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management	Tempus

Cities Shaping the Future

12:30-16:00

Mayors' event at the World Economic Forum on public-private partnership for financing local innovation & Networking receptions with fellow Mayors and the private sector (by invitation only).
World Economic Forum and the Global Cities Hub

WEF
Headquarters