



GREEN CITIES to build back better for SDGs – A new powerful venture

Objective of the event

The action-oriented, High-Level event will present an integrated approach to urban and peri-urban planning aimed at:

- improving the quality and quantity of urban and peri-urban forest and green spaces to maximize the provision of ecosystem good and services to city dwellers;
- increasing the adoption of sustainable and climate-resilient practices and technologies to increase local food production, promote short supply chains, while reducing the urban and peri-urban environmental and climate footprint; and
- promoting sustainable and inclusive urban food systems through green agro-processing hubs, efficient food distribution, improved food environments and management of water resources and food waste along circular economy principles.

The event will highlight initiatives that are scaling up innovation and accelerating action, including the Milan Food Policy Pact, the New Urban Agenda, the World Sustainable Urban Food Centre of Valencia, the FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative and other strategic partnerships. The event will also feature testimonials from metropolitan, intermediary and small cities from around the world that are in line with the FAO Green Cities Initiative. It will also be an opportunity for all stakeholders, including national and local governments, UN Agencies and international organization and city networks, development organizations and donors to join the Initiative as active partners, while ensuring that urbanization becomes an opportunity for cities to be more sustainable and resilient, helping achieve the SDGs and leaving no one behind.

Target Audience

UN Ambassadors; UN partners; FAO Permanent Representatives; city leaders; financial institutions; donors; governmental, technical, research and educational institutions; media; general public.

Outline of the Event

TIME	PROGRAMME	PRESENTER
18.00 – 18.50	High-level opening	
	Welcome and introduction	Ms Lana Wong
	Keynote address: "FAO's vision for Green Cities and innovation"	Mr QU Dongyu, Director-General, FAO
	Opening remarks	
	Mr Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme	
	Ms Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme	
	Li Yong, Director-General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization	
	Mr Jürgen Rigterink, Acting President, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	
18.51 – 18.54	Mr Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Chief Executive Officer, Global Environment Facility	
	Mr Rémy Rioux, Chief Executive Officer, French Development Agency	
18.55 – 19.30	Mr Javier Manzanares, Deputy Executive Secretary, Green Climate Fund	
	Testimonials from Cities	
19.31 – 19.37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Souad Abderrahim, Mayor of Tunis (Tunisia) • Mr Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milan (Italy) • Mr Daniel Quintero, Mayor of Medellín (Colombia) • Mr Wen Guohui, Mayor of Guangzhou (People's Republic of China) • Mr Manuel de Araujo, Mayor of Quelimane (Mozambique) • Mr Bruno Covas, Mayor of São Paulo (Brazil) • Ms Kate MacKenzie, Director of the Food Policy, Office of the Mayor of New York (United States of America) 	
	19.38 – 19.48	Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, FAO
19.31 – 19.37	Call for action	
	Supporting statements	
19.49 – 20.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr David Miller, Director of International Diplomacy, C40 Cities • Ms Emilia Sáiz is Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) • Mr Dan Lambe. President, Arbor Day Foundation • Mr Gino Van Begin is the Secretary General of ICLEI • Mr Vicente Domingo, Director, CEMAS • Mr Enrique Cesar Lopez Veiga, President, Port Authority of Vigo • Ms Alexandra Rodriguez, Head, Participatory Urban Agriculture Programme of Quito (AGRUPAR) 	
	Closing remarks	Mr QU Dongyu, Director-General, FAO