



2025 ASIA PACIFIC CITIES SUMMIT & MAYORS' FORUM

Expo City Dubai, UAE
27-29 October

Host city



An initiative of



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

2025 Asia Pacific Cities Summit (2025APCS)
& Mayors' Forum

Mayors' Accord

Dubai Declaration on the Future of Urban Governance

Premier Partner: Mayors' Forum

بلدية دبي
Dubai Municipality

Theme

Collaborate. Inspire. Transform.

Subthemes



Centres of Connection

The pivotal role of transportation networks, digital infrastructure and community spaces in driving economic opportunity and bridging geographic and demographic divides in cities



Centres of Solutions

How urban innovation can drive transformative change through scalable and adaptable solutions that balance technological advancement with community empowerment



Centres of Resilience

Fortifying cities against climate impacts, natural disasters and economic instability, and creating urban environments that empower communities to thrive in the face of change

Tracks

Digital Transformation & Urban Futures

City Leadership & Economic Development

Quality of Life

Environmental Solutions & Urban Regeneration

Cross-cutting themes

Youth • Community • Sustainability • The Business Case • Tech & innovation





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مدينة إكسبو دبي، الإمارات العربية المتحدة 27-29 أكتوبر
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EXPO CITY DUBAI

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Dubai Declaration on the Future of Urban Governance

Preamble: A Decisive Era for City Leadership

In October 2025, more than 150 Mayors and representatives from over 350 cities gathered at Expo City Dubai for the 15th Asia Pacific Cities Summit & Mayors' Forum. We convened in a spirit of practical optimism, recognising that while the challenges before us are real, they are also solvable through shared purpose and collective action.

In our global city this historic gathering, the largest of its kind, brought together city leaders, youth, business, sustainability, community, technology and innovation. It was a platform driven by solutions and outcomes, activating the full value chain of urban progress: from government to civil society, start-ups to corporates, investors, creatives, accelerators and all those whose interventions and interactions can spark transformative change.

We came together at a moment of both urgency and opportunity, from North to South and East to West, with cities large and small. Urbanisation, climate change, technological acceleration and social transformation are converging to redefine the future of city leadership. Governance today requires new balance: resilience alongside regeneration, innovation with inclusion, delivery aligned with long-term sustainability.

Cities are ready to lead, yet not all are equally equipped to do so. The Urban Readiness Report 2025, based on consultations with more than 1,000 city leaders worldwide, highlights the central dilemma of our time: the immediate need to deliver essential services while building lasting resilience for the generations to come.

At the Mayors' Forum of the 15th Asia Pacific Cities Summit at Expo City Dubai, we issue this Accord as a response to that challenge, a roadmap towards a new paradigm of future-ready urban governance. It is a call to action to lead with courage, innovate with purpose and build cities that are not only ready for the future, but ready to shape it too.

WORKING TOGETHER, WE SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CITIES

Digital Transformation and Urban Futures: Championing the Principles of Inclusive Innovation

- Harnessing technology and data to govern more effectively and responsibly, making urban services smarter, more transparent and more accessible.
- Using digital transformation to unlock innovation across all aspects of urban life including strengthening human connection, civic trust and participation.
- Implementing smart city technologies to deliver transformative change across health and social services, public administration and transportation.
- Ensuring that technology closes divides, rather than deepens them, by strengthening digital literacy, countering disinformation and supporting communities most vulnerable to disruption.
- Fostering mission-driven ecosystems that link governments, businesses, and citizens to co-create solutions that serve the public good.
- Recognising that with foresight and collaboration, digital transformation will empower citizens, strengthen governance and create cities that are trusted, connected and forward-looking for generations to come.

City Leadership and Economic Governance: Building the Foundation for Resilient Prosperity

- Recognising that strong city leadership, anchored in collaboration, vision and opportunities is the foundation of lasting prosperity and wellbeing for citizens.
- Guiding urban growth with a focus not only to scale but on liveability, affordability and long-term prosperity.
- Strengthening global trade and investment networks, building partnerships that enhance economic resilience, attract sustainable capital and expand opportunities for citizens.
- Shaping city identities that honour heritage while embracing ambition, creating places that are both rooted and forward-looking.
- Upholding cities as champions of global engagement, forging partnerships across regions, sectors and markets.

Quality of Life: Designing Cities where People Thrive

- Making wellbeing and equity the guiding principles of urban transformation.
- Building partnerships with citizens, civil society and businesses to amplify urban vibrancy, foster social cohesion and deepen community engagement.
- Affirming that affordable and inclusive housing, strong health systems, and safe, inclusive and active public spaces are the foundations of thriving and equitable societies.
- Continuing to prioritise accessibility across city life so that all citizens can share in opportunities for growth.
- Championing tourism as a pillar of economic diversification and cultural exchange, strengthening cities' resilience and deepening mutual understanding between people and places.
- Empowering cities to become hubs of education, talent and lifelong learning, where human potential drives innovation, economic vitality and shared prosperity.
- Affirming that cultural development is measured not only by visibility or revenue, but by its power to strengthen a community's identity and improve everyday life for citizens.

Environmental Solutions and Urban Regeneration: Building Agile, Climate-ready cities

- Protecting and regenerating the natural environment as an essential foundation of urban sustainability and prosperity.
 - Fortifying efforts in climate change adaptation, strengthening disaster preparedness and response and redoubling commitments to decarbonisation, building on the outcomes of recent global climate convenings.
 - Harnessing opportunities in alternative energy, managing urban heat and decarbonising the built environment to create cleaner and more liveable cities.
 - Embedding nature-positive approaches in urban development, ensuring that growth enhances rather than depletes the ecosystems that sustain us.
 - Promoting circular practices in how cities consume and produce, transforming waste into opportunity and securing critical resources for generations to come.
 - Shaping cities that are more sustainable, regenerative and climate-ready, places where environmental stewardship and human prosperity go hand in hand.
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Regions Represented at the Mayors' Forum



Cities Endorsing the Mayors' Accord

- Accra
- Agadir
- Ahmedabad
- Alagoinhas
- Antsirabe
- Aswan
- Athens
- Ayodhya
- Baghdad
- Ballou
- Banjul
- Beirut
- Bilbao
- Bjelovar
- Brazzaville
- Brisbane
- Bzbedine
- Campos do Jordão
- Canoas
- Caruaru
- Casablanca
- Chandigarh
- Chortkiv
- Cuenca
- Cuiaba
- Dakar
- Dire Dawa
- Dubai
- Entre Rios
- Enugu
- Freetown
- Gaborone
- Gaiba
- Gelephu
- Giza
- Golf Sud
- Grand-Popo
- Gurgy-le Château
- Harare
- Hasbaya El Matn
- Hoima
- Horishni Plavni
- Ilocos Norte
- Irbid
- Jabalpur
- Jaipur
- Jalandhar
- Kahone
- Kampala
- Karachi
- Kashipur
- Koboko
- Kouandé
- Las Piñas
- Lençóis Paulista / São Paulo
- Lilongwe
- Lira
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Ludhiana
- Mafra
- Malé City
- Malicounda
- Maputo
- Marrakesh
- Masaka
- Mauá / São Paulo
- Miguel Pereira
- Montpellier
- Moreton Bay
- Moroni
- Najran
- Nansana
- Naples
- New York
- Niamey
- Nicosia
- Noosa Shire Council
- North Miami
- Nova Lima
- Nyeri County
- Ouarzazate
- Parakou
- Paris
- Pateros
- Peshawar
- Piraí / RJ
- Plateau
- Pointe-Noire
- Porokhane
- Quelimane
- Rabat
- Saida
- San Juan
- Sandiara
- Sarajevo
- Seberang Perai
- Seoul
- Sinendé
- Stellenbosch
- Strovolos
- Surat
- Tabuk
- Tangier
- Tauá
- Tirana
- Tiruppur
- Tokyo
- Treviolo
- Tripoli
- Valença
- Valenzuela
- Vasylkiv
- Votuporanga / São Paulo
- Vyas
- Wrocław
- Yerevan
- Zahle
- Zarqa
- Zhmerynka
- Zhovkva
- Zviahel City