

Preparations for the Second Forum of Mayors

Mr. Martin Zbinden (Switzerland),
Chair of the Steering Committee
for the 2022 UN Forum of Mayors

*Presentation at the 82nd session of the UNECE
Committee on Urban Development, Housing and
Land Management*



2022



UNECE

Dates and the theme of the Forum of Mayors

The 2022 Forum of Mayors will be held on **4-5 April 2022 in Geneva**, Switzerland, back-to-back with the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) to link local and national actions in support of the achievement of the SDGs.

The theme of the Forum of Mayors is in line with the overall topic of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2022: *“Recovering from COVID-19 while advancing the implementation of the SDGs: improving the response to the pandemic and strengthening SDG implementation during the Decade of Action and Delivery through equality and the empowerment of women and girls, quality education and the sustainable management, protection and restoration of natural resources.”*

Second Forum of Mayors Steering Committee

The SC leads the planning and organization of the Forum; meets on bi-monthly basis

Steering Committee members

Mr. Martin Zhbinden, Steering Committee Co-Chair (Switzerland)

Ms. Joana Balsemão, Steering Committee Co-Chair (Portugal)

Ms. Doris Andoni, Chair of the CUDHLM (Albania)

Mr. Dmitry Doroshevich, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Belarus in Geneva (Belarus)

Ms. Marie Pierre Meganck, Member of the CUDHLM Bureau (France)

H.E. Mr. Andras Szorenyi, Ambassador of Hungary to the UN Office and other IOs in Geneva (Hungary)

Mr. Giampiero Bambagioni, Member of the CUDHLM Bureau (Italy)

Mr. Olzhas Sartaev, Member of the CUDHLM Bureau (Kazakhstan)

Ms. Helena Beunza, Member of the CUDHLM Bureau (Spain)

Ms. Paloma Taltavull de la Paz, Chair of UNECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group (Spain)

Representatives of other organizations

Ms. Kamelia Kemieva, Director, Geneva City Hub

Mr. Richard Dilworth, Norman Foster Foundation

Mr. Dr Graham Alabaster, Head of Geneva Office (OIC), UN-Habitat

Mr. Pietro Elisei, ISOCARP President Elect

Representatives of UNECE divisions

One representative from each division and representatives of the Road Safety Fund

Forum of Mayors sessions

The Forum will be organized in 4 sessions of 3 hours each, focusing on the Geneva Declaration, related SDGs and COVID-19 recover action cover the following aspects of urban development:

- 1. Built environment**
- 2. Public and green spaces**
- 3. Mobility and connectivity**
- 4. The neighbourhood /15-minute city**

Expected statements by Mayors

One **Mayor per member State** will be invited to participate in the Forum with a statement.

Mayors will be able to make **visual statements using 2/4 photographs** of his/her city

Each session will consist of 10-12 visual presentations from different Mayors. Each mayor is allotted about 10 to 12 minutes each.

Criteria of the selection of Mayors

The secretariat will invite a Mayor from each UNECE member State to present and participate in the meeting, in line with the theme and sessions of the Forum. A draft list of mayors was sent to the Permanent Missions of the UNECE member States, expecting **responses by 11 October 2021**.

The proposed draft list includes:

- (1) Mayors of cities with ongoing UNECE projects
- (2) Mayors who attended the Forum in 2020
- (3) Mayors with successful projects related to sustainability or recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic
- (4) Mayors suggested by UN partner organizations, cities' network members of the Steering Committee and UNECE divisions.



Mayors from other regions

The Steering Committee of the Forum of Mayors also decided to invite two mayors from other regional commissions to present at the meeting. The secretariat will liaise with RCs on this.

Communication activities

- Joint planning on communication established between UNECE and Geneva Cities Hub
- New website is being developed
- Social media campaign is ongoing



Background document

The Secretariat is working to prepare a background document to the meeting to focus on opportunities and challenges for the participation of mayors in the work of the UN/Forum of Mayors

Side events

Partners will be invited to propose side events to the Forum of Mayors

Timeline for the preparations

- The secretariat will send **invitation to Mayors** by end of **October/ early November 2021**
- Programme and side event will be finalized by February 2022
- Mayors will be asked to send visual materials by March 2021

