



HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF MAYORS AND HEADS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

*Organized by United Nations Economic Commission for
Europe (UNECE) and Global Cities Hub*



FORUM OF
MAYORS 2025

Light Lunch will be provided

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 7 October 2025,
13.15 – 14.45 CET
Palais Des Nations, Tempus



UN-HABITAT



UNDRR



UNECE

The **UN Forum of Mayors** as a subsidiary body of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing, and Land Management of UNECE. This Forum was created to support urban development and **SDG implementation** at the local level. The UN Forum of Mayors is a unique UN body that allows mayors to participate in the United Nations in their own capacity, enabling them to share their city strategic plans, actions, and joint initiatives to address regional and global challenges.

This year's Forum "Cities Shaping the Future" presents a distinct opportunity to **strengthen the connection between global governance and the issues effecting people** on the ground, helping to restore trust in a more inclusive and effective UN multilateral system.

The High-level meeting of Mayors and Heads of International Organizations gives mayors and deputy mayors the opportunity **to directly interact with distinguished leaders of international organizations**. They will discuss how to address today's most pressing global challenges with local impacts. Inclusive and effective multilateralism requires a whole-of-government approach, where different levels complement and strengthen each other to find adequate solutions.

This special high-level meeting with **heads of International Organizations** (UN-Habitat, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – UNDRR, International Telecommunication Union – ITU, and UN Economic Commission for Europe - UNECE) will focus on the topics **of housing and sustainable urbanization, urban resilience, digitalization and smart cities, as well as sustainable urban development in a comprehensive sense**. All these issues are highly relevant both in multilateral discussions and at the local level.

The open exchange will enable mayors to receive **first-hand information about the work of these international organizations with local governments and communities**, as well as to share their own perspectives on these crucial issues. It will also provide them with the opportunity to ask the most **relevant questions directly from a local angle**. Follow-up on key issues can be conducted through UN field offices in the countries and cities concerned, while the Global Cities Hub is also ready to assist with this process.

The Global Cities Hub is working actively on the engagement of local and regional governments in multilateral processes, and it is convinced that such a meeting will be a highlight of the mayors' visit to Geneva and a **great opportunity for international organizations to directly engage with subnational governments**.



Ms. Tatiana Molcean

Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

UNECE facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation among its member states, promoting sustainable development and economic prosperity. Its work focuses on thematic areas such as energy, transport, forest management, housing and land management, trade and the environment. UNECE hosts the UN Forum of Mayors and is deeply involved in the localization of SDGs through policy dialogue, the exchange of best practices, and the development of recommendations to member States.



Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas

Deputy Secretary General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

ITU is the UN specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs). It works in three main areas: radiocommunication, ICT standardization and ICT development to enhance access to ICTs and bridge the digital divide among and within countries. An important aspect of its work is the development of standards supporting sustainable urban development, including local digital infrastructure development, smart city services, and the creation of citiverse(s).



Ms. Anaclàudia Rossbach

Executive Secretary of UN-Habitat, United Nations Under-Secretary-General

UN-Habitat is the UN entity which has naturally considered local authorities as its closest partners. Headquartered in Nairobi, with a network of regional offices, UN-Habitat focuses on urban actors and matters. It promotes urbanization as a positive transformative force for people and communities through normative work, advocacy and technical assistance. It supports national and local governments to address their development challenges and advance sustainable and inclusive urban development.



Mr. Kamal Kishore

Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNDRR is the UN focal point for disaster risk reduction (DRR). It convenes and coordinates risk reduction activities towards a more resilient future, protecting gains made towards the Sustainable Development Goals. UNDRR oversees the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030, supporting countries with its implementation, monitoring and sharing what works in reducing existing risk of disaster and preventing the creation of new risks.

Moderated by:

Ms. Anh Thu Duong, Co-Director of Global Cities Hub

Opening

13:15 - 13:20 Welcome remarks by **Ms. Anh Thu Duong**, Co-Director of Global Cities Hub and **Ms. Tatiana Molcean**, Executive *Secretary of UNECE*

Statement

13:20 - 13:45 Statement by **Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin**, Secretary General, International Telecommunication Union
Followed by Q&A

Statement

13:45-14:10 Statement by **Ms. Anaclàudia Rossbach**, Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary of UN-Habitat
Followed by Q&A

Statement

14:10-14:35 Statement by **Mr. Kamal Kishore**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction
Followed by Q&A

Closing