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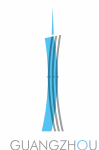
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2021 Global Mayors' Forum | 13<sup>th</sup> Metropolis World Congress | 5<sup>th</sup> Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation

## 2021 Global Mayors' Forum 13<sup>th</sup> Metropolis World Congress 5<sup>th</sup> Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation

**In Joint Pursuit of Better Governance for the Cities**

**November 2021  
Guangzhou, China**



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Winner of Metropolis through Children's Eyes drawing contest (12-14 years old):  
Hayle Stigling (aged 14, Johannesburg, South Africa)

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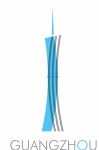
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### Part V Program





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# Introduction



Winner of Metropolis through Children's Eyes drawing contest (5-8 years old):  
Huang Luoyao (aged 7, Fuzhou, China)



From November 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the hybrid 2021 Global Mayors' Forum, 13<sup>th</sup> Metropolis World Congress and 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation (hereinafter referred to as “the events”) were successfully held in Guangzhou. Under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, the events aimed to create public goods for global urban governance innovation, and to contribute the wisdom of Guangzhou and China to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

The events were co-hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government, the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis). With the theme of In Joint Pursuit of Better Governance for the Cities, a total of 24 sessions had come to a successful conclusion.

More than 800 guests from 126 cities in 80 countries as well as 9 international organizations attended the events. Mr. Ma Biao, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), delivered a video keynote speech.

Also attending were the following dignitaries, among others:

Ambassador Lin Songtian, President of CPAFFC;



Mr. Zhong Nanshan, Recipient of the Medal of the Republic and Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering;

Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO);

Mr. Li Yong, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO);

Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG;

Mr. Octavi de la Varga, Secretary General of Metropolis;

Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha, President of UCLG ASPAC;

More than 70 mayors and political representatives from Xi'an and Lvliang of China, Istanbul of Turkey, Kazan of Russia, Auckland of New Zealand, Tehran of Iran, Bandung of Indonesia, Bogotá of Colombia, Rosario of Argentina, Arequipa of Peru, Heidelberg of Germany, Bari of Italy, Praia of Cape Verde, and Harare of Zimbabwe, and other cities and regions.

Also notable during the events were 6 sub-forums: Modernizing Urban Governance with New Technologies and New Infrastructure; Urban Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity Conservation; Healthy Cities: Opportunities and Challenges; Building Diverse, Inclusive and Resilient Urban Governance System; Metropolis' Role in Fighting Poverty and Supporting Less Developed Regions; and Sustainable Development Goals and Urban Governance. Leaders of cities, international organizations and businesses, as well as experts and the media took this opportunity to fully exchange ideas on sustainable development.

The two side events, the Guangzhou - Los Angeles - Auckland Tripartite Economic Alliance Seminar and the Annual Conference of the Alliance of Guangzhou International Sister-City Universities (GISU), were held to promote economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation against the COVID-19 pandemic among international sister cities of Guangzhou.



# Highlighted Remarks

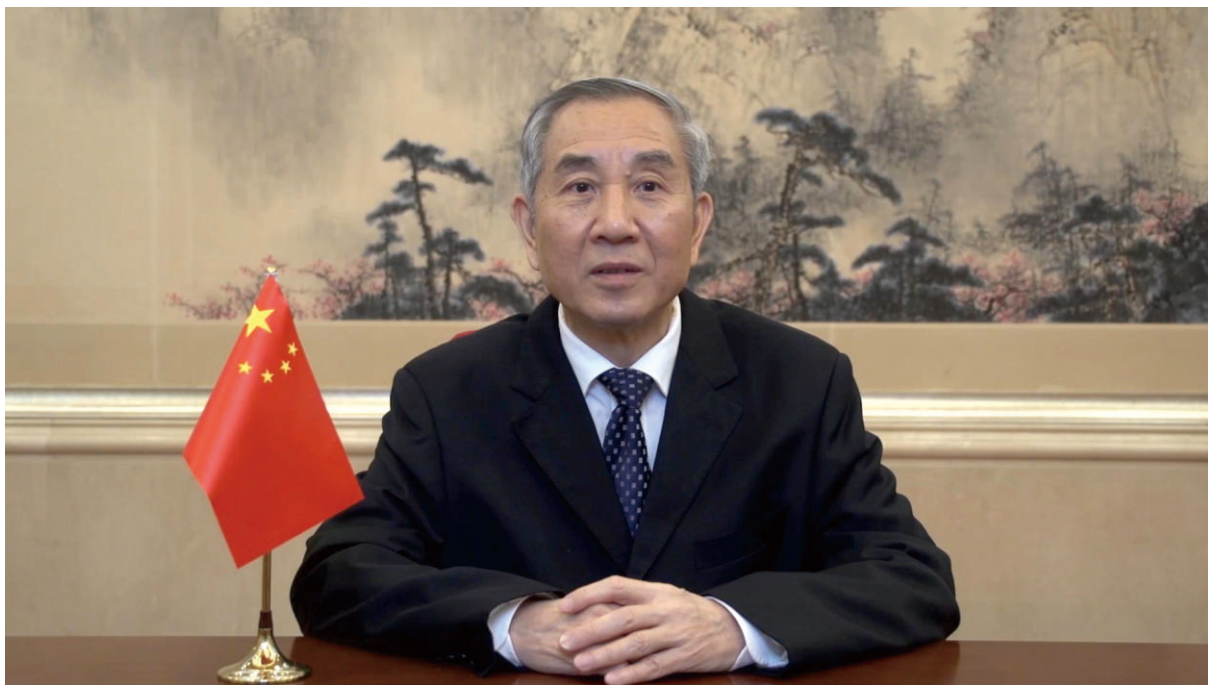


Winner of Metropolis through Children's Eyes drawing contest (9-11 years old):  
Emily Mikaela Obando Nieto (aged 10, Quito, Ecuador)



## Speech by Ma Biao, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

Plenary Session of 2021 Global Mayors' Forum  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021



It's my great pleasure to be invited to attend the opening ceremony of the 2021 Global Mayors' Forum, 13<sup>th</sup> Metropolis World Congress and 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation. On behalf of the Chinese government and the Chinese people, I would like to extend the warmest congratulations to the successful convening of the events and sincerest welcome to all the distinguished guests!

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC). In the past century, the CPC has been striving for a happy life for the Chinese people, rejuvenation for the Chinese nation and progress for mankind. By uniting and leading the Chinese people, it has completed building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and lifted 1.4 billion Chinese people out of poverty. Now it has embarked on the journey towards the second centenary goal: to build China into a strong and modernized socialist country. It is not only the great glory of China, but also a huge contribution of China to the development and progress of mankind, offering the world new hopes and choices.

Both UCLG and Metropolis are globally influential international organizations for cities and local governments around the world. The Chinese government encourages and supports its local governments to join them, actively expand their global partnership network of cities and play a leading role in global urban governance and innovative development.

At present, we are encountering both changes unseen in a century and an unprecedented pandemic, and the world is experiencing new disruptions and turbulence. This September, President Xi Jinping solemnly proposed a Global Development Initiative in his speech delivered in the General Debate of the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly. It serves as a new roadmap and direction for the global solidarity, cooperation and mutual development. China is willing to support cities around the world to play a bigger role in the following areas to contribute their wisdom and strength to building a community of shared future for mankind.

**Firstly, cities need to play a principal role in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.** They should put people's lives first and respect science. With the scientific spirit and attitude, and observing the scientific rules, they need to coordinate the regular and targeted control efforts and emergency measures, and strike a balance between pandemic control and economic and social development. In the spirit of solidarity and cooperation, we should actively engage in international communication and cooperation in pandemic control, work hand-in-hand with other cities around the world, participate in the global efforts to trace the origin of the virus, adamantly oppose politicization of the pandemic in any form, and reduce the risk of cross-border transmission to the least. By doing these we will make new contributions to building a community of common health for mankind.

**Secondly, cities need to play a leading role in driving global development.** They should make development a priority and actively respond to the Global Development Initiative. They need to promote innovation-driven development and strive for economic recovery in the post-COVID era. They should take a people-centered approach to protect and improve people's livelihood. They need to commit themselves to the international cooperation on pandemic prevention, vaccination, tackling climate change, poverty alleviation, green development, digital economy and interconnection, among others. They need to tread an eco-friendly and green development path that systematically protects the nature, encourages eco-friendly urban development and reconciles economic growth with ecological preservation. By doing these, we will create a world with lasting peace, universal safety and



mutual prosperity that is open, inclusive, clean and beautiful.

**Thirdly, cities need to serve as partners and vehicles for global cooperation.** They need to stick to the new philosophy of win-win cooperation and abandon the outdated mindset of zero-sum game. They should work together to make the economic globalization more open, inclusive, equitable, balanced and mutually beneficial. We should encourage a wide variety of entities to take part in the communication and cooperation among cities in areas such as business and trade, science and technology, public health and culture, and actively expand and enhance the global cities' partnership network based on equality, mutual benefit and trust. Different civilizations should respect, learn from and live in harmony with each other and prosper together so that the cultural, social and economic foundations of peace and development will be consolidated.

**Fourthly, cities need to participate in and promote the global governance.** We should stick to the global governance philosophy of mutual consultation, contribution and benefits, advocate the common values of the whole humanity, such as peace, development, equity, just, democracy and freedom, uphold real multilateralism and actively participate in global governance. We need to adamantly uphold the international systems with the UN as the core, the international order based on international laws and the international relations guided by the UN Charter. We should oppose unilateralism and protectionism.

Distinguished guests, dear friends,

Since its founding a decade ago, the Guangzhou Award has become an important multilateral platform that enables cities around the world to learn from each other and drive the global urban governance innovation. China supports an even greater role played by platforms such as Global Mayors' Forum and the Guangzhou Award. I expect these platforms to make new and bigger contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the building of a community of shared future for mankind.

Last but not least, I wish the events a full success! Thank you!

## Speech by Lin Songtian, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

Plenary Session of 2021 Global Mayors' Forum  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021



It gives me great pleasure to join you virtually and discuss the role of cities in global development. First of all, on behalf of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), I would like to extend my warm welcome to all the guests here today. I would like to thank UCLG and Metropolis for providing such an important platform, and thank Guangzhou for its great efforts that make today's event possible.

The world today is under the combined impacts of the pandemic and worldwide changes, both unseen in a century. The combination of natural and political viruses poses a serious threat to people's production and life as well as economic recovery and development. The pandemic is yet another reminder that mankind is a community with

a shared future. Win-win cooperation and common development are the right way forward and the only right choice for humanity.

Not long ago, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative at the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly. He called on all countries to stay committed to development as a priority, to a people-centered approach, to benefits for all, to innovation-driven development, to harmony between man and nature and to results-oriented actions. He called on the international community to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for more robust, green and balanced global development, and foster a global community of development with a shared future. The Initiative responds to the dynamics of global development and urgent needs for urban development, and has won positive response from countries around the world.

Over the past four decades and more, China has created two major miracles: rapid economic growth and long-term social stability. Facing the global outbreak of COVID-19, China has put people and their lives above everything else, and respected science. The Chinese people have united as one. We have resolutely defeated the pandemic, safeguarded the lives, health and safety of all people, and won the battle against poverty as scheduled. We have completed the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and lifted more than 1.4 billion people out of absolute poverty with no one left

behind. This year, China's economy is expected to grow at around 8%.

China's successful development has created new opportunities for the rest of the world, and offered a new option for other nations who aspire to speed up their development while preserving their independence. China has become the world's largest investment destination and consumer market, the largest trading partner of more than 130 countries, and a major source of foreign investment and tourists for many countries. Our annual import in goods and services is valued at around 2.5 trillion US dollars and our annual outward investment surpassed 100 billion US dollars. China has contributed to around 30 percent of world economic growth and over 70 percent of global poverty reduction.

Today, the Belt and Road Initiative has become an important engine and achievement for China's cooperation with 141 countries. Direct investment by Chinese companies in countries along the Belt and Road has surpassed 130 billion US dollars. The China-Europe Railway Express has connected China's mainland with more than 170 cities in 23 European countries, and has kept running some 1,000 services every month. It has become a logistics channel and a strong bond of interests that connect Asia and Europe as they fight COVID-19 and promote recovery.

Dear friends,

Cities are where people work and live, and where sound state-to-state friendship can best benefit their people. They are also important participants, contributors and beneficiaries in safeguarding world peace, leading global development and advancing global governance.

Today, leaders and experts from 126 cities of 80 countries gather online to discuss the topics of poverty reduction, climate change, health, green development, digital economy, connectivity and other key areas of cooperation. Together, we will discuss development measures, synergize our development strategies and plan for future cooperation and development. The timing of this important forum cannot be more appropriate.

China is willing to support UCLG and Metropolis to play their role as great platforms to facilitate exchanges and cooperation between cities around the world. We call on cities of all countries to work together for common development.

**First, we should focus on poverty reduction and promote sustainable and green development around the world.** At present, 800 million people in the world still face the threat of hunger, and poverty is the common enemy of mankind. Cities around the world should seize the new opportunities of urban transition to green and low-carbon development and strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in priority areas such as infrastructure construction, education and human resources

development, environmental protection, clean energy, innovative development and green development, so as to enhance countries' capacity for independent and sustainable development, achieve common development and eradicate poverty.

**Second, we should build smart cities and modernize urban governance.** Cities of all countries need to seize the rising opportunities in the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, stay innovation-driven, give full play to the important connecting role of friendship cities, share experience in urban governance and learn from each other. The digital and intelligent transformation of urban governance brings convenience to its citizens and makes smart cities a common home for people to pursue a better life.

**Third, we should promote exchanges and mutual learning to achieve common prosperity.** Each city has its own colorful and unique features. We should advocate peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, which are the common values of humanity. We could enhance our people-to-people exchanges and cooperation in education, science and technology, literature and art, sports and tourism, and among think-tanks, women and youths. It is important for us to discover the beauty in each civilization and share all that is beautiful, to promote exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations and to build an open and inclusive world.

**Fourth, we should practice true multilateralism and uphold equity and justice in the world.** As cities, it is our common responsibility to maintain world peace and promote common development in the common interests of the people around the world. We should uphold the international system with the United Nations at its core, the international order underpinned by international law and the basic norms of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and firmly oppose hegemony and power politics.

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries is willing to guide, coordinate and encourage local governments in China to cooperate with the rest of the world for common development and make greater contributions to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Let us work together to find new ways to respond to challenges, discuss ways towards sustainable development, and build the foundation for win-win cooperation. Let us pool the power of cities to fulfill their mission, and jointly build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

I wish the forum a complete success.



## Speech by Zhang Xin, Deputy Governor of Guangdong Province, China

Plenary Session of 2021 Global Mayors' Forum  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021



It's a pleasure for me to attend the Plenary Session of the 2021 Global Mayors' Forum. Entrusted by Governor Ma Xingrui, and on behalf of Guangdong Provincial Government, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to the opening of the forum. Also, I would like to extend my heartfelt welcome and greetings to representatives of international organizations and cities across the world, as well as to the distinguished guests from various sectors, both online and offline.

The Global Mayors' Forum was co-initiated by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and Guangzhou Municipality. Since its successful debut in 2018, it

has become a multilateral platform for exchanges between local governments, which is based on cities and sets sights on the world. This forum, under the theme of In Joint Pursuit of Better Governance for the Cities, aims to shed light on the path of openness and innovation in cities and the measures for innovative urban governance. I believe that this forum will help promote the economic recovery for cities across the world, raise their governance capability, and pool our wisdom and strength.

President Xi Jinping pays great attention to openness, cooperation and urban governance, and emphasizes on many occasions that China will not change its determination to expand openness, share its development opportunities with the rest of the world and promote the economic globalization that is more open, inclusive, universally beneficial, balanced and win-win. He stresses that we should improve urban governance, promote innovation on urban governance methods, models and philosophies, accelerate the building of smart cities, and take the lead in building up a governance system in which the governance of economy, society and city can be promoted in a coordinated manner and integrated with each other. This provides China's wisdom and way for building a community of shared future for mankind and improving urban governance.

At present, according to the decisions and arrangements of the Central Government, Guangdong

Province is striving with full strength to support the establishment of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, building Shenzhen into a Pilot Demonstration Zone for Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, as well as the establishment of Hengqin and Qianhai Cooperation Zones. We spare no efforts to support Guangzhou to make innovations and achievements in four major aspects and realize the goal of New Dynamism in the Ancient City, earnestly promote high-quality development, accelerate system-oriented openness, and strive to create a new development paradigm and strategic fulcrum. We are working to fulfill the missions and tasks that President Xi Jinping entrusted with Guangdong Province, that is, to take the lead in China on the journey to fully build a modern socialist China and make new achievements.

As the capital city of Guangdong Province, Guangzhou is one of the core engines of the world-class megalopolis of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. In recent years, Guangdong has focused on creating an international consumption hub, intensifying international communication, fostering an energetic circle of friends with cities around the world, and continuously refining urban governance.

I believe that Guangzhou will center on its role as the Presidency of Metropolis, join hands with UCLG and Metropolis to strengthen the brands of the Global Mayors' Forum and Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation, and contribute more of its wisdom and strength to promoting global openness, cooperation and innovative urban governance. I also believe that mayors and distinguished guests will make full use of the platform of the Global Mayors' Forum, have more meaningful exchanges with each other, seek cooperation and development together, jointly raise the modernization level of global urban governance and raise the living standards of our people. I also hope that CPAFFC will continue to follow and support the international openness and exchanges of Guangdong Province and Guangzhou Municipality. Guangdong will continue to promote high-level openness, create a market-oriented, law-based and internationalized business environment, and share more market opportunities with regions and cities across the world. I wish that we can join hands to practice the idea of peaceful and win-win development, actively engage in the exchanges and cooperation between local governments and cities in the world, and make more contributions to promoting the building of a community of shared future for mankind.

Finally, I wish the forum a full success. I also want to extend my best wishes for the health and prosperity of all the distinguished guests here. Thank you!

## Speech by Qu Dongyu, Director General of UNFAO

Plenary Session of 2021 Global Mayors' Forum  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021



I welcome the focus of today's forum on In Joint Pursuit of Better Governance for the Cities. It recognizes the critical role of urban agri-food systems and urban governance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and for the follow-up action of the UN Food Systems Summit.

Cities are a key part of the solution to address the complex challenges of our planetary crisis, and to offer a better life for all. Urban agri-food systems absorb 70% of the food produced, but are also key contributors to the problem of unhealthy diets, malnutrition and diet-related non-communicable diseases. They are also the major source of food waste and contribute to higher footprints. Green economy starts with

green life. These challenges will intensify as more people migrate and move to the cities. It is expected that about 70% of the earth's population will live in cities by 2050.

To address these global challenges, we need to change the way urban agri-food systems are designed and managed. The role of governance is critical to change the path towards sustainability.

I wish to highlight 6 key issues:

First: urban agri-food systems must be an integral part of city planning and programs, and they need to be better integrated with other related sectors such as green parks, health and infrastructure.

Second: food environments – that is, the structures and institutions through which urban citizens acquire food – have to ensure physical and economic access to healthy diets by all, especially the more vulnerable and marginalized parts of urban societies.

Third: urban agri-food systems are part of local and territorial agri-food systems, and the consumption patterns of the urban population affect all processes from tillage to table.

Fourth: urban agri-food systems should be key parts of national policies, programs and institutions based on local concerns and challenges.

Fifth: the use of accelerators, such as technology, knowledge and science, is vital.

Sixth: encouragement of the private sector to actively support urban agri-food systems through the use of incubators, to support business development with academic and other partners in the initial stages, is key.

Dear Friends,

Urban agri-food systems are a priority for FAO. FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031 has identified urban agri-food systems as one of the 20 priority program areas. FAO's Framework for the Urban Food Agenda initiative sets out our global approach, together with partners, to support cities in integrating agri-food systems in their policy, plans and actions.

Furthermore, FAO's Green Cities Initiative enhances our work in cities and regions, and aims to reach out to 1000 cities of all sizes by 2030.

We need innovative and game-changing governance solutions. We must leverage the Global Urban Agri-Food Systems Coalition, which emerged from the UN Food Systems Summit, to make it a key platform for promoting the vertical and horizontal integration of agri-food systems. Urgent, coordinated, efficient and effective action is needed.

In this era of rapid urbanization, FAO is committed to supporting members, at all levels, in the transformation of agri-food systems to be more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient and more sustainable, for Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment and a Better Life for all – leaving no one behind!

Thank you.

(Based on shorthand records)



## Speech by Li Yong, Director General of UNIDO

Plenary Session of 2021 Global Mayors' Forum  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021



The importance of cities and urban development cannot be overstated in today's world. Cities are hubs of innovation, new ideas and technologies, as well as seedbeds of culture, commerce and trade.

As we have all witnessed during the past two years, cities are also at the forefront of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, battling its devastating impact on people's health and on socio-economic fabrics. Cities have demonstrated incredible resilience in this, and found some of the most effective responses to the crisis by rethinking urban spaces and making them inclusive and safe.

Cities are also the driving force for national economic development in most countries.

Accounting for more than 80% of global GDP, cities will continue to play a key role in economic recovery efforts. Urban areas are also major contributors to climate change, accounting for some 70%-76% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and at the same time likely to be affected by rising sea levels and extreme weather events. This is why it is crucial to keep them at the center of the global development agenda.

Successful and sustainable urban development in today's world calls for effective, modern governance. Cities with strong governance mechanisms, especially digital tools, have fared better than others in the process of "building back better". In such cities, we have seen examples of effective financial assistance to enterprises and citizens, support for employment creation, and innovative education solutions. Most importantly, an agile and responsive modern governance infrastructure strengthens the public health system and ensures access to testing opportunities and vaccines through ICT-based solutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We must also recognize that some of the challenges of urbanization laid bare by the pandemic cannot

be addressed by a sole agency or municipal body. Innovative solutions require that we work collaboratively and engage in cross-sectoral partnerships, making the most of our respective expertise.

At UNIDO, we value collaboration and partnerships as key pillars for supporting our Member States. Our Sustainable Cities Program helps cities include environmental resilience in their development plans. Our partnerships with the business sector and development finance institutions have helped municipalities to cooperate with solution providers and tackle pressing challenges in fields such as electric mobility, waste management, and renewable energy.

As an international development community we must further scale up our impact. By some estimates, the global demand for urban infrastructure investment amounts to over 4.5 trillion dollars per year, and most of it relates to cities in the developing world, which remain at the core of UNIDO's support.

Forging partnerships and taking joint action to meet this demand are more important than ever. Global platforms like today's Global Mayors' Forum play an important role in facilitating such urban partnerships. In the same spirit, every year UNIDO organizes our flagship "Bridge for Cities" event and facilitates city-to-city partnerships and knowledge sharing. This year's sixth edition, held just recently on October 31<sup>st</sup> on the occasion of World Cities Day, gathered some 20 mayors and many eminent speakers – including the UN Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, and China's Minister of Commerce. They all focused on concrete actions taken by cities to pursue resilient, inclusive, gender-equal and green economic recovery.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am looking forward to future collaboration, as we all share a common vision for our cities. Together, we can establish strong synergies to achieve a sustainable urban future and preserve our planet for coming generations.

Thank you.

## Speech by Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG

Plenary Session of 2021 Global Mayors' Forum  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021



It is a great pleasure for me to address this important Mayors' Forum. I am very happy to be with you once more here in this important gathering, and to bring you the greetings of the international municipal movement, of our world organization, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and in particular, of our President, Dr. Mohamed Boudra, who would have loved to be with you today, and who wants to make sure that the strong message of unity, of commitment and of solidarity that you are bringing to the world today also reaches other cities throughout the globe.

What an impressive set of interventions we have had on a very special day! Today is Local and Regional Governments' Day at COP26.

Just a few minutes ago, the Secretary General of the United Nations met with a delegation of mayors of the global task force that UCLG facilitates, to share with them his vision about the sustainable future.

Indeed, cities are at the center of any solution that we need to consider for the planet in a context of unprecedented, universal challenges like we have never known before. It is important to acknowledge that cities and local and regional governments have been at the forefront of the efforts to overcome these difficult times. The pandemic that we have gone through, the human mobility crisis, migration and the climate emergency have made clear how important it is to galvanize our efforts to raise public awareness and to maintain functionality of all basic public service provision.

To ensure that we recover from the hard hit of the pandemic and of the rest of the emergencies, local and regional governments have a critical role to play in ensuring equality, inclusion and service delivery. We need to make sure that we support the most vulnerable in our cities and towns, that we foster solidarity between territories, and that we put measures in place regarding discrimination, exclusion and challenges that disable people to take a true part in society. This is why solidarity has

become a true beacon of security. This is something that our leadership is very clear and we are very happy to hear again in this plenary session of the Forum.

We would like to ensure that we promote the transformations that we need to guarantee a sustainable future, not only for this generation but also the coming generations. The intergenerational responsibilities and commitments need to be clear, bold and creative. The sacrifices of our communities cannot go unnoticed. And this is why I appreciate truly the commitments that have been made up until now. And I commend the resolve of cities in our membership in China, and in particular Guangzhou, Xi'an and Hangzhou that are holding our hands and are trying to lead our mission towards the future.

The health challenges are not over, but we are progressing. We need to provide undivided attention to the social crisis that might emerge through the negative effects of the pandemic, as leaders of local and regional governments do have a great task to ensure that the aspirations of the communities are met. The crisis is showing us that many of our models might need to be challenged. And we share the conviction that the only way is to break through together as one, and that is also our motto.

As we work towards the UCLG World Congress next year, it is critical to ensure that the sustainable development goals, the framework that we have given ourselves in the multilateral system, persists as a good framework on work and as an enabling environment for our actions. The warranty of public services will be critical in the agenda, but so will be ensuring that proximity models of global consumption and production are met, and that the pathways that are being developed, like the Belt and Road Initiatives, are pathways towards equality and universality of service provision, and pathways that are sustainable and that ensure a green commitment that sees our planet not only as a resource, but as a part of our humanity.

The territorial approach of food systems will be critical if we guarantee not only our security, but greater sustainability models that will ensure small producers and small processors that are respectful with the environment to create a good life, a happy life, for communities worldwide. We need to ensure that there is no false dichotomy between security and health, and between privacy and civil liberties. Human and civil rights need to continue to be the cornerstones of our societies. And we believe that our membership in China is going to join us hand-in-hand to ensure that those universal values are shared. We are answering the call that has been made by the governments and the representatives of



the states here to enhance a true global partnership of city networks. We are there with you, UCLG and Metropolis hand-in-hand. We believe we have this partnership, and we want to celebrate your commitment to it. Failing is not an option. The only way forward is together.

We see culture as the true antidote for the secondary effects of these crises. The cultural actors and sectors have suffered a lot. At the same time, they have been really a safe port for our communities to find meanings in difficult times, to create solidarity, and to boost general morale. There cannot be better illustration of this than to acknowledge the role that culture, our heritage and patrimony need to play, as a pillar of sustainable development. And we commend the work that our Chinese membership are doing in this respect.

And finally, a quick word on governance, rethinking governance, inclusion and strengthening multilateralism. Our membership in China and beyond have demonstrated great solidarity and a strong notion of universal values when pleading for the vaccination to reach all corners of the world. We will need to strengthen the multilateral institutions around the values of the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals. We believe we can do it together, and that the Pact for the Future that the UCLG is promoting, together with Metropolis and its membership, led by our presidency, will be a true answer for this and other generations. It is a local leadership of global solutions. We believe this Global Mayors' Forum is a very good example of that.

I thank you for giving us the opportunity to be here. Thank you, excellencies, Mayor of Guangzhou, dear colleagues, Octavi de la Varga, Secretary General of Metropolis, and all the cities in China and around the world. Thank you.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Rafael Tuts, Director of UN-Habitat Project Division, Special Envoy of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Sub-forum 2: Urban Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity Conservation  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



It is a great pleasure to join you on this important panel on urban climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation during the 2021 edition of the Global Mayors' Forum. Let me take a moment to thank the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis) and the City of Guangzhou, for co-hosting this important event and for inviting the UN-Habitat.

The COVID-19 crisis has confronted us with the fragility of our societies and economic systems. Cities have been particularly affected, with more than 90% of the COVID-19 cases registered in urban areas, and unprecedented

losses in revenues for local and regional governments worldwide.

Nevertheless, the consequences of COVID-19 seem small compared to the potential impact of climate change. As the United Nations Secretary General said during COP26, the six years since the Paris Climate Agreement have been the six hottest years on record. Our addiction to fossil fuels is pushing humanity to the brink. We face a stark choice: either we stop it, or it stops us.

Ecological deterioration, rising temperatures and biodiversity losses are threatening life as we know it, and vulnerable populations are disproportionately affected by these consequences. Poor urban planning and management have often contributed to environmental and climate degradation. Cities are indeed responsible for 75% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but 55% of the global population live in urban areas. Cities consume around 75% of natural resources. These trends notably impact resource scarcity and ecosystems beyond city boundaries.

But it doesn't have to be this way. We can make our cities sustainable and plan them to influence the future of our development. The way our cities are built and managed directly impacts our production

and consumption patterns, our energy usage, the pollution we produce, and how we interact with nature. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change identified cities and urban areas as one of the four critical global systems' transitions to upscale climate actions. For this reason, we believe that people-centered development approaches and the just climate transition go hand-in-hand with the sustainability of development. The recovery from the pandemic and the impact of climate change will depend on how successful we will be in planning our cities. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, combined with the Paris Agreement, provides the frameworks to do so.

Dear partners,

The fight against climate change will largely be won or lost in cities and urban areas. Local and regional governments have been at the forefront of climate action and have helped raise targets in global negotiations. While the scope of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda is universal, the implementation must be built on locally defined models of sustainability based on the realities and aspirations of local communities.

Likewise, local governments are essential to moving forward in partnership. They enhance open dialogues across tiers of governments to accomplish global commitments. Moreover, they promote integrative collaborations between different stakeholders to develop holistic solutions that improve urban renewal.

Dear friends,

Our climate, our environment and our planet are the most important global common goods for humanity. They must be protected now and in the future. Cities, as engines of growth, are agents of positive change when well planned and governed, and will play a leading role in climate adaptation and mitigation while leaving no one behind. You can count on the United Nations and UN-Habitat to work hand-in-hand to support local governments and cities worldwide to plan and address climate change for a better urban future.

Let me conclude by inviting you all to the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Urban Forum that will take place in Katowice next June 2022.

Thank you, and wish you fruitful discussion.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Zhong Nanshan, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering

Plenary Session of 2021 Global Mayors' Forum  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021



It is my great delight to participate in 2021 Global Mayors' Forum. Tonight, I would like to share with you the experience of China and particularly Guangzhou in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

At present, the number of confirmed cases of the pandemic stands at 250 million, with a rising death toll of about 5.5 million.

How could we deal with this situation? On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, experts found that COVID-19 could spread between individuals, and could even affect healthcare workers. Since then, China has been confronted with the choice of measures against the pandemic, one measure being mitigation, and the other being suppression. Mitigation is a common epidemiological solution that seems inevitable in the world, on the grounds that we could ensure a low incidence rate; however, given the transmissibility of the virus (even higher than SARS), this solution might just not work. We learned this lesson in 2003 when SARS broke out, leaving some crowded streets empty in Beijing and other cities, and causing other serious social issues.



What can we do beyond mitigation? The leader of China has put forward the important philosophy of “life supremacy”, which acts as a dominant guideline, dictating that we should suppress the pandemic with the greatest efforts. Of course, the suppression may have its bearing on the economy, but we have to make the hard choice and put people's lives first. The outcome is that since its outbreak last January, the pandemic in China has been contained, ever after it reached a peak last March. There were only about 40,000 cases in the 20 previous months, whereas some countries recorded 100,000 cases in one single month. These 20 months were a great window for us to revive the economy.

Now we are having another problem, as increasing imported cases have caused recent outbreaks. How should we react? The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified four measures: aggressive containment, suppression, mitigation, and no substantive strategy. It now seems that our dominant measure of aggressive containment is effective and necessary.

Each city, including Guangzhou, should balance economic recovery and pandemic control. As President Xi Jinping has said between last March and April, we should manage both targeted disease control and economic recovery well. As we highly value precise disease control, I think each section down the administrative chain should refrain from taking increasingly tough measures, and this is what our leaders should consider.

Next, I am going to introduce Guangzhou's efforts to control the Delta variant. This variant has some mutations that make it easy to transmit. Guangzhou was the first Chinese city to have Delta community cases from May 21<sup>st</sup> to June 18<sup>th</sup> this year, resulting in 159 patients over the 29 days.

The response of Guangzhou took into full account the traits of this variant. First, as it transmitted quickly, we needed to figure out its transmission chain. Second, it had an incubation period shorter than common SARS-CoV-2 virus, with a high transmission rate that allowed the variant to affect five rounds of patients in nearly 10 days. Third, it had a higher viral load and prolonged viral shedding once it affected the patient, making it more communicable. Fourth, there was a higher percentage of elderly cases, and more critical cases in elder patients.

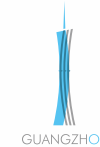
How did Guangzhou respond? To begin with, we renewed the concept of “close contact” so that it denoted people in the same building or unit with the confirmed patients within 4 days before even

contacting the patients. Next, we implemented “yellow code” regulation that enabled us to trace the close contacts and perform nucleic acid testing on them within 24 hours, which allowed us to detect some unreported cases. The Law on the Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases of China also provided ample legal basis for this measure. Moreover, we established mass-screening as well as the “Eagle-hunting” transparent plastic make-shift lab that made possible timely and precise screening in specific areas. We also put in place an “International Health Station” on November 5<sup>th</sup>, which provided safe and desirable quarantine for imported cases. Without these measures, Guangzhou could have had 7.3 million patients within one month, according to one prediction model, but in fact, we had only 159 cases. It would be fair to say that the city had done well in strict but targeted control. When Nanjing experienced outbreak later, it followed suit and contained the spread with precise tracing within a month.

How can we return to normalization? We have to meet the following prerequisites: The death rate must come down from over 1% now to below 1%; the basic reproduction number (R0) must come down too. Only under these circumstances can we fully reopen. In this process, we should do the following: First, we should achieve herd immunity with whole-population vaccination. Second, we should stick to regular prevention and control down to the community level, but without excessive restrictions top-down. Third, we should develop targeted drugs. I am happy to see that such drugs are being developed and are about to be approved in China and some other countries.

Now, I will briefly talk about herd immunity. There was a theory that this could be achieved by allowing the virus to spread, but this could put the death counts at over 10 million, and now we already have a death toll of over 5 million. This theory has since been rejected. We can only have herd immunity through large-scale vaccination, as people without a jab tend to have low immunity that leaves them vulnerable to massive infection. Even a limited percentage of vaccinated population would still not be enough to prevent massive spread, as seen in some countries. China must ensure that the majority of its population receive their vaccination to reach herd immunity, and this is a vital goal for us to achieve.

When the infection coefficient is 2.4, and the protection rate of vaccines in China is 70%, we will need 83% of the Chinese to get vaccinated to achieve effective protection for all. Now, the number of fully vaccinated population in China is above 1 billion, accounting for 75.8% of the total. In Guangzhou,



metropolis



92.7% of the citizens have received full vaccination, with some 800,000 getting the booster jab. And yet, this is not enough: we should continue to step up vaccination as an important health guarantee.

We have confidence in the efficacy of vaccines manufactured in China against serious cases and deaths. Among the 159 Delta cases in Guangzhou, the vaccines have registered a protection rate of 59% in all cases, and 70% in moderate cases, with no severe cases, which means a lot. China is now developing a series of vaccines, and some have been approved in Britain and other countries. At present, we should consider publicizing the third jab after the first two doses. For instance, Israel has seen a resurgence in cases half a year after 95% of its population had been inoculated. This could imply that the efficacy of vaccines developed in China and beyond may decline in half a year, and countries worldwide still need to work to solve this problem.

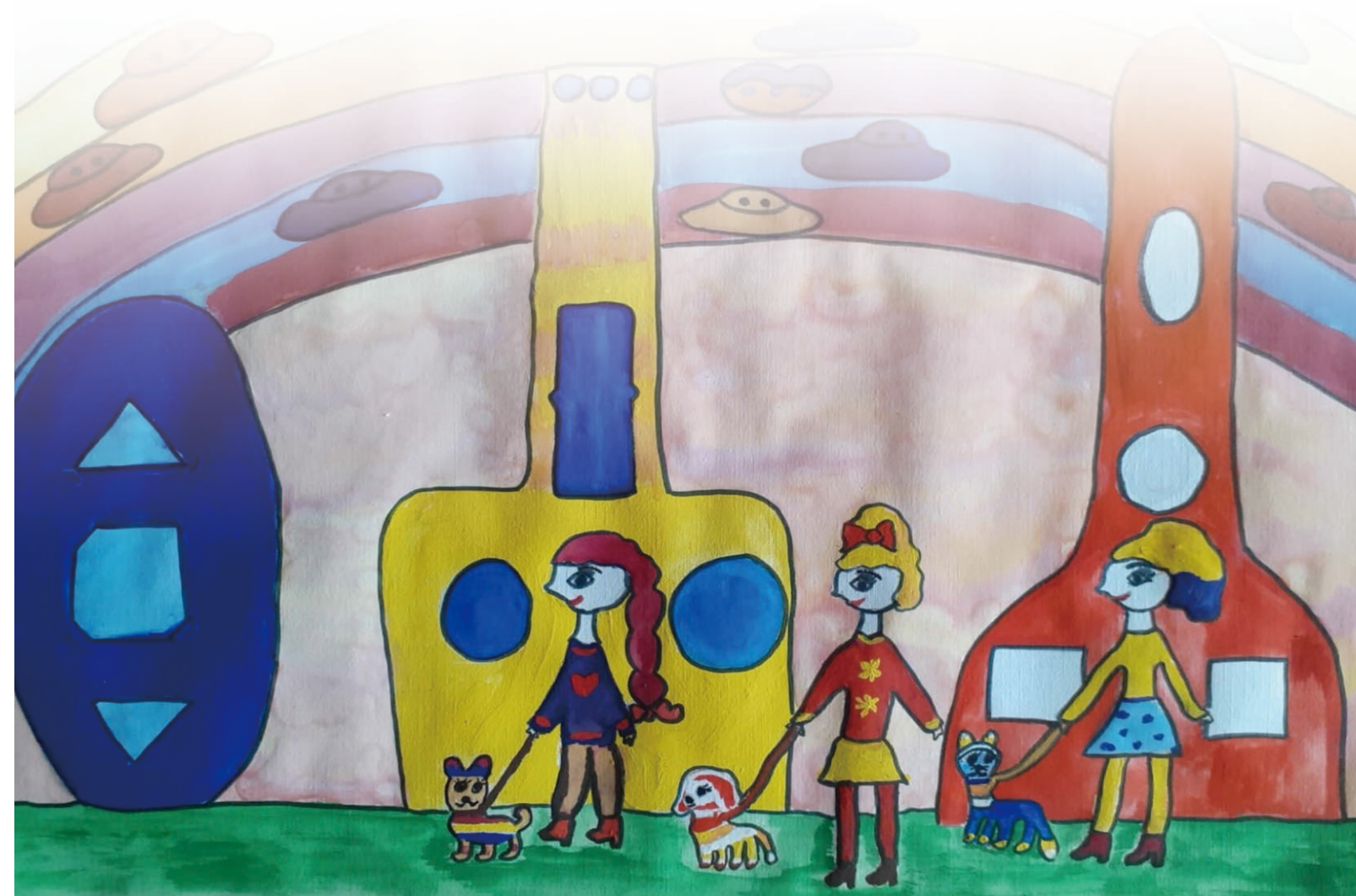
In our research, we have experimented with combining whole-virus inactivated vaccines with other types of vaccines, including original, protein subunit, mRNA and Adenovirus-based vaccines. I have just learnt from Chinese sources that the antibody level after the third jab has a spike, followed by fewer decline in 6 months compared to the level after two doses. After 6 months, the third jab offers a protection efficacy comparable to the peak level of two doses, meaning a longer protection period. But what after that? This is an issue for the world to solve.

I would conclude my speech with this line: "No country is safe until all countries are safe!" Political leaders around the world need to unite, so that we could rein in the pandemic within a short time.

Thank you!

(Based on shorthand records)

## Voice of Mayors



Finalist of Metropolis through Children's Eyes drawing contest: The City is Bright

Artist: Sophia (aged 8, Kazan, Russia)



## Speech by Wen Guohui, Mayor of Guangzhou, China and President of Metropolis

Plenary Session of 2021 Global Mayors' Forum  
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Although we are not able to meet in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our friendship will not be diminished. Today, we are hosting the Global Mayors' Forum both online and offline to deepen our communication and enhance our cooperation with the major cities around the world. On behalf of the Guangzhou Municipal Government, the people of Guangzhou and Metropolis and also in my own name, I would like to extend the warmest welcome and greetings to all the guests both online and offline and my heartfelt thanks for your longstanding care and support for Guangzhou!

This forum, with the theme of In Joint Pursuit of Better Governance for the Cities, has explored

ways of building a global governance system which is more just and reasonable. It exemplifies the determination of global cities to shoulder their responsibilities of jointly tackling the crisis and initiating changes in governance.

Guangzhou is a national central city in China, an international trade center and a core driver in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. With a resident population of over 22 million and the urbanization rate at 87%, it is one of the most vigorous cities in China, ranking among the top in the cities across the Chinese mainland in terms of Human Development Index (HDI). Since the onset of COVID-19, Guangzhou has been maintaining a balance between the pandemic prevention and economic and social development. In 2020, its GDP was over 2.5 trillion yuan (equaling around 390 billion US dollars), up 2.7% year on year, over 140 times the figure of 1978. In the first 9 months of this year, its GDP reached 2 trillion yuan, a 9.9% growth year on year, showing its potential for sustainable development.

I would like to take this opportunity to share a few points on Guangzhou's development and

governance.

**Firstly, we give priority to the ecological environment in our urban planning.** We have formulated a general plan on the land use by 2035 that is committed to protecting mountains, rivers, forests, farms, lakes and seas in a holistic manner, reasonably arranging the spaces for ecological preservation, production and living, and promoting the coordinated development of economy, society and ecological environment.

**Secondly, we are committed to green development by working hard on saving energy and reducing carbon emissions.** We have implemented a plan for controlling both the total amount and intensity of energy consumption, made efforts to develop green industries, encouraged the transformation of production modes and lifestyles, and strove to achieve harmony between people and the nature so as to meet people's increasing need for a better environment.

**Thirdly, we are making efforts to inherit the traditional culture and improve the quality of urban life.** We are continuously improving the living environment of Guangzhou, coordinating industrial development and the urban environment, and paying attention to the cultural inheritance so as to improve the value of urban spaces and people's well-being comprehensively.

**Fourthly, we attach great importance to cooperating with the rest of the world in an open manner to achieve mutual benefits.** We have actively promoted global communication and cooperation on urban governance innovation. Since 2012 when the Guangzhou Award was established, we have organized four editions of the Award. Having gathered nearly 1300 cases from 480 cities in over 90 countries and regions around the world, it has become an important platform for experience sharing on governance innovation for global cities.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

Currently, over 55% of the global population are living in cities, while there are many challenges to their sustainable development, such as pandemics, "big city malaise", climate change and digital divide, etc. We need more than ever to join hands with each other to respond to these challenges.

At the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly, President Xi Jinping proposed a Global Development

Initiative, hoping that all countries could work together to overcome the negative impacts of COVID-19, speed up the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and build a global community with shared development. As the policy makers and leaders of cities, we must follow the trend of the time and promote the modernization of global urban governance to realize common, sustainable and inclusive development. I would like to propose three suggestions to all the colleagues.

**Firstly, let us go hand-in-hand to make cities more prosperous.** We need to strengthen innovation, build multi-functional and smart cities, strive to recover the economy, participate in regional and global economic cooperation and maintain the security and stability of industrial chains so as to promote economic globalization with mutual benefits through mutual consultation and construction.

**Secondly, let us strengthen communication and mutual learning to make cities more equitable.** We should protect and improve people's livelihood, improve the fairness, efficiency and inclusiveness during cities' development and enhance people's happiness and sense of gain and security.

**Thirdly, let us promote solidarity and cooperation to make cities more resilient.** We should oppose the practice of stigmatizing the virus and politicizing its origin tracing, and improve our capacity to respond to challenges such as major public health emergencies. We need to speed up the green development transformation, encourage low-carbon lifestyles and conduct cooperation for ecological improvement and biodiversity to achieve harmonious coexistence between people and the nature.

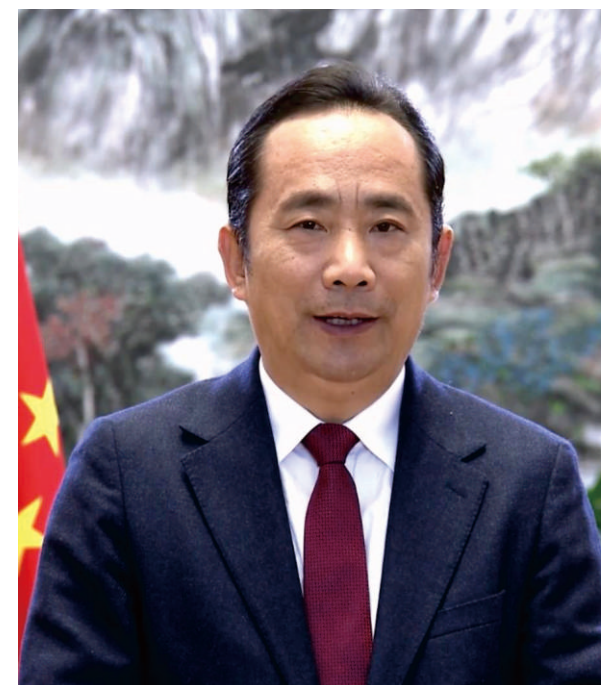
**Fourthly, let us take a people-centered approach and build cities that live up to people's expectation.** We need to observe the philosophy of building cities by and for people. We should seek people's ideas, understand their needs and improve effectiveness of our governance accordingly. We need to strive for common prosperity for all people and leave no one behind.

Openness and cooperation are key to our survival and development. Mutual benefits and win-win solutions are the main themes of the time. Let us join hands and work together to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic as soon as possible and build better cities and a more beautiful planet for us all!

Thank you!

## Speech by Li Mingyuan, Mayor of Xi'an, China and Co-president of UCLG

Plenary Session of 2021 Global Mayors' Forum  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021



It's my great pleasure to join you online in the 2021 Global Mayors' Forum under the theme of In Joint Pursuit of Better Governance for the Cities. On behalf of Xi'an Municipal People's Government, I'd like to extend warm congratulations on the opening of this session.

Cities are important carriers of modernization, and urban governance lies at the heart of national governance system and capacity. Xi'an, as one of China's national central cities, has been practicing new development concepts and exploring ways to improve urban governance. Now, I'd like to share with you some insights on scientific, refined, and smart urban governance.

First, we should put people at the center, focus on people's livelihood and make the city more caring and inclusive.

President Xi Jinping has repeatedly highlighted that cities should be built by the people and for the people. Therefore, we should always regard the people's aspiration for a better life as the ultimate goal of urban governance, adhere to employment-oriented economic development, and create more jobs and development opportunities for more individuals. We should promote the balanced distribution of quality education resources and enhance people's equal access to education. We should also strengthen the construction of multiple types of medical complexes to bring more convenience to the masses. At the same time, it's necessary to develop diversified elderly care and child care services, to ensure care for the vulnerable and allow all to equally share the fruits of urban development. Besides, we need to accelerate the construction of affordable rental housing, aiming at reducing new citizens' and young people's burden and making Xi'an a true city of opportunity, vitality, and happiness.

Second, we should make full use of the leading role of technology, empowering digitization and making our cities smarter. Countries and cities all over the world turn to technology and innovation while combating the raging pandemic. Owing to that, disease control, testing, and treatment have



become more effective, displaying the strength of modern technology. We should utilize technology and innovation as the key to improving governance, and should promote advanced management tools, models and concepts. Data sharing and integrated platforms should be accelerated and implemented, to further improve integrated government services. It is our goal to implement “One Website for All Aspects of Life” in city operation, “One QR Code throughout the City” in public service, and “One Unity of All Sectors” in risk prevention and control, so that more effectiveness in governance and more convenience in life can be achieved.

Third, we should strengthen systematic governance to improve cities' safety and urban livability, with a problem-specific method. By far, traffic congestion, environmental pollution, energy supply, public security, and other issues of sustainability have become common global concerns. Thus, we need to apply systematic thinking to realize integrated governance, lead high-quality urban development with planning and top-down design of high standard, and carefully address major issues like development design, spatial and industrial layout, comprehensive functions, and population size. We need to tackle the weaknesses in municipal infrastructure, establish a long-term mechanism, and actively practice green development. It requires more refined urban governance, to effectively reduce congestion and pollution, provide community public service, and constantly increase the effectiveness of all municipal units and quality of services in all sectors. We should also ensure a combined development of safety and production. Building response capacity for emergencies, and delivering rescue and relief timely should be seen as priorities, so that safe development as a fundamental element can be assured.

Dear friends, since 2011, the Guangzhou Award has been successfully held for five sessions, accumulating over 1,000 urban innovative initiatives, and providing great reference for the modernization of global urban governance. I firmly believe that, with the joint effort of UCLG, Metropolis and all our members, with the mutual learning and sharing, modernization and transformation in urban governance will surely be effectuated. Local contributions will also be made to building a community of a shared future for mankind.

Xi'an is an ancient capital worth a thousand visits. I welcome you all to visit Xi 'an in the near future.

Thank you!

## Speech by Francisco Carvalho, Mayor of Praia, Cape Verde

Plenary Session of 2021 Global Mayors' Forum  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021



I am deeply honored to be speaking to you today. This is a unique and exceptional opportunity to collectively build actions, develop strategies, get inspirational ideas, and debate on how to implement projects and policies to transform global cities. Allow me to especially greet the Honorable Mayor of Guangzhou for the openness and friendship that the City of Guangzhou and its people have been showing to the City of Praia. Also, I would like to show our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the President of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and its leadership team. You have designed this great event for our wonderful community to

bring us together. And for that, I show you my deepest gratitude. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming months and years.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Global Mayors' Forum is a unique opportunity for the cities around the globe to foster their development by creating solutions to the global challenges through multiple levels of cooperation. The metropolitan space created through this event is the perfect moment to debate, engage and create meaningful relations that can change our communities and cities. I am very happy to be sharing this platform with all of you. And I hope that together, we can reflect, learn from each other and formulate innovative responses to the crucial questions of these unprecedented times.

Praia, with its unique location among three continents, Africa, America and Europe, is a connecting point, with the potential to be a great asset to Metropolis' goal to connect political



leaders, policymakers and professionals. Our city is looking forward to connecting with global leaders, like you, to help enhance and maximize this potential. Our goal is to engage with international partners that can help accelerate the development of our key sectors, like tourism, industries and innovation. Praia, as the capital city, wants to showcase its potentials, interest and openness to investment and growth opportunities in different areas, and also wants to be a firm partner in the mission to build a closer community with a shared future. As a public entity committed to growth and sustainable development, we focus on facilitating and promoting the best investment opportunities for our partners in the City of Praia. As a municipality, we open our arms to receive all of you to come and visit the beautiful islands of Cape Verde, especially Santiago, where you will certainly find interesting opportunities for collaboration and cooperation.

Let us unite and create a more inclusive and accessible network for cities of all sizes and capacities to develop. Together, we can create the changes we seek.

Thank you for your time.

(Based on shorthand records)



## Speech by Eckart Würzner, Mayor of Heidelberg, Germany

Plenary Session of 2021 Global Mayors' Forum  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021



First of all, I would like to say many thanks to the City of Guangzhou, organizing this relevant and important meeting in China. I'm very pleased to take part in this Global Mayors' Forum.

My name is Eckart Würzner. I have been for 15 years the mayor of a wonderful city in Germany called Heidelberg. It's the oldest university town, the city of knowledge, and the city of future. We are one of the fastest growing cities in Germany, which is of great relevance.

We are the youngest city in Germany. And this is a very important point when we're talking about the future, because when we are talking about the future, we are noticing that cities are taking over a leading position in changing our

society, in a more sustainability-driven future than in the past. This means, for example, that we're taking into account climate change that is taking place, and we are taking a leading position in this field. That's the reason why the City of Heidelberg has already implemented, more than 20 years ago, the first European "How to Combat Global Warming" strategy on a local level. Since that time we have been implementing our strategies very strongly and very effectively. Every second year, we give a report to the city council about what we have achieved, and how far away we are from becoming a climate neutral city. This is our goal. I'm very pleased to tell you that, for example, we could reduce more than half the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for all municipal facilities, kindergartens, schools and so on by a huge investment. We are able to change the energy demand of the whole city, especially downtown area, from coal base to green power and green heating technology by 50% till today. By 2030 we will reach the 100%-green long-distance heating and energy supply for the whole city, which is a great step into the future.

Also, in changing the behavior of our citizens, we implemented one of the biggest investment programs, "Supporting Programs for Citizens". This means that you can get 25% of the costs for



retrofitting if you're implementing better heat insulation systems for private households. We're funding solar technology and thermal NPV, if you're willing to go in this direction. On the other hand, we're trying to change the behavior of the citizens to use more mass transport systems and less cars. 20% of the citizens are still using their cars only, and 80% are using buses, mass transport systems and bicycles, or going by foot. This is one of the highest numbers which you can reach in Germany. We are also called "the bicycle city in Germany".

Our new city developing areas, when you're thinking about the future, are all based on zero emission. 12 years ago, we decided that we still wanted to develop a new developing zone as a zero emission zone. And we have already implemented those structures. For example, the last finished area was what we call the Bahnstadt area, 100 hectares, 100% climate neutral. 100% of the rainwater is drained into the underground, not going to the sewage, to reduce flooding periods. It's a zero emission city, and we build a new power plant to serve the rest of the energy demand you need by renewable energies.

As you can see, there are a lot of things going on and we are very pleased that for example, in Beijing, this Bahnstadt concept is already taken as a model and is built there in the new developing zone. So sharing experience is very important. That's the reason why we use our national and international networks. At a summit in Europe, we shared this experience, and brought it to the European level, to the international audience, and also to Glasgow where the COP meeting is taking place, to give this knowledge to the national political leaders to go stronger in this direction.

It's so wonderful to meet you. I believe that your ideas are great. We have to exchange our experience. We have to get better. We have to show a future perspective, especially for the next generation. This is our global mission. And I'm very pleased to say that, mayors and leaders, let us stand up and drive the way into the future.

Thank you for your attention.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Uwe Schneidewind, Mayor of Wuppertal, Germany

Plenary Session of 2021 Global Mayors' Forum  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021



It is a great honor to participate in this important and meaningful event and share thoughts and experience with such a distinguished array of international experts.

In times of global pandemic, interrupted economic frameworks and the challenges of climate change, it is of great importance to continue the international dialogue and collaborate in joint efforts to develop mutually beneficial solutions for the global community.

Cities are the modal points of the global population and the international economy, and will play the major role in the necessary sustainable transformation.

Let me present a short input about the ideas and measures we implement in the City of

Wuppertal, located in Western Germany.

The City of Wuppertal has implemented multi-faceted measures and reforms towards sustainable urban development, including smart traffic management, green public transportation, carbon neutrality, environmental protection and circular economy. We do so in the light of the continuous structural change and transition, both currently and historically.

250 years ago, the industrial revolution took a start in the hometown of Friedrich Engels, today's City of Wuppertal. The clothing and apparel industry saw the first utilization of mechanized production in continental Europe. The context of the industrial revolution 1.0 had influenced and shaped the school of thought of Friedrich Engels profoundly.

The world has changed since then, and so have societies, industries and ethical standards. We have experienced continuous structural change and the challenges, both social and economic that come with it. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Wuppertal was one, if not the richest city in Germany. The famous suspension railway – invented, engineered and made in Germany – stood for electric mobility

and symbolized this fact. A courageous, innovative and also expensive idea of a new form of public transportation was implemented in 1901 despite opposition and obstacles. The suspension railway is still the landmark of our city today and represents its ingenuity.

Ingenuity, creativity and courage are needed also today when facing changing environments and the challenges of transformation. The 70s and 80s saw a profound structural change and that had a heavy impact on local business and society in our city. We needed to re-invent, innovate and re-build, and are now back on track as one of Germany's Top 10 innovative regions with diverse manufacturing industries, a striving service sector, and top-level research and academia. We are now bringing together various actors and expertise to simultaneously realize green sustainable urban development and Industry 4.0. We are the home of the province-level automotive cluster that guides the supplying industry in the shift towards full electric, connected and autonomous mobility. A consortium of public and private stakeholders has established the Circular Valley, an overarching ecosystem for innovation in the circular economy. Circular Valley includes experts, universities, businesses and entrepreneurs as well as finance and public institutions. Twice a year, we welcome international start-ups and innovators in the Circular Valley Accelerator and work on the circular solutions of today and tomorrow.

Our city is also home to the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, a think-tank with a comprehensive and integrative approach for sustainability research, focusing on the transition of energy, transport and industrial systems as well as the urban transition. The institute is actively engaged with projects in China and various UN Agencies.

I am looking forward to being inspired by the expertise and ideas combined in this event and engaging in an ongoing dialogue with partners in Guangzhou, in China and around the world. China has stressed the importance of carbon neutrality by 2050. The City of Guangzhou lies at the center of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, one of the economically strongest and innovative regions not only in China but in the world. The potential of international cooperation for mutual benefits are immense and I am looking forward to meeting suitable actors for cooperation and joint efforts.

I wish everyone productive dialogues and send my greetings to friends and partners in Guangzhou and China and all around the world.

Thank you and stay healthy and safe.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Antonio Decaro, Mayor of Bari, Italy

Plenary Session of 2021 Global Mayors' Forum  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021



I am delighted and deeply honored to take part in this 2021 Global Mayors' Forum, and I would like to thank the City of Guangzhou for the invitation and the friendship that has bound us together for 35 years. The relationship between the City of Bari and the City of Guangzhou, twinned since 1986, is ancient and longstanding. The Mayors of Bari and Guangzhou, at the time, were very far-sighted and the City of Bari is honored to have been the first European City to take up the global challenge of international cooperation and the opportunity to collaborate with the capital of Guangdong.

We are celebrating the recurrence of this sistership, here in Bari, by hosting two art exhibitions of Masters from the main Chinese and Guangzhou art academies and of young Chinese artists studying at our Italian and Bari Fine Arts Academies. Public initiatives, together with the strengthening of Chinese language and culture in Bari's schools, help us raise awareness of Chinese culture among citizens and make them understand the value of this relationship, which is a source of reciprocal opportunities and projects in the urban field.

In the last two decades, the theme of city leadership has asserted itself more strongly in the public debate and on the international and European political agenda. In the aftermath of the Habitat-III Conference, promoted by the United Nations in Quito in 2016, on the theme of sustainable urban development, cities have taken an increasingly prominent role and have been recognized as "laboratories of innovation", where solutions and policies that address the international challenges are designed, experimented and tested.

Economic crisis, social exclusion, international migration, climate change, and environmental sustainability are some examples of the main issues that we daily face, that plague our societies and that are now at the heart of the Urban Agenda for the EU, signed on May 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 and better known



as the “Amsterdam Pact”, an European Action Plan that represents a compass for our cities and that requires a greater participation of ,mayors in the states' agendas, and an increased focus on the urban experience and good practices.

In this perspective, the international extra-EU cooperation between cities represents an extraordinary context of exchanges and knowledge as well as a precious source of inspiration for our urban governance visions. That's why I have decided, in my double role as Mayor of Bari and President of the Italian Mayors, in recent months, to intensify my participation in the international networks of cities in the OECD and in the European context, and the difficult condition of the pandemic has definitely strengthened this perception of closeness and union.

The pandemic emergency has strongly relaunched the need for sharing common strategies to be adopted in the field of public health, prevention, management of urban space, and support for economic operators and citizens. In this regard, the City of Bari will never forget the solidarity expressed by the City of Guangzhou on that occasion, by sending, in March 2020, the masks and advice in terms of health prevention and community management, concrete actions of solidarity and cooperation that testify to belonging to a platform of shared values.

The interest in collaborating between our universities on the topic of smart cities, the common priority of port and fairs development, the sharing of the objectives of urban regeneration, innovation and culture, within the framework of collaboration between the Italian and Chinese governments, represent an extraordinary premise to work together for new horizons of scientific, cultural and economic cooperation. For this reason, a delegation from Bari went to Guangzhou last November 2019. And we hope that the Year 2022 of Culture and Tourism Italy-China can be a further opportunity to intensify and deepen the relationship between the two cities and our countries.

Today, more than yesterday, our citizens understand that the geographical distance is not a real obstacle to exchanges of knowledge, and that our two cities share a common destiny, although different in scale and size of problems.

With this hope, I wish all my colleague mayors good work, and I extend a special greeting to the citizens of Guangzhou, and to Mayor and President Wen, looking forward to receiving him here in Bari soon.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Ekrem Imamoglu, Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey

Plenary Session of 2021 Global Mayors' Forum  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021



It is a great honor for me to address you even if I cannot be with you today. As a mayor who believes that real change begins from the local level, I attach great importance to Metropolis, since it enables cities to develop active and meaningful partnerships.

As we all know, the pandemic has deeply affected urban life all around the world and posed difficulties for all of us. However, as the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, we saw these challenges as an opportunity to develop new governance mechanisms by digitalizing our services. In this context, our “Pay It Forward” campaign, which provides a trusted, peer-to-peer platform enabling citizens to lend a helping hand to those financially struggling during the

pandemic, becomes an important model for other cities across the world. We also ensure citizen participation in urban design and city budget issues through online means.

In addition to these efforts, we are aware that global climate change is the most important crisis today, which requires immediate common action. We have finalized our climate action plan to make Istanbul a carbon-neutral city by 2050. We are also excited to share our experience and ideas within the scope of COP26.

Before I conclude my speech, I would like to express that I believe this valuable event today will make a great contribution to expanding international cooperation, and help all of us build a better future. Thank you.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha, Mayor of Dhulikhel Municipality, Nepal and President of UCLG ASPAC

Sub-forum: Metropolis' Role in Fighting Poverty and Supporting Less Developed Regions  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Poverty indicates a condition in which a person or community lacks financial resource, and essential necessities of living. I think with regard to the minimization of this illness, cities or countries should consider this in the developing or prosperous world. Cities should always focus on quality, and prioritize best development mechanisms in specific areas. Different districts have different developing parameters. We should expect this in separate places. In this situation, people of one place, within a particular boundary, may have more affluency, facilities and opportunities than others, and the condition can be called unequal distribution and development. So metropolises should always be aware of that: Does the development drive unequal activities in any particular area in the world?

Development parameters cannot be aggregated, unless the data of any poor place is interpreted in different situations.

It is true that cities are about development and partnership in different places within a specific boundary. The transformation within the developing world and the population moving from the rural areas to urban centers mean the governments must respond to the challenges of the urban system, and local governments need to be better equipped to manage the transition from central control to decentralization, marketplace provision and service for cities. That rule will demand driving urban development, and service providers being accountable to the customers.

Local governments should consider lasting poverty and its minimization as a high priority, and also equal distribution and development mechanisms, together with the strongly targeted list of development areas and regions. We have to move accordingly with a strong consideration.

I wish you successful in this program. Thank you so much.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Omar Candia, Mayor of Arequipa, Peru

Sub-forum: Metropolis' Role in Fighting Poverty and Supporting Less Developed Regions  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



We clearly know that the Global Mayors' Forum gathers different cities all over the world. It provides us with a platform to think, exchange ideas, discuss initiatives, and plan our work, and brings us opportunities to launch poverty alleviation campaigns in under-developed areas.

In the forum, we will discuss together and learn experience and draw lessons from each other. Then these initiatives and measures can truly make up the gap, improve services, and provide assistance to disadvantaged groups.

I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and Peru. During these

years, Arequipa has established friendly ties with various cities in China. In particular, we have been sister cities with Guangzhou for 17 years, during which, we have kept our cultural exchanges, and paid mutual visits between Guangzhou and Arequipa for many times. Especially, we received delegations from Guangzhou in Arequipa recently. This year, we have also established friendly relations with other Chinese cities, such as Shanghai and Chengdu.

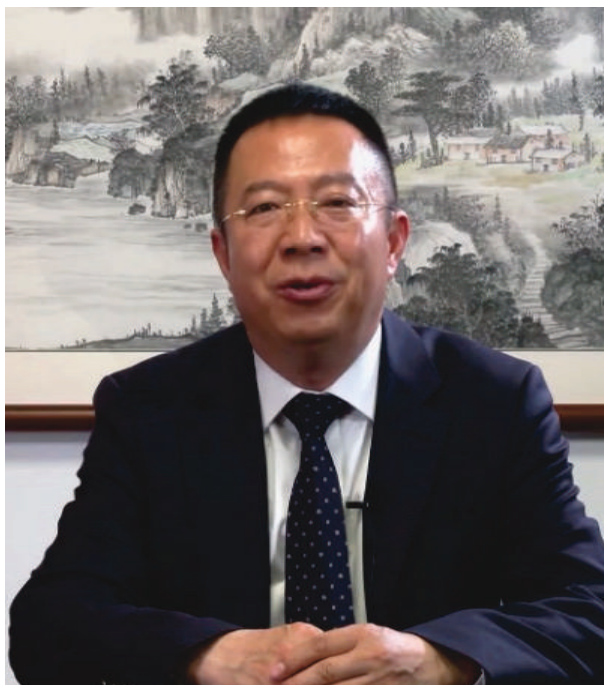
Finally, I wish the forum a complete success. We will continue to join hands with China, make efforts to develop our friendship, and advance the prosperity of people-to-people communication between the two sides. Thank you very much!

(Based on shorthand records)



## Speech by Zhang Guangyong, Mayor of Lvliang, China

Sub-forum: Metropolis' Role in Fighting Poverty and Supporting Less Developed Regions  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Lvliang used to be one of the 14 contiguous poverty-stricken areas in China, a main battlefield of Shanxi in fighting poverty. In the past five years, encouraged by our Leader, people in Lvliang have upheld the Lvliang spirit in the final campaign against absolute poverty. Thus, 590,000 people from 1,439 impoverished villages in 10 poor counties were lifted out of poverty. In this process, three measures of Lvliang won national recognition: nursing workers training, poverty alleviation through ecological development, and poverty reduction with the photovoltaic industry. President Xi Jinping highly acknowledged on two occasions the measure of poverty alleviation through ecological development in Lvliang, and nursing workers found their place in the Japanese housekeeping market. Lvliang people have

written an excellent chapter of China's poverty reduction miracle, providing useful lessons for global poverty alleviation.

We have advocated poverty alleviation both through creating more jobs and growing the industries, and encouraged people to seek prosperity through hard work and self-reliance, making historic strides in their life quality improvement. We dug out the cause of an undertrained workforce and weak industries, and prioritized vocational skill training focusing on nursing workers in the battle against poverty. We also established five working systems for leadership, policy support, publicity, skill training, and employment. In consequence, 73,000 people have been trained for free in 39 sessions, and over 40,000 people found jobs in 29 cities in 11 provinces across China. On this basis, we fostered eight high-quality rural industries such as red dates and walnuts cultivation, and applied the poverty lifting model of "enterprises + cooperatives + poor households", increasing the income of more than 500,000 poverty-stricken people.

We have adhered to a balance between ecological development and growth in people's income, and found a way of gaining economic benefits from lucid waters and lush mountains. Historical changes

have occurred on Lvliang Mountain. We have practiced the policy of protecting lucid waters and lush mountains, and established special forest cooperatives to draw poor people into forest cultivation, management and protection. Four years of large-scale forestation through cooperation makes the city No. 1 in grass and forest coverage in Shanxi province, jumping from No.6 to No.3 in forest coverage rate, with a total of 115,000 people lifted off poverty.

We have combined natural advantages with social forces to seek development on our own and through pooling strength, and have made historical breakthroughs in rural collective economy. Taking advantage of our unique natural resources, we have developed a way of poverty alleviation through photovoltaics and explored the collaborative model of establishing power stations in villages. As a result, we built a photovoltaic power station for poverty alleviation with a total capacity of 596MW, and broke new ground in collective economy in 1,553 administrative villages. In the meantime, central and provincial governments, private enterprises and social forces provided help for us, and invested 5,300 million yuan in total. In this way, series of practical supporting projects have been launched, and impressive stories of hardworking people have been written and spread in Lvliang.

We also have placed our focus on infrastructure and fundamental services, strengthened areas of long-lasting weakness and addressed the gap between urban and rural areas, greatly improving rural conditions. We have carried out a large-scale project to relocate poor people from inhospitable areas, helping 114,000 people move out of the poor places, solving the problem that "people cannot make a living in where they live". Numerous agricultural development programs were put into use, and rural infrastructure saw a huge jump. Basic, universal and guaranteed health care services have been provided in an all-round way, allowing impoverished people to avoid delaying treatment no matter it's tiny illness or severe diseases. In addition, we have implemented a funding policy fully covering poor students from preschool to university, effectively preventing poverty from passing down from one generation to the next.

Shaking off poverty is not an end, but a starting point for new life and new efforts. From winning the fight against poverty to building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, the hardworking people of Lvliang have realized their dream of getting rid of poverty through struggle, and have embarked on a new journey towards comprehensive rural revitalization. We will guard against arrogance and rashness, draw strength from our achievements to forge ahead, and keep making efforts to build a beautiful, happy and splendid Lvliang!

Finally, I wish the forum a complete success!

Thank you!

## Speech by Pan Dengling, Deputy Mayor of Anshun, China

Sub-forum: Metropolis' Role in Fighting Poverty and Supporting Less Developed Regions  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Anshun is a blessed place for recuperation and a world of waterfalls. It is located in the middle of Guizhou Province, and occupies a critical position for traveling to nearby provinces including Guizhou, Yunnan, Sichuan, and Guangdong. It has been recognized as one of the Top Tourist Cities of China and China's Best Summer Resort City, and houses Huangguoshu Waterfall, the biggest waterfall in Asia. It is the hometown of Comrade Wang Ruofei, a senior proletarian revolutionary of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Mr. Ren Zhengfei of Huawei Co., Ltd. used to live and learn in Guizhou for a long time. Six counties under the city's jurisdiction were in the contiguous impoverished areas of stony desertification that

span Yunnan, Guangxi, and Guizhou. Under the strong leadership of the CPC, people there who suffered poverty for generations have worked hard and made efforts, finally shaking off poverty that had struck these places for thousands of years, and developed their hometown into one with a beautiful scenery and a bright future.

Since the 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress of CPC, we launched a thorough study and implementation of General Secretary Xi Jinping's ideas in his important addresses for poverty alleviation and of the essence of CPC sessions. In this sense, we gave the fight against poverty the top priority, made it our biggest political task, and took it as the most promising development opportunity. We put poverty alleviation in the leading position in social and economic development, and waged a battle against absolute poverty. At the end of 2020, Anshun and other areas across China were lifted out of poverty, gaining a decisive victory in the battle.

**First, Anshun has made the fastest progression in poverty reduction in its history.** 545,800

registered poor people from 132,700 households in the city were helped, and the incidence rate of poverty was cut to zero. 569 impoverished villages and 6 poor counties shook off poverty as expected, and the poverty problem that these places had suffered for thousands of years has been resolved.

**Second, Anshun has made the best poverty alleviation results in its history.** The per capita disposable income of rural people in the city increased from 7,402 yuan in 2015 to 11,768 yuan in 2020 at an annual growth rate of 9.72%. Progress was made in rural industrial reforms, leading to 490,000 poverty-stricken households earning more income and shaking off poverty. We have completed the project to relocate poor people from inhospitable areas in the period of the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, and set up 84 resettlement sites with 82,000 people moving into new residences and living better lives. Also, their employment, health care, and schooling have been guaranteed. The rate of turning their former homes into farmland or forests is 100%, ending the history that "people cannot make a living in where they live".

**Third, people in Anshun have the strongest sense of gains.** 2,480 million yuan have been invested in total, allowing a full coverage of poor students from preschool to university, effectively preventing poverty from passing down from one generation to the next. The medical insurance has achieved near 100% coverage for registered poor people. Also, standard clinics with qualified village physicians have been established in all poor villages. 90,600 households have their dangerous buildings renovated, 11,000 households have their battered houses repaired, and 3,837 households that used to live under the same roof with their livestock have their living conditions improved. All poor people are living in safe houses, and people who had lived a hard life before now have settled down in satisfaction. 3374 rural projects for safe drinking water have been launched, ensuring access for all rural people to safe drinking water. In 2013, expressways and asphalt roads were constructed in every county and township respectively. In 2015, concrete roads began to run in each village. In 2017, all administrative villages have accessed to optical fiber and 4G network .

**Fourth, Anshun people have taken the most initiative.** Anshun has the reform experience that is recognized, operable and replicable across China, which epitomizes the Guizhou measure for poverty alleviation. Examples abound, such as ex-soldiers working as CPC secretaries, "Tangyue experience", "Daba model", "a-la-carte poverty alleviation", land transfer and subcontracting. These examples have



been praised by the leaders of the central and provincial governments. A number of outstanding models like Zhang Houxue and Zuo Wenxue have stood out in the great progress of poverty alleviation.

Looking back to the hard journey of poverty alleviation, our continuous and practical efforts indicate Anshun people's determination, carefulness and responsibility. We have resolutely carried out the decisions and deployment of the CPC Central Committee, following the policy of targeted poverty alleviation. We have fought poverty with our leading forces, with infrastructure construction as an important cornerstone, industry development as an essential measure, and people's livelihood improvement as the primary purpose. Having concerted efforts as critical support, and primary-level Party building as a powerful guarantee, we have made winning streak in poverty alleviation in an all-round way.

The three million Anshun people know deeply in their heart that we would not made these achievements without the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, and care and assistance from all Chinese people. Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has been our guide in a scientific manner, and the huge strengths of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics have given us momentum to make efforts, and the significant strategy that eastern and western China shall cooperate has brought us powerful dynamism. Especially, Qingdao and Guangzhou have provided us with large-scale assistance. Guangzhou has granted financial funds up to 300 million yuan to Anshun this year, and our special agricultural products have made an amount of sales of 646.9 million yuan in a couple of months in Guangdong Province, creating jobs for 25480 rural people, 10,820 of which are those shaking off poverty. 2,390 people have been trained in 51 sessions of employment cooperation training, of which, 7,509 rural people found jobs and 4326 of them got rid of poverty. Under multi-direction guidance of Guangzhou, 25 new enterprises have settled down in Anshun, with 1,628 million yuan in place. 141 schools, 37 hospitals, 57 towns and 37 villages with flourishing economy, and 14 companies from Guangzhou have provided targeted pair assistance for Anshun, injecting new and great vitality into Anshun's rural revitalization.

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China. Anshun

people from the top to the bottom are studying and implementing General Secretary Xi Jinping's ideas in his important address on July 1st and when he inspected Guizhou. We are committed to high-quality development as a flag-bearer, so as to enhance the achievements we have made in poverty alleviation. During the fight against poverty, we have stuck to shouldering our responsibilities, implementing relevant policies, and receiving assistance under continuous supervision. We have pioneered new paths for the large-scale development of the western region in the new era, applied new measures in rural revitalization, seized new opportunities in developing digital economy, made new achievements in ecological protection, and vigorously advanced new industrialization, new urbanization, and modern agriculture and tourism. Building on the primary industry, we have expanded the secondary industry, and fostered tertiary industry, integrating the three industries and increasing total economic scale. With this idea and concentrating on the ten special agricultural industries, we have made great efforts to attract investment, and worked hard to develop special industries, special ecology, and special culture, and build beautiful, livable, and vivid villages. As a result, a new ground of rural revitalization in Anshun has been ushered in where agriculture has been boosted in high quality and efficiency, villages have turned to be livable and business-friendly, and rural people are living in wealthy lives in contentment.

Finally, we welcome your attention, investigation, investment, and travel in Anshun. Let's join hands to write a new chapter for a promising Guizhou with affluent people and harmonious ecology.

Thank you!

## Speech by Yang Zaijun, Deputy Chief of Qiannan Autonomous Prefecture, China

Sub-forum: Metropolis' Role in Fighting Poverty and Supporting Less Developed Regions  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



It's my great honor to discuss the universal topic of poverty reduction with counterparts from China and abroad. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Guangzhou, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and the World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis). They have always paid their attention to the development of Qiannan. In particular, I would like to say thank you to the City of Guangzhou for their dedicated assistance to us.

My speech today is: Sharing Qiannan's Practice in Global Poverty Reduction.

Qiannan Autonomous Prefecture is located in southern Guizhou Province, home to 44 ethnic groups including Bouyei, Miao, Shui and others. There are 4,266,500 people living on a land of 26,200 square kilometers. With lucid waters and lush mountains, the beautiful Qiannan has five shining namecards: the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST), City of Duyun, world natural heritage, historic revolutionary sites and the Green Expo Garden. We have magnificent mountains, simple and primitive folk custom, and hospitable people of nationalities who are natural singers and dancers. People here live happy lives and work in contentment in a natural oxygen bar, with green food from mountains.

However, the land used to be in the shadow of poverty where "people cannot make a living there". Harsh environment, infertile land, and backward transportation confined people in the mountains and barred them from realizing their dream for a better life.

For years, with policies of the Communist Party of China (CPC) for ethnic groups, leaders of Qiannan have worked hard in succession, and cadres and people of various ethnic groups have united together, lifting 929,300 poor people from 836 poverty-stricken villages in 4 impoverished counties out of poverty. Consequently, Qiannan got rid of absolute poverty that had lasted for thousands of years. We have implemented General Secretary Xi Jinping's demand that "we will build a moderately prosperous society in all respects with all our ethnic groups", producing the valuable Qiannan experience.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, President Xi Jinping has paid great attention to Guizhou's poverty alleviation, and given various important directions. We have unswervingly carried out decisions and deployment of the central and provincial committees of the CPC and the central and provincial governments. We have applied the strategy in "four battles, special governance in five aspects, four focuses, and one industrial revolution", and implemented a mechanism of fighting poverty under the leadership of five levels of CPC secretaries by sending 698 first secretaries to poor villages to live and work, and 54,700 cadres to grids for poverty alleviation. They worked from groups and households, developed supporting policies from all aspects, drew funds from multi-channels, integrated and applied resources around the province, overcame numerous difficulties, took down plenty of bottlenecks, and wrote a chapter of Qiannan full of wonders in poverty alleviation.

Great changes have occurred to villages in mountainous region. We have focused on infrastructure construction and extending expressways to counties and roads and bus service to villages and groups. We have also provided universal access to electricity, optical fiber or 4G network. Days were gone when people could only go somewhere distant on foot, contact someone by shouting, and have lighting by burning oil. We made breakthroughs by relocating poor people from inhospitable areas, and 247,300 people moved out of mountains where they could not support themselves. We renovated 87,387 dilapidated houses in rural areas, so that "old adobe houses are now new, clean and spacious". With industrial development as the core, we have continued to increase people's income and make them richer. Lucid waters and



lush mountains are gradually becoming sources of people's fortune and better lives.

In 2020, the per capita disposable income of permanent rural residents in Guizhou reached 12,876 yuan, and the living standards have changed greatly. We focused on the bottom-line goal that rural poor people are free from worries over food and clothing and have access to compulsory education, basic medical services and safe housing. As a result, people now have exquisite and beautiful clothes instead of old and shabby ones. We have vigorously developed rural education, making it possible that children can live in school and dine in canteens instead of trekking mountains and rivers to go to school. We have made great efforts to develop medical and health care in rural areas. Each administrative village now has clinics and village doctors, allowing people to avoid delaying treatment no matter it's tiny illness or severe diseases. We also launched rural drinking water projects, and 3,492,200 rural people have access to safe drinking water, ending the days of getting water on their and horses' back and from rain.

The mindset of the Qiannan people has changed profoundly. Numerous cadres working on poverty alleviation have worked hard on solving our people's problems and providing pair assistance for them to shake off poverty, and care about them like families. Our people follow the Party's instructions and guidance, showing their gratitude to the Party, and believing that happiness is achieved through hard work. Therefore, they have changed their attitude, starting to work on their own instead of waiting and laying idle. Through endeavor, some of them have gone out of the mountainous areas to cities, learning skills and being employed. They are always grateful to the Party. Some hang pictures of their old houses and new houses after relocation in their new residences to show that they will never forget what the Party has brought to them.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, the most fundamental and critical reasons that Qiannan could win the battle against poverty with high quality in time lie in the strong leadership of General Secretary Xi Jinping and the CPC Central Committee, and the huge strengths of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. What is the most useful is that we have taken suitable and targeted measures to improve our situations while holding high the principle of "all for the

people and relying on the people".

Looking back on the way we have been through, we cannot forget the grand scene that tens of thousands of Party members and cadres rushed to the battlefield of poverty alleviation with passion and ambition, and we cannot forget the transformation of each village, and the life changing process of people who have got rid of poverty. These days of struggle for better life with passion and belief will be engraved in the process of history. Today, we will stay committed to high-quality development, revolving around growing new technologies, new industries, new business forms, and new models. We will focus on fostering intelligent industries, turning old industries intelligent, cross-sector integration, and building high-end brands. We will consolidate and expand our achievements in poverty alleviation, comprehensively promote rural revitalization, and make vigorous efforts to promote common prosperity for farmers.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, Qiannan is auspicious with a harmonious ecology. With open arms, we welcome and invite those from all walks of life with lofty ideals and ambition to promote the development of Qiannan. Let's work together to create a better future for human poverty reduction.

Thank you!

## Speech by Wen Xiangfang, Deputy Mayor of Meizhou, China

Sub-forum: Metropolis' Role in Fighting Poverty and Supporting Less Developed Regions  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Meizhou is known as the world city of Hakka people and of longevity. Located in the northeast of Guangdong Province, China, Meizhou has the most representative Hakka community in the world. It is the hometown of Marshal Ye Jianying, a famous proletarian revolutionist and one of the founding fathers of China. Surrounded by green mountains and lucid waters, Meizhou is a place of culture, education and talent. It boasts itself as a city of China's famous history and culture, garden, forest, tourism, and beautiful landscape, being a national ecological civilization demonstration area and national Hakka cultural and ecological conservation area. It is known as the

hometown of culture, overseas Chinese, football, Marshal Ye, longevity, golden pomelo, hot springs, Hakka dishes and peace.

Today, it is a great honor to discuss poverty alleviation, a global concern, with all of you, and share the practices and experience of assistance from Guangzhou in the alleviation of poverty in Meizhou.

Eliminating poverty is the common vision of mankind. Under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), after eight years of hard work, nearly 100 million people in China have lifted themselves out of poverty, contributing the Chinese wisdom to the cause of global poverty alleviation. In the fight against poverty, Guangzhou has resolutely shouldered the responsibility as a world metropolis, helped Meizhou win the battle against poverty in an all-round way, and accumulated Guangzhou experience in cross-regional poverty alleviation cooperation:

### 1. Focusing on poverty alleviation through developing industries to treat poverty from the root.

Development is the key to solving the problem of poverty. Guangzhou adheres to poverty alleviation through developing industries, achieving continuous growth by developing industries, and stabilizing poverty alleviation with development. Guangzhou and Meizhou have jointly built Guangzhou-Meizhou Industry Transfer Park twice. Each district in Guangzhou has built one industrial park with one development zone in Meizhou, accumulating in 8 industrial parks that form Guangzhou-Meizhou 1+8 Industrial Co-Construction Park. The industrial parks have introduced Global Top 500 enterprises (such as Guangzhou Automobile Group Co., Ltd. and Guangzhou Municipal Construction Group Co., Ltd.), Chinese Top 500 enterprises (such as Guangzhou Light Industry & Trade Group Ltd., Guangzhou Risk Control, and Kelun Industry Group), and a number of industry leaders to Meizhou, forming the industrial clusters including the fields of auto parts, grand health, electronic information and big data, and creating an industrial new town with green innovation and high-quality development. Efforts have been made to carry out industry-university-research cooperation with colleges and universities, to facilitate enterprises to speed up product research and development and key core technology research, and to introduce a number of urgently needed top-notch talents, injecting a strong driving force into the high-quality economic and social development of Meizhou.

Over the past five years, Guangzhou has deployed 625 assistance cadres to Meizhou, invested RMB 2.9 billion in Guangzhou-Meizhou Industry Transfer Park, and introduced 293 projects with Guangzhou-Meizhou 1+8 Industrial Co-Construction Park, including 151 projects worth more than RMB 100 million.

### 2. Focusing on poverty alleviation through consumption to bring together the support and help of the whole society.

Meizhou boasts great ecological environment and has the advantages of pomelo industry and selenium-rich agricultural products. As an international consumption center, Guangzhou



helps Meizhou build platforms, stabilize the techniques and market the products, trying its best to help Meizhou's native products reach a wider market. Specifically, Guangzhou has helped Meizhou build a Meizhou distribution center and production base of “vegetable basket” in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (hereinafter referred to as “the Greater Bay Area”), open 209 special halls, special areas and counters, and regularly hold a series of poverty alleviation product exhibitions. It has helped Meizhou increase publicity in Guangzhou's subway stations, business circles and other core areas and on various media platforms, greatly improving the popularity and reputation of agricultural products produced in Meizhou. Through exhibition, e-commerce distribution, live-streaming e-commerce, “purchase instead of donation” and “sales for help”, Guangzhou has promoted the continuous direct supply of distinctive agricultural products to the Greater Bay Area, such as Meizhou pomelo, Jiaying tea, Meizhou rice and Pingyuan orange, transforming Meizhou's green advantage into economic advantage. In 2020, Guangzhou helped Meizhou sell RMB 4.3 billion worth of agricultural products for poverty alleviation, of which RMB 1.2 billion were sold to Guangzhou, helping the people of Meizhou increase their income and get out of poverty.

### **3. Focusing on poverty alleviation through employment to unleash the internal driving force to fight against poverty.**

Guangzhou has worked hard to support the employment and education in Meizhou for poverty alleviation. Workshops for poverty alleviation have been established according to local conditions, such as factories and home-based workshops, to promote local and nearby employment and provide employment opportunities for the poverty-stricken people who can't go out to work.

Continuous efforts have been made to alleviate poverty through education and employment. College-enterprise cooperation has been intensified with the higher vocational colleges in Guangzhou and preferential policies have been issued to help poverty-stricken children seize the opportunities of education and employment. Based on Guangzhou-Meizhou Industry Transfer Park, three training bases have been established for Cantonese cuisine cooks, Guangdong technicians and southern Guangdong housekeeping personnel. A practical

training alliance has been formed to strengthen employment training and talent cultivation and more than 40,000 poverty-stricken farmers have received practical training. Efforts have been made to improve vocational skills through accurate training, promote the employment and increase the income of poor labor forces through skill upgrading.

Over the past five years, Guangzhou has invested RMB 1.83 billion in poverty-stricken villages designated by the province. In 2020, nearly 30000 poverty-stricken workers who have been registered in our city were employed locally, and 20,000 people enjoyed transfer employment. Upon the assistance, the collective income of 272 provincial poverty-stricken villages in Meizhou has increased by 15.8 times, the disposable personal income of the poor with working ability has increased by 4 times, and the per capita disposable income of residents has increased by 1.9 times. The people of Meizhou will always remember and be grateful for the profound friendship of Guangzhou. On behalf of Meizhou Municipal Party Committee, the People's Government of Meizhou and over 5 million Meizhou people, I would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to Guangzhou for its continuous assistance and support.

As a saying goes, “No cross, no crown”. Under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, we will vigorously carry forward the spirit of fight against poverty, further the industrial co-construction between Guangzhou and Meizhou, consolidate and expand our achievements in poverty alleviation and effectively link them with rural vitalization. We will build a modern rural industry system, promote the high-quality and effective development of agriculture, build livable villages with employment opportunities and ensure the affluence of the farmers. Meizhou will work hard to contribute to China's rural revitalization and common prosperity, and provide solutions for the global rural development.

Finally, I sincerely invite all guests to Meizhou to enjoy Meizhou rice, taste Meizhou pomelo, drink Jiaying tea and jointly explore the mystery of health and longevity.

Thank you.

## Speech by Su Jindan, Deputy Mayor of Qingyuan, China

Sub-forum: Metropolis' Role in Fighting Poverty and Supporting Less Developed Regions  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



I am glad to be with you in Guangzhou, and attend the sub-forum with the theme of “Metropolis' Role in Fighting Poverty and Supporting Less Developed Regions”. On behalf of the People's Government of Qingyuan City, I would like to extend my congratulations to the opening of the forum!

“Those who are stricken by poverty expect to live in a moderately prosperous society.” Poverty alleviation has been an ardent aspiration of the Chinese nation since thousands of years ago. At a grand gathering held on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to mark China's achievements in poverty alleviation and to honor its model fighters against poverty, General Secretary Xi Jinping declared that

China has had a victory in the battle against poverty in an all-round way. Qingyuan, located in northern Guangdong, used to be an under-developed region, and one of the regions that suffered the most serious poverty. For a long time, especially since 2016, Qingyuan has unswervingly carried out the decisions and deployment of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council, worked with units directly under the People's Government of Guangdong Province and Guangzhou, and achieved high-quality poverty alleviation.

At the end of 2020, 123,651 registered poor people from 261 poverty-stricken villages in Qingyuan all shook off poverty, and the per capita disposable income of those who were capable of working reached over 18,000 yuan. For this result, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council granted the title of “National Advanced Collective in Poverty Alleviation” to Qingyuan Poverty Alleviation Station. Regarding the practice of poverty alleviation, I would like to share with you some solutions in three aspects and my feelings.

### **First, we have adhered to one primary line: fighting poverty for common prosperity.**

Qingyuan has strengthened its political stance, resolutely implemented a mechanism of fighting poverty led by five-level Party secretaries, and strictly carried out a system where top leaders take charge. Main leaders made plans in person, led teams for many times to visit Guangzhou for coordinating pair support and assistance, met with their counterparts from Guangzhou on a regular basis, and advanced poverty alleviation on a high standard. Departments at all levels focused on assistance and cooperation, and both poverty alleviation and wealth acquiring, made investment with genuine intention, delivered tangible outcome, and took the initiative to shoulder the political responsibilities in poverty alleviation.

### **Second, we have focused on two key aspects.**

On the one hand, we took the strategy of targeted poverty alleviation. Since the end of 2015, Qingyuan has motivated over 60,000 cadres across the city to take part in field identification and inspection, established dynamic files in which one household has one document. On the basis of targeted identification and management, the city fixed its efforts on solving outstanding problems of safe drinking water and in realizing the goal that rural poor people are free from worries over food and clothing and have access to compulsory education, basic medical services and safe housing. With different but suitable policies for different regions, we have developed targeted policies for each village and every household, making the support policies more targeted and effective.

On the other hand, we pooled powerful forces. Firstly, we deepened the assistance and cooperation. We have arranged members of Guangzhou task force to take posts in Qingyuan, and appointed Party first secretaries and Party building instructors to 261 relatively poor villages, and designated county-and-town-level cadres to live and work in 847 villages scattered in the countryside. Secondly, we gathered departments' strength. We have built poverty alleviation headquarters at city, county and town levels, established a work mechanism of “weekly report, monthly conclusion, and quarterly inspection”, and integrated the poverty alleviation work force under the provincial government into the system of the headquarters, enhancing the coordination among departments. Thirdly, we encouraged people from all walks of life to take their part. We have made full use of activities like Guangdong Poverty Alleviation Day on June 30<sup>th</sup>, and the National Poverty Alleviation Day on October 17<sup>th</sup>, and motivated everybody to join the grand poverty alleviation campaign.



### Third, we have taken three measures.

Qingyuan, as Guangdong's only national pilot area for poverty alleviation and reform, and its only national pilot area for integrated urban-rural development, has explored a replicable and propagable poverty alleviation path through three measures, including Party building in the leading position, stabilizing increase in income, and encouraging poor households to regain confidence and learn skills.

#### 1. Party building in the leading position.

We have strengthened primary-level Party organization building, merged the original 6,915 Party branches of villager groups across the city into 2,448, and trained better cadres at primary level. Also, we have actively enhanced the leadership of village-level Party organizations for better management, carried out thorough rural inspections, applied targeted policies for problems in each category in the weak links in poverty alleviation, and implemented varied policies for advantageous projects in each village.

#### 2. Stabilizing increase in income.

Taking the pair assistance from Guangzhou as an opportunity, we have transformed the work style of the Poverty Alleviation Task Force from simple financial transfer to root-treatment poverty alleviation, which largely increased the income of people who have shaken off poverty.

First, we strengthened industrial support. Based on advantages in local resources, we have placed our focus on industries dominated by agriculture with high visibility in Guangdong, such as Qingyuan chicken and Yingde black tea, to enhance the cooperation between Guangzhou and Qingyuan. In this way, we have linked ourselves with rural people and motivated them. During the poverty alleviation, we have built 12 provincial modern agricultural industry parks in the city, and developed 180 industrial categories and products respectively in towns and villages following the mechanism that "a town has one industry, and a village has one product". Accumulatively, we have carried out 157,300 projects for helping poor households with developing industries, and increased the income of 31,783 impoverished households. In 2020, the average industrial income of each household had increased by 9,400 yuan.

Second, we provided support through employment. Guangzhou and Qingyuan have worked together and established the first Poverty Alleviation Through Employment Office in Guangdong Province, and set up relevant work stations in 51 relatively poor villages to match the requirements of both the labor

market and rural population. We have established public welfare positions in village photovoltaic power stations operations, village development, and village management, helping poor people take nearby positions.

Third, we deepened poverty alleviation through consumption. We have highlighted the consumption market of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and built three platforms for physical stores, online sales, and promotional activities to boost consumption for poverty alleviation. In this way, we have removed the obstacles on the last mile between the agricultural products for poverty alleviation and market needs.

#### 3. Encouraging poor households to regain confidence first and then learn skills so as to get rid of poverty.

First, we laid focus on mental support. We have widely publicized the Party's poverty alleviation policies and persevering spirit in various ways. In the meantime, we have made great efforts in cultivating leading entrepreneurs in poverty-stricken villages. In recent years, 1,118 leading entrepreneurs have been cultivated in poor towns and villages. Lianzhang Village Rural Revitalization College in Yingde City became one of the seven training bases for leading entrepreneurs from poor villages in China.

Second, we paid attention to universal skill training, agricultural training and college training with all-out efforts. We have taken full advantages of the three projects to cultivate Guangdong technicians, Cantonese cuisine cooks and southern Guangdong housekeepers, to draw poor labor force into skill training. In 2020, all poverty-stricken people with working capability were trained, realizing the goal that one who finished training would be employed and shake off poverty.

As we have made great achievements in poverty alleviation, it is also time that we should work on rural revitalization. Standing on the new starting point, we are ready to embark on a new journey. Qingyuan will keep holding high the great poverty alleviation spirit, promoting urban and rural integration, and moving towards the goal of comprehensive rural revitalization.

Finally, I wish you all good health and all the best.

Thank you!

## Speech by Begoña Villacís, Vice Mayor of Madrid, Spain

Sub-forum: Urban Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity Conservation  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



It's a pleasure to participate on behalf of the City of Madrid in this assembly, in which we debate and decide the future of our cities.

Our cities have gone through tough times lately, and we are now facing the road to recovery. The times have acquired all of our efforts in health emergency, but this has also helped us think about the city we want to live in. Seeing our streets empty, our economy weakening, and our people suffering makes us think that we need to remake cities as a space of well-being, and as a resilient and safe place in the face of what may come.

These times have allowed us to understand that a new usage of space in the city is needed. We can abandon absolute models and take

advantage of this opportunity to face challenges such as circular economy, the climate crisis, the use of renewable energies and the impact of housing in the environment.

Madrid is actually working to differ in all these aspects. For us, an objective is that the levels of nitrogen dioxide and particles in the air of our city are below the values set by the World Health Organization. We have set out to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 65% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. This is an even more ambitious reduction than the one proposed at the European level, thanks to a road map of decarbonization of the City of Madrid, approved by the City Council, a route that puts together the work with global objectives. We are contributing to decarbonization in transportation and logistics. We are reducing the energy and water consumption in food distribution, both wholesale and retail, and increasing our capacity to recycle and reduce waste.

But one more step must be taken. We must look to nature to recover space between us. We believe in the natural-based solutions as the best way to mitigate the impact of society and the European economy. We must increase our green areas beyond the 4 million square meters that we already have

in the City of Madrid. We must increase our coverage of trees. And this should be at the core of every public expenditure in the city.

Among all these solutions, I especially want to mention one that is already under construction: the Metropolitan Forest of Madrid, a green corridor, 75 km long, that will surround the entire city. And this will mean changing the quality of life for thousands of people from Madrid. We will have a green space next to their home, a truly natural space for leisure and for air quality. It would not be a park, but a real sustainable forest with native species, typical of the place we are located at, and that will help us absorb 170,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year.

All these are because Madrid wants to move forward and be an international benchmark, at the same time showing that progress towards the global objectives of the world is not at odds with the prosperity of the economy. In fact, we personally believe that it is a great part to explore in the circular economy, and in the green economy. And we are totally convinced that actions do not mean to put our future at stake, or at risk in terms of jobs and future prosperity. Madrid has therefore found a way to increase its government action in these matters, something that really involves or needs municipal departments, which will be the basis of our government balance at the end of their mandate.

Hopefully, together, we can build a better sustainable future and better cities to live in, and meet more ambitious goals. I really hope that these days are very fruitful, and that they achieve those common goals.

Thank you. This is so needed. Without the cities we will never make it.

(Based on shorthand records)



## Speech by Laura Pérez, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona, Spain and President of Metropolis Women

Sub-forum: Building Diverse, Inclusive and Resilient Urban Governance System  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



I would like to say hello to all of you from Barcelona. It's a great pleasure to attend this important meeting.

Metropolis is strengthening exchanges among cities. These exchanges are indispensable, especially during the pandemic. Cities are taking actions to improve public space and accompany people in quarantine. At the same time, we can also learn the experience of other cities.

We always speak highly of such meetings and attach importance to the platform for communication and exchanges. Sharing experience and good practices among cities around the world is one of the main ways for us to promote a series of public policies and promote urban innovation.

Many cities in the world have common challenges in many fields. Inequality among people is becoming more and more serious. We should protect the rights of vulnerable groups and address the climate crisis. In order to respond to these challenges, we must establish an inclusive and flexible governance system. This forum provides a unique opportunity for us to share our experience in governance.

I would also like to talk about the work of Metropolis Women. It is necessary to integrate the feminist perspective into all actions of our network and all actions of cities. Therefore, we can build safer and more inclusive cities for women. At the same time, we should also be aware of the diversity of public policies in every city.

The pandemic and economic crises have affected urban women significantly. The impact on women is reflected in various aspects:

First, the personnel engaged in nursing or housework are mostly females. During the pandemic, related work has become even more arduous. As most of the nursing is carried out at home, there will be unequal allocation of labors between men and women.

In addition, women's jobs are not guaranteed, and their employment is not stable. The data related to employment indicates that there is instability, inequality and wage gap in the employment market.

Therefore, long-lasting gender inequality can be identified in this field.

Regarding the field of social services, more women come to social service institutions for help for themselves or their families, which requires the support of the government. Take Barcelona as an example, 70% of social service providers are women. Therefore, the way to get rid of the crisis is to follow three important action programs from the perspective of women. First, women shall be provided with enough care; second, the stability of their work shall be guaranteed; third, gender equality shall be ensured in a wider range of fields and industries.

We must also cooperate with men and share the caring or housework with them in a more equal way, so as to ensure that everyone has the right and is cared for in a dignified way.

We can refer to the case in Barcelona. During the pandemic, we promoted a new municipal "nanny plan" service, to take care of children. This plan has helped many women with unstable income and insufficient time to enable them to have their own time and space for self-improvement, such as training, searching for new jobs and having rest at work. Therefore, we should vigorously promote new services in the public sector, such as the "nanny plan". In addition, there is a care plan in Barcelona. It is a center responsible for caring for nursing staff and a working group to improve women's conditions and provide them with psychological and legal support. Most of our clients are unpaid women who provide care for their families.

The second important action program is to reduce poverty and ensure women's stable work. It is a priority program to ensure the stability of work and provide decent working conditions. We have carried it out in the field of science and technology. Barcelona is currently promoting a fintech project for women facing unstable jobs, unemployment or domestic violence to obtain skill training, such as programming, and gain access to good job opportunities and good salary.

Finally, I would like to say that fighting social inequality is one of the best feminist policies, which can be accompanied by some social intervention. A more inclusive city should realize that women face different situations. We should create opportunities for people to be aware of the reality faced by women, especially immigrant women, women with unstable jobs and women suffering from domestic violence. Only in this way can we help them plan a better future for themselves and the people around them and have better working conditions.

We will continue the work of Metropolis Women with cities interested in improving urban public quality from a gender perspective.

Thank you!

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Phil Goff, Mayor of Auckland, New Zealand

Side Event: Guangzhou - Los Angeles - Auckland Tripartite Economic Alliance Seminar  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



The Tripartite Alliance is really important to Auckland. That brings us into close contact with our sister cities Guangzhou and Los Angeles. It has made us an alliance, and the relationships are much more important.

In the troubling times of COVID-19, we're still pushing ahead with a major investment in our infrastructure here in Auckland, some \$32 billion being invested in our latest ten-year plan.

And of course, we focus also on the challenge of climate change. As the parties who met recently in Glasgow have agreed, this is the time when we must make strong commitments to dealing with the challenge

of climate change.

With lockdown, we haven't been able to welcome you and visitors from Los Angeles and Guangzhou to our city. But just recently, in the Lonely Planet guide, Auckland has been declared as the best city in the world to visit in 2022. As we have vaccinated more than 90% of our people, and we start to open up our borders, we hope to welcome you back to our city.

In the meantime, best wishes for our proceedings through the day, and I wish this conference a very successful conclusion. Thank you very much.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Bill Cashmore, Deputy Mayor of Auckland, New Zealand

Side Event: Guangzhou - Los Angeles - Auckland Tripartite Economic Alliance Seminar  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Sincere thanks for inviting me to this important event.

Mayor Goff has just explained the significance and high prestige of the Tripartite Agreement. City-and-city agreements are the future for our cultural sharing, our economic growth and prosperity of our communities.

Auckland values and treasures the Tripartite Arrangement for what it has done for our city. We have gained knowledge, we have gained experience, we have gained endeavor, and we have a great love for our cultural understandings with Guangzhou, Los Angeles and ourselves. We are all

advancing because of what the Tripartite Alliance has done. And we thank all the participants, whether Los Angeles or Guangzhou, for their participation and ongoing endeavor to grow this fantastic operation we call the Tripartite Alliance.

Thank you.

(Based on shorthand records)



## Speech by Wang Huanqing, Deputy Mayor of Guangzhou, China

Side Event: Guangzhou - Los Angeles - Auckland Tripartite Economic Alliance Seminar  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Advancing development is our common mission and enhancing economic and trade cooperation for mutual benefits are what we aim for in the exchanges between sister cities. Guangzhou, Auckland and Los Angeles have maintained close exchanges and cooperation as sister cities even as they are far away from each other. This year marks the seventh anniversary of our economic alliance. We are glad to see that the three cities have made frequent and broad interactions during these seven years, and have held various alliance seminars and joint conferences. These events have largely driven our practical cooperation in import and export trade, cross-border e-commerce, port logistics, technological innovation, biological medicine, urban planning and design, cultural

creation, and other fields. Economic and trade cooperation among the three cities is growing steady.

Last December, mayors of the three cities renewed the memoranda of cooperation through exchanging e-documents, officially opening the third-round cooperation. Today, during the Global Mayors' Forum and Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation, we are having this tripartite economic alliance seminar in 2021, which upholds the cooperation concept and mode of taking advantage of existing large-scale activities to launch economic and trade exchanges and help enterprises enter into contracts.

Distinguished guests, the sudden outbreak of COVID-19 has posed a serious challenge to global public health security and hit the world economy. The international community, especially the three cities, should join hands to support each other and fight the pandemic together, taking the idea of a community with a shared future for mankind into practice. At the critical point of world pandemic prevention and control and promoting global economic recovery, we hold this seminar with the theme of innovation and opportunity for three cities' cooperation under the shadow of the pandemic. It aims to adapt to the new normal of the disease, innovate the traditional communication methods, discover

new drivers of economic growth in the post-COVID-19 period, thus fostering more cooperation through development, then in return accelerating development in the long run.

Under the strong leadership of President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, China takes the lead to control the pandemic in an effective manner, and has become an anchor and source of steady growth for the world economy. As a national central city of China, an international commerce and trade center, a key and core city for consumption, and a core city in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Guangzhou shoulders its responsibility to prevent and control the disease and promote economic and social development in an overall manner. All citizens have made concerted efforts to support the fight against the pandemic, vigorously promoting the resumption of work, production, business and market, and gathering strong strength for economic recovery.

At present, more than 36 million doses of vaccines have been administered to over 18 million people in Guangzhou. Last year, the GDP of the city exceeded 2.5 trillion yuan, up by 2.7%, and in the first three quarters of 2021, it reached 2 trillion yuan, an increase of 9.9%. In addition, Guangzhou has actively provided support for the pandemic prevention and control in global cities, and offered near seven million facial masks and 100,000 infrared thermometers for 63 cities in the world. Last month, the 130<sup>th</sup> Canton Fair was held in a hybrid way, in which about 26,000 enterprises from home and abroad took part, marking that China has made strategic achievements in COVID-19 prevention and control and economic and social development.

As President Xi Jinping has said, the world in the post-COVID-19 era will be reborn and refreshed. We believe that the cooperation between cities will dispel the haze of the pandemic. The alliance is an example of the successful in-depth cooperation between Guangzhou and global cities, and we firmly believe that with smoother cooperation mechanism in the alliance, the three cities will have long-standing friendship that bears new fruits. Guangzhou would like to take the opportunity of this seminar with Auckland and Los Angeles to further contribute to the joint development of the three cities, as the previous conferences did. We welcome innovative and richer cooperation among us that shares resources and supplementary advantages, to the benefit of our people and economic development.

In the end, I wish the seminar success! I wish all the mayors and guests well! I wish Auckland and Los Angeles prosperity and happiness!

Thank you!

## Speech by Wen Guohui, Mayor of Guangzhou, China and President of Metropolis

Opening Session of the 13<sup>th</sup> Metropolis World Congress  
November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

On behalf of the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government and all the citizens of Guangzhou, and in my own name, I would like to welcome all friends from around the world, old and new, to the Opening Session of the 13<sup>th</sup> Metropolis World Congress. It's my great pleasure to greet you and express my heartfelt thanks to you for your support to Guangzhou.

As an important international platform for the exchanges of experience and resources among big cities, Metropolis has always been committed to uniting the city leaders and managers around the world, giving full play to the big cities' leading role in global governance and urban development, and providing strong support for cities to become more just, prosperous and resilient. The success and renown of Metropolis are inseparable from the participation and support from all member cities and the Secretariat. As President of Metropolis, I am pleased to see its fruitful achievements and growing influence. On behalf of Metropolis, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all member cities and colleagues!

To our deep regret, some board members have passed away this year. Now, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences for the passing of the following members: Mr. Bruno Covas, former Mayor of São Paulo; Mr. Groffrey Makhubo, former Mayor of Johannesburg; Mr. Hasaballah Elkafrawy, former Housing Minister of Egypt and a founding member of Metropolis in 1984; and Councillor Jolidee Matongo, former Mayor of Johannesburg. Let's keep them in our memory and thank them for their contributions to Metropolis.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

Over the past 4 years, Metropolis has been improving its working mechanisms while promoting exchanges and cooperation in specific fields. It has been building a variety of platforms for the learning and communication among its members, engaging them in the World Metropolitan Day, Metropolis pilot projects, City Managers Community, and other events. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has co-established the "Cities for Global Health" Initiative, which has collected 675 successful cases of pandemic prevention and work resumption from 102 cities in 29 countries and regions, offering great opportunities for local governments and cities around the world to share

experience and promote economic recovery. The Urban Sustainability Exchange (USE) platform has gathered over 300 cases on urban governance innovation, and has promoted the implementation of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) and the New Urban Agenda at the local level. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Michael Müller, Governing Mayor of Berlin and former President of Metropolis, for his extraordinary dedication!

At the 2020 Metropolis Guangzhou General Assembly, Guangzhou had the honor to be elected as the President City. Since then, we have been committed to cultivating the unity, potentials and influence of our Association. We have fostered stronger ties between Metropolis and multiple international partners to hold this Congress, Global Mayors' Forum and Guangzhou International Award on Urban Innovation (Guangzhou Award), so as to build Metropolis into a leading force in the implementation of SDGs. The 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of Guangzhou Award has received 273 initiatives from 175 cities in 60 countries, which showcases the determination and confidence of cities around the world to continue their cooperation against the pandemic.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends!

President Xi Jinping has proposed a Global Development Initiative that encourages the international community to step up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for global development to be greener, healthier and more robust. Guangzhou has attached great importance to the sincere and mutually beneficial cooperation with members of Metropolis. With the great support of the Presidencies, Board of Directors and the Secretariat, Guangzhou will continue to fulfill its duties as President, and strive towards the implementation of the Metropolis Strategic Action Plan 2021-2023. In light of this, I would like to share my proposals for cooperative innovation in multiple sectors for a closer urban community with a shared future.

**First, we should join hands to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.** As the global pandemic surges on, we should stick together in the spirit of a community with a shared future for mankind, and press ahead with the international campaign on disease control. We should support the leading role of World Health Organization (WHO) in COVID-mitigation and give full play to the Cities for Global Health



Initiative as a platform for sharing advanced experience in urban pandemic control and boosting recovery.

**Second, we should ramp up economic recovery.** The pandemic has disrupted the global supply chains and industrial chains as well as urban livelihood. In the spirit of open and inclusive collaboration, we should promote practical cooperation in trade and industries, to ensure smooth supply and industrial chains that boost a swift global economic recovery.

**Third, we should work together on digital economy.** We should seize the opportunity of a new round of technological and industrial revolution to promote the use of new technologies and build better digital infrastructure that bridges the digital divide for our citizens to enjoy the fruits of innovation.

**Fourth, we should deepen our cooperation to bring forth green development.** Focusing on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, we should work together towards green and low-carbon systems for our space, industries, energy, transport, and consumption. We should improve our urban habitats and cultivate stronger synergies for our joint cause in the future.

As a Chinese saying goes, good governance is built on pragmatic work. I look forward to our Association, and especially this Congress, as an important platform for sharing our wisdom and consensus and for promoting practical cooperation for the joint pursuit of better governance for the cities and a brighter future.

To conclude, I wish the Congress every success! Thank you!

## Speech by Thembisile Nkadimeng, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs of South-Africa and Co-President of UCLG

Metropolis Joint Session with UCLG on Territorial and Urban Systems  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Thank you very much. Let me recognize all the excellent colleagues who are here, the members of the Policy Council, and other distinguished guests. Allow me to start by thanking our host, the City of Guangzhou, for hosting this important debate with the Policy Council on the Implementation of New Urban Agenda (NUA).

As we are getting closer to the implementation of the NUA, we are also encountering many challenges. It is important to support local governments as part of the political players in the evaluation and implementation of the NUA. We should also create a direct link between the NUA and local governments. We also need to stress the link

between the implementation of the NUA and the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in each city, because if each city fails to carry out its own SDGs, the NUA will become a castle in the air.

We should also ensure that local governments make their own voice heard, because we often find that local governments could not be heard. In most instances, some other forms of governments speak on behalf of the local governments, which weakens the important role of local governments.

We also need to guarantee the territorial perspective and advocate multi-lateral governance by ensuring the inclusion of local and regional governments in all processes related, as this will assist the monitoring and implementation of the NUA. We will also establish a working committee to continuously follow up the implementation of the NUA. At the same time, we will strengthen the coordination between the international agenda (such as the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and the NUA to accelerate the development and building of better communities.

And finally, we need to strengthen policy synergies at the national and regional levels to implement the NUA. Local governments need to connect local policies with the NUA to achieve better synergy effect.

This is what I would like to talk about today. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish local governments progress in implementing the NUA. I believe that today's seminar is an important platform for cities and local governments to discuss local policies. At the same time, we also hope that through the joint efforts of local governments, we can better achieve sustainable development and promote the urbanization conducive to environmental and population development. Moreover, we also need to further ensure the connections between urban and rural areas to achieve coordinated and balanced development.

Thank you very much.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Ilсур Metshin, Mayor of Kazan, Russia and President of UCLG-Eurasia

Metropolis Joint Session with UCLG on Territorial and Urban Systems  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



I welcome the participants of the Metropolis World Congress in the hospitable City of Guangzhou at yet another meeting of the Policy Council on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which is taking place as part of the UCLG World Council, which commences next week in Barcelona. At political council meetings, we will look at challenges and opportunities around the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The new urban development program is based on three key dimensions: social, economic and environmental dimensions, following the outlook document of UN Habitat-III in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016.

The goal of the New Urban Agenda is sustainable urban development, and this goal can be achieved chiefly by means of: One, optimization of local legislation and setting rules which can lead to mutual improvement in the life of residents without significant financial investments. Two, improving the urban economy, which primarily consists in creating quality jobs, and supporting business entrepreneurship, and these in turn will lead to better availability of goods and services for most residents. Three, sustainable urban planning, which is also the key to urban safety and security.

The key issue on today's agenda is the transition to new models of urban planning in the context of active urbanization, urban expansion and changing the format of interaction between major cities and their surrounding suburban and rural areas.

The City of Kazan, of which I am the mayor, covers an area of 5 districts, and has become the center of a complex agglomeration. Moreover, currently Kazan is rapidly developing in the western, eastern and southern directions. Urban environment improvements are achieved through an integrated approach where the issues of transport, infrastructure, engineering, training and city development and



improvement are addressed simultaneously. We want people to feel comfortable in the place where they were born, where they are used to living and working. And for this, the unique historical features of territories must be identified and their potentials must be analyzed. Only after that, any urban planning decisions can be made, to create a healthy and high-quality urban environment.

Now developers are showing more creativity in the development of territories, so they study their history in detail and identify unique features that can be used for further development. They take into account the specifics of the local terrain, location and prospects, interconnecting residential construction, the development of the road network, engineering infrastructure and the creation of public spaces, sports and social facilities. This reaffirms our principle of the need to develop territories with maximal mixed use, which among other things contributes to the prevention of urban segregation.

It is gratifying that we finally have developed comprehensive plans for development of territories, using computerized transport modeling tools, taking into account balance of development of places of residence and places of employment, creating green natural corridors and bicycle-pedestrian connections. These plans not only contribute to an increase in investment and in the tourist appeal, but also aim at improving conditions for the inhabitants.

We have decided to make this bold experiment in creating the Institute for City Development in Kazan. We want to give young talented architects the opportunity to develop and implement their best projects within the Kazan agglomeration. We expect that this institute will bring together the best architects, urban planners and urban economists working not only in Russia, but also abroad.

We want to give the green light to promising young people, or people without work experience, but with a fresh look and fresh ideas, who will implement their cutting-edge ideas. It is important to create a center of excellence to deal with issues of urban planning at the city and agglomeration levels to analyze, develop and implement territorial planning projects taking into account both goals of the city and the needs of its residents.

Of course, dear colleagues, the issue of territorial planning is far from new for us. But what is new are the approaches and technologies that we are implementing today. There are already an abundance of instances of competent territorial planning for the world, like the empty and dangerous downtown neighborhoods that had characterized many cities such as New York and San Francisco, which have long become calm and safe areas now. And New York's High Line Park has become a model example

of industrial revitalization; London and some Brazilian cities have introduced innovative public transport solutions; Amsterdam is known for initiatives such as the creation of the Smart City, the reduction of car traffic and the creation of bike and cycling spaces.

But what are especially important are successful practices that are usually related to the local specifics of the population, which explain why they are so different. We need to grasp the specific problems and specific needs of a particular city, but the general trend for all practices implemented locally is the achievement of safety, comfort, inclusiveness, and sustainable development, such as the introduction of smart practice in Sweden and Singapore, the desire to reduce carbon emissions with energy-efficient technologies, and the creation of a compact city. At the same time, each metropolis is concerned with the issue of preserving cultural and historical heritage that it has. And most importantly, it focuses on participatory approaches in planning, involving the population in decision making.

Modern realities contribute to the formation of new demands of residents to create a comfortable urban environment in line with the goals of sustainable urban development proclaimed by the UN. All of our transformation in current activities should be built with a focus on adherence to the principles of environmental social governance (ESG), setting new standards for responsibilities added to the environment, high social responsibility and quality of management. It of course will require us to do a lot of work to educate the population, companies and businesses.

I'm confident that everything we're discussing today will become the key to the successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda. I wish everyone fruitful work and creative ideas. Thank you very much for your attention.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Carlos Martínez, Mayor of Soria, Spain

Metropolis Joint Session with UCLG on Territorial and Urban Systems  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Thank you. I would also like to thank Guangzhou for hosting this conference that has to do with so much. We are the political representatives responsible for the urban development and we are part of this international network of mayors. So we're here to talk about New Urban Agenda, territorial planning, and governance, and we talk as well about the participation of women in order to make sure that we get to a gender standpoint that reduces the inequality of opportunities and development between men and women.

When it comes to territorial planning and the New Urban Agenda, we have to make sure

that we do away with the typical, traditional, everyday ways of working that have existed up till now in different administrations. We have to go to a more horizontal system in which municipal representatives can have active participation in decision boards, starting at the headquarters of the United Nations, and then also on the basis of action plans and mid-term strategies that will make it possible to achieve a new design, a new territorial order and a new structure that from the standpoint of small-and-medium-sized cities will be better, more efficient and more positive in meeting the needs of the citizens of those different territories, and this means a very horizontal, crosscutting governance. It means a better relationship with different organizations, but essentially it means to deploy action plans that work in the short and mid-term and have adequate financing for local governments, and that also includes strategic planning of a series of public investments that will guarantee the connectedness of the different territories in the different scopes, from the point of traffic and transport, electricity, logistics and also from the standpoint of the digital program.

We have to make sure that we measure the scale of this territorial planning, and also depending on the country in which we are, we might have a larger or smaller scale, in such a way that when we plan for a closed urban territory or metropolis, we segment neighborhoods or quarters of those cities, and we plan the city that we have defined as a 15-minute city, because you have this 15-minute access to a means of transport or on foot. We're using public transport or private transport. There has to be access to health, to education, and to essential services, and food services are also included, so we have to make sure we plan the territories so that in that scale and with the 30-minute maximum we gain access to all those public services that include access to health, housing and everything else. That is the key.

And that is where we have to try and make sure that we are present in international institutions so that the member states are made responsible for this more horizontal, crosscutting government system, so that we can all plan from the standpoint of inclusion, trying to end the generation divide. We have to guarantee equality in basic public services, which are in fact rights of citizenship, education, and health. But there must also be indicators that will guarantee the development of an essential project under the circumstance of equality for all those living in that place, wherever that place might be. It means that all citizens and neighbors have to have equal opportunities. I do think we should plan for the goals that we are working on in this New Urban Agenda in different spaces that we are legitimately calling for in the United Nations.

(Based on shorthand records)



## Speech by Gabriel Cruz, Mayor of Huelva, Spain

Metropolis Joint Session with UCLG on Territorial and Urban Systems  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



First of all, I'd like to greet all of you. After having listened to your various statements, I believe we do share quite a lot in common, and do share the conviction that we are facing a moment of change in civilization. We have been realizing that it is important to change the balance on the planet. We are talking of the transition of ecology and energy. And this is something which has been highlighted. We are being called upon to create a new world where we are both concerned by the state of our planet, and where we are the stewards of our population.

Huelva is a medium-size city in Spain, which has seen an untrammelled urban development in the 70s and 80s, which led to a deep territorial imbalance, and it was very difficult to change Huelva into the paradigm of a user-friendly city, because of its features, its land, its climate and all the conditions in the municipality. We really had to carry out a sea change.

We have to meet the UNSDGs and the New Urban Agenda objectives. The New Urban Agenda allows us to look at these new issues, which are all put on the table. Everything is based upon three concepts: planning, sustainability and efficiency. We have to plan what our territories should be, not just our cities, but the territories. We must consider planning which has a bearing on the territories close to us. The great majority of the population live in cities, but yet there are great imbalances when it comes to the population in many areas, or when it comes to the consumption of resources in rural areas. Our perspective should not lose sight of what is local, while keeping in mind what is global.

If we look at the the urban agenda in Huelva, we are looking at a sense of planning objectives,

which are crosscutting. Culture should also form part of the agenda that is essential and fundamental for development and progress of all territories and all societies. There is also a sustainable urban mobility plan that some of the previous speakers have highlighted. The concept of traffic within the city has changed. Right now we must make a strong backing for a model of a city where public transport reins and where we also highlight the healthy mobility and use means of transport which are compatible with our mode of life. We have a strategic plan for traditional commerce and trade, which highlights the importance of the city center or downtown center where there can be most tension between different population. We also believe that tourism can allow development of urban life, which is crucial.

We need to take a fresh look at the overall planning model of our city. We can no longer go for the constant expansion model. We should redefine the use of land. And we hope to establish the main guidelines for productive activities and link them with the influence of the city.

Huelva is the capital of the province, and a city in a strategic province in Andalusia in Spain, because of its location. The other challenges must be looked at, because we do not have alternatives, and that is the best way to grow and progress in our territories. The perspective of the average citizens and of social policies must be part and parcel of planning. Likewise, a gender perspective is a key building block when it comes to planning.

In a nutshell, the above is our aspiration in Huelva, and what we wish to promote within UCLG. We have big responsibilities, and our roles as a local authority in cities must be recognized. We do need a redefinition of the institutional structure, and the capacity and necessary resources to face up to our aspirations and our challenges.

Thank you.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener, Canada

Metropolis Joint Session with UCLG on Territorial and Urban Systems  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Thank you very much. Good morning from Kitchener, Canada, which is situated on the traditional lands of the native Anishinaabe and other indigenous people and is the largest urban center on the western end of the Toronto-Waterloo Region Innovation Corridor. Thank-you to our host, the City of Guangzhou for the virtual event, and to UCLG and Metropolis, and their leadership and staff for the ongoing commitment to the importance of local governments.

At such a critical time in our planet's history as we continue to work through the COVID-19 global pandemic, throughout the past 20-plus months of the pandemic, we've seen the challenges facing our communities of all sizes.

We've seen how unequally people thrive and

struggle and we've resolved to become more resilient to future threats, whether those are another virus or the increasing challenges of the climate emergency.

Around the world, local governments are responsible for much of the critical infrastructure used by citizens daily and to move goods and services. Yet too often, we either are not at the table or not at the table as equal partners when other governments discuss national challenges. This pandemic has accelerated a transition to e-commerce, teleworking, and digitalization that will continue to erode land-based physical tools like property taxes, which are so important to our cities. But we need to work in partnership with other orders of government to modernize local tools and authorities to better reflect their roles in people's lives and in the national economies. As we all move towards recovery, local leaders must be on the table, so we truly build back better.

We need to recognize the importance of addressing the challenges of urbanization, focusing on improving living conditions and livelihood opportunities in urban areas, such as Kitchener and my neighboring cities of Cambridge and Waterloo, which benefit the lives in the periphery and in smaller communities, such as the 4 townships surrounding my own city, and all metropolises around the world.

By doing this, we will ensure that policies and programs respond to local realities in areas such as mitigating climate change, peace-building, pandemics, and other global threats.

As we move forward with the objectives of the New Urban Agenda and the localization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) throughout this decade of action, and as the mayor of a community that has integrated the SDGs into its strategic plan, I have seen first-hand how the SDGs have helped communities rally around a common goal and how the alignment of the SDGs has helped us in responding to the COVID-19 crisis. As we continue in this decade of action, we as local and regional governments must push for others to commit to the localization of the SDGs by learning from one another and working in partnership among public and private sectors, academia and other orders of government. Local and regional governments must push for more alignment in the monitoring, evaluation and reporting about the framework. This needs to be accountable and built on existing national and local mechanisms and processes with broad multi-stakeholder participation, including local governments. Only through effective collaboration and the establishment of synergies will we transform our commitments into actions towards the whole-society approach that leaves no one behind. It will be critical for central governments and multilateral organizations to partner with local governments, local government associations (like my own, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and UCLG), as well as civil society and the private sector, to share responsibilities for meeting the goals outlined in the New Urban Agenda, the UN global goals and other multilateral frameworks. Without partnership it'll be difficult to understand the societal impacts of the efforts to realize the goals. Local governments, as the order of government closest to citizens and businesses, need to be able to assess needs, collect data and formulate responses across institutions and ensure the implementation of the Agenda at the local level. It will be critical to foster coordination at this level, and at national and international levels to achieve results.

My friends, if we are to build a better future where we realize the inter-relationships among social, economic and environmental issues, it will be imperative to understand how the UN agreements, including the New Urban Agenda, can respond to one another. This will help ensure a whole-society approach, realize efficiency in program delivery and funding, and streamline and decentralize local and regional governments. In this way we will truly be able to build back better, and most importantly, in this way, we will be able to ensure that nobody truly is left behind.

Thank you and best wishes for this important work.

(Based on shorthand records)



## Speech by Ma Shu, Deputy Secretary General of Guangzhou, China

Metropolis Joint Session with UCLG on Territorial and Urban Systems  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Today, I am very pleased to share with you the practices of Guangzhou in promoting the local implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) and the New Urban Agenda, as well as realizing sustainable development and urban governance innovation:

### **I. Focusing on constructing “beautiful land with reasonable spatial pattern”.**

On the basis of matching land development with resource carrying capacity, ecological, agricultural and urban spaces are arranged in a coordinated manner to achieve harmonious coexistence between mankind and nature. Efforts have been made to promote the transformation of urban spatial development model from “expansion” to “adjustment and

reconstruction”, and to facilitate the reconstruction of urban spatial value through urban renewal.

### **II. Striving to build “a prosperous, open, and international city”.**

Based on the strategy of leading the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (hereinafter referred to as “the Greater Bay Area”), urban functions have been enhanced with scientific and technological innovation. Efforts have been made to create an international business environment, strengthen the function of comprehensive transportation hub, and consolidate Guangzhou's strategic position for a dual circulation between international and domestic economic cycles.

The 130<sup>th</sup> China Import and Export Fair just came to a successful conclusion. Since its establishment 65 years ago, it has never been interrupted and has already become a barometer of China's foreign trade. It demonstrates to the world that China is firmly determined to expand opening up and promote free trade.

### **III. Preserving and constructing “a charming and cultural city in Guangdong”.**

An urban layout with historical and cultural characteristics has been preserved and enjoyed by the

public, to pass on the city's culture, revive the ancient and modern traditional central axis, and orderly rearrange the historical urban areas. Efforts have been made to draw on historical and cultural resources and cultivate innovative cultural clusters.

### **IV. Highlighting “an inclusive, shared and happy community”.**

A people-oriented sustainable city has been built, and the public service system has been improved to ensure the rights to housing, education, medical services, old-age care and support for vulnerable groups. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, under the strong leadership of President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party of China Central Committee, the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government has adhered to the principle of “putting people and their lives first” and coordinated pandemic prevention and control with economic and social development. All citizens have worked together to fully support and cooperate in the fight against the pandemic to promote the resumption of work and business, pooling a powerful force to fight the pandemic and recover the economy.

### **V. Preserving and building “an auspicious city of flowers with great environment”.**

The preservation and governance of the landscape, forest, farmland, lake and sea systems are performed in a coordinated way based on local river basins. We have promoted ecological restoration, actively responded to climate change, facilitated the low-carbon transformation of urban development, improved the comprehensive mitigation capacity against multiple disasters, and built a safe and resilient city.

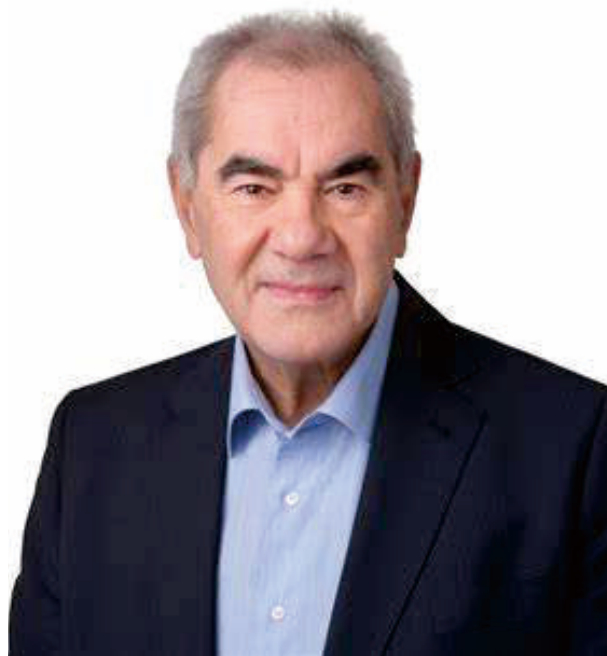
### **VI. Revitalizing “rural areas with Cantonese characteristics”.**

We have promoted the development of industries to increase people's income and revitalize villages, developed urban agriculture, ensured food security, and advanced the co-construction and sharing of urban and rural infrastructure to realize the coordinated and integrated development of urban and rural areas.

Guangzhou will continue to deepen cooperation with the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis) for the discussion on opportunities and challenges faced by local and urban organizations in implementing the New Urban Agenda. We will continue to exchange experience on urban spatial planning, urban governance and social equity, inspire each other, and work together to promote the development of global urban governance based on collaboration, participation, and common interests, jointly making greater contributions to the global recovery in the post-pandemic period.

## Speech by Ernest Maragall, Vice President of International Relations and Cooperation of Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Spain

Metropolis Policy Debate  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Barcelona Metropolitan Area consists of 36 cities with their own local policies and strategic focus. Now, we are facing a double crisis: climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. We need to take effective measures to put the pandemic under control, which is the most urgent task at present in our work in the Barcelona Metropolitan Area. I believe it is also the most important and urgent task for many cities in the world.

Climate change affects not only wildlife habitats but also our social life and urban space. To make things worse, the pandemic has exacerbated the climate change to

some extent, suspending the measures on climate change we have adopted. It has taken us a wealth of time and energy to supply vaccines to our citizens, and has slowed down the recovery of economy. Therefore, many projects on climate change in the area have been suspended, though we have made an investment of around 10 million euros on some relatively large-scale projects on energy saving and other matters. In the next three years, we will invest 200 million euros on green buildings to tackle climate change. We know that COP26 is underway in Glasgow, UK, and we hope that it can reaccelerate the agenda on climate change.

Speaking of public spaces in cities, public transportation is a weak link in the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, and we hope to encourage people to use public transportation more, but this has been dragged down due to the pandemic.

The area is also confronting a double deficit in its finances and urban governance. We hope to improve our policy development and decision making to deal with the double deficit with

limited finances and better meet the challenge of climate change. In addition, we have recognized the need to improve our administration efficiency.

People expect highly of Europe to take measures to cope with climate change and improve governance. We have known that cities in the continent are making great efforts. For example, we need to adopt more science-based policies by working with think-tanks and academic institutes. In the meantime, we hope that urban spaces can be greener, and water clearer. We are making efforts to clean up water sources, hoping that rivers and waters can be more lucid. On a related note, we must further enhance energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption and carbon footprints, improve the structure of energy consumption, and let people know how to use energies better.

Changes have also occurred in our working modes, no matter it's due to the pandemic or technology development. Empowered by technologies, people can work online and live in the suburbs instead of urban areas. So, in urban planning, we should also adopt new measures and concepts.

As for urban resilience, cities should better deal with various uncertainties. At present, some cities are vulnerable to serious crises and changes. We need to deal with these uncertainties in a more agile and rapid manner. This is what we should work hard on. In Barcelona Metropolitan Area, we found that we need to be more efficient in decision-making and action-taking, to make the city more resilient and agile when facing the pandemic and other challenges.

(Based on shorthand records)



## Speech by Pascal Smet, State Secretary of the Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium

Metropolis Policy Debate  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Let me share four issues that I think we have to face, or are still facing, due to the COVID-19 crisis, and then one conclusion about the city life.

First of all, I think the whole crisis has shown the role of the social media more and more, because we have some vaccination issues in Brussels, with a part of the population under the influence of social media which is injecting in the heads of people lots of anti-vax theories. It's not easy for a city region or

even a national government to counterbalance the untruths that are sent out in the world by the social media. This COVID-19 crisis has shown the limits of social media. And it's not an easy question, because there is freedom of speech, which is not easy to deal with. But we are seeing so many untruths going on, and we are living in times when trust is more important than truth. Unfortunately, some people trust stupider theories instead of what scientists and people with knowledge are telling. So for me, that's the first big issue that we are confronted with everywhere in the world: the issue of getting the right information to people and letting them behave according to the right information. It's complicated, and it's very clear that a solution is, of course, not easy. Bad news or wrong news is going viral much easier than real news.

The second issue we are confronted with due to the COVID-19 crisis, like many other cities, is the social inequality issue. Of course, every metropolitan area or big city is confronted with social inequality. In Europe, we have a social security system, and especially in Belgium, that is well developed. But notwithstanding that system, we are seeing that people who are having low income or low education are much more affected by the coronavirus than people with higher income or higher education. So we have a big issue over there, basically linked to education and income, but also to housing. I think the crisis has shown also the importance of good quality of housing in our cities. Many of our cities are under constraint, and it's not only a question of having enough housing, but also of affordable housing. So the social inequality issue, especially expressed in the housing quality, has been put very clearly through this crisis.

Thirdly, Brussels is a medium-sized city, with an area of 162 square kilometers and 1.2 million inhabitants. It's not a major big city, like Beijing, Mexico City, New York, or even Paris. We are smaller

than them. But we are seeing that we are missing our first-line medical response or generalists in the medical organizations. Once again, in Belgium, there is a very good, developed health system, but in the city region of Brussels, we don't have in every neighborhood general practitioners that people can trust, and that's a big difference.

The fourth issue is the importance of public space in the city. The COVID-19 crisis has accelerated thinking on things that we already know, or confirmed philosophy that many European cities have already embraced: the importance of public space and green space, accessible to everybody enough. We need to have more such space in cities, not only for the quality of living, but also for the issue of climate change, and the general well-feeling in a city. The concept that Singapore has, "a city in a garden", is a concept that more cities should copy. We should become cities in a garden. Of course, we are cities. We will remain cities. But public space is crucial in city life, where the essence is that people can meet each other and have interaction, from which comes love, economic activities and cultural activities. The public space is essential, not only in the classical term, but also in buildings that we construct. It's absolutely necessary that people have shared space on the roofs or on balconies, where they can meet each other. That's an important issue.

So there are four issues or challenges that many citizens and cities are being confronted with, which are not getting a solution right away. It will be a matter of time, and we all have to work on it.

But finally, I think there's something positive that the crisis has shown too: there is an absolute need for city life. At the beginning of the pandemic, many people were predicting the end of cities: they were dangerous places; it was a little bit the "revenge" of the countryside; it was a safe place out there in the countryside, and it was good to live there, while cities were places of problems. But I think the crisis has shown that it's not true. Actually, the risks in the countryside and the cities are not that different, firstly; and secondly, people want to enjoy city life. Once we could go out again, we saw that all the sidewalks and squares were full of people and activities. So that's very positive. I think it's not the end of the city, but the birth of a new kind of city. As a European, I hope you could forgive me, because I will say that our city model of more compact cities with livable spaces is a future to follow: not much space for cars, but much space for people. I think that's the essence of the lesson that we have learned.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Pablo Javkin, Mayor of Rosario, Argentina

Metropolis Policy Debate  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



The field of environmental transition is one of the big challenges for metropolises. The experience of COVID-19 has also shown us that environmental adaptation is linked to diseases. In Latin America, we are emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is very tough. But it's not just COVID-19. We have dengue, which is also linked to climate change. We are working on climate change mitigation and re-evaluation. COVID-19 has also shown the importance of public spaces as shared spaces where we can meet and encounter. We are working on growing forests in the city, or on a southern park near the river delta. The

question of rivers and hydrological changes is part of the challenge, as we are a coastal metropolis on the river.

The other element is technological disruption, and that has to do with new forms of work, the ways we move in the city, the technologies that change trade with e-trade, the process of digitalization of our states, the question of digital citizenship, and the development of new types of employment. Biotechnology is very important to our region. We are closely linked to biotech, and we have no doubt that going forward will have to incorporate new or young talents in new types of jobs in new economy.

The whole continent of Latin America is in the transition out of inequality. No doubt that when it comes to planning our metropolitan areas, we have a key challenge, which has much to do with people's security and safety, and territorial integration. How can we share infrastructure?

Can we have access to basic utility services, for instance water? Interaction in the city also has to do with the right to the city, the right to urban living in our regions, and children's access to reading a children's story. It has to do with not just education, but also the use of technology. We need to show that it's a world of knowledge reaching our kids. We are also developing a network so that each child in the city has some kind of reference. We're talking about public-private partnership, which has to do with ensuring that each child is taken care of, and with gender equality and the need for proper sports facilities.

And we are talking of challenges which cover the whole continent of America. That is to change the infrastructure of our neighborhoods to gain access to basic services. On behalf of the large metropolises in Latin America, I can say that we need to make this transition. Cities are not just metropolises where we live. They are also the spaces of our narratives and our culture.

If we look at the challenge of COVID-19, we will keenly believe more and more in the value of Metropolis. And we are delighted to participate in this exchange and this network. Thank you.

(Based on shorthand records)



## Speech by Wang Huanqing, Deputy Mayor of Guangzhou, China

Metropolis Policy Debate  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



It's a great pleasure for me to meet with all of you online and participate in the policy debate during the 13<sup>th</sup> Metropolis World Congress.

The world is a community of a shared future. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, metropolises around the world are faced with many uncertainties, such as sluggish global economic recovery caused by geopolitical conflicts and trade protectionism, persistent expansion of urban population, and frequent disasters caused by climate change. Global inequality is on the rise, especially in human environment, green space, public services, infrastructure and other areas. Members of the Metropolis have adopted measures to improve their governance structures, policies and services to meet the

basic and developmental needs of the citizens. However, global problems such as the pandemic and climate change have made us realize that we should further rethink the metropolitan space in order to better respond to historic changes that we are undergoing.

The serial events organized by Metropolis provide a platform for metropolises around the world to exchange ideas on common challenges, and represent an opportunity for in-depth discussion on common issues among member cities. The theme of this year, Novel solutions that can transform metropolitan spaces in the long term, is highly relevant with the initiative of Metropolises and cities in transformation: rethinking our future together, through which dialogues among metropolises in the world will be promoted.

Challenges are pushing for major urban changes, and technologies are promoting the management of spatial transformation. We are fully aware that the pandemic has expanded the boundaries of urban governance from traditional physical space to virtual space, with information technology represented by the Internet playing a crucial role in the anti-pandemic efforts. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to share Guangzhou's experience in adopting scientific and technological innovations to

respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We focus on building a high-quality platform for urban service and governance that should be smart, convenient, and caring, and commit ourselves to promoting urban governance system and capabilities through the following four "all-in-one" measures.

**First, we were among the first to adopt the innovative application of "all-in-one pass code".** Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Guangzhou has taken the lead in launching the "Suikang Code" for citizens to report their health status. The code can be used for both display and scanning, and it collects and analyzes pandemic-related data in real-time. Our "Suikang Code" provides a major reference for the development of the national "Health Code", and they have been connected with each other to become "Integrated Pass Code". The number of registered users is more than 40 million, and it has been accessed more than 1350 million times, and displayed more than 630 million times. Guangzhou has also set up the only municipal-level pandemic prevention and control command headquarters in China, which includes a big data platform covering the whole urban population, where any Covid-19 related data can be automatically collected in real-time and available visually. Going forward, Guangzhou will implement the national initiative to promote international mutual recognition of health codes. To strengthen coordination and cooperation with other cities around the world, under the circumstance of personal information security, we will work to achieve mutual recognition of nucleic acid test results and vaccination to promote economic and social recovery in all respects.

**Second, we are promoting the "all-in-one government services".** In Guangzhou, the number of various market entities is over 2.7 million, and the actual population under service is over 22 million, calling for great demands for government services. With a view to lower the costs for businesses and individuals and improve the efficiency of government services, we have created the "Suihaoban" all-in-one government service platform with the existing integrated online public service platforms as the basis and city-wide data sharing mechanisms as the driving engine. By unifying the standards and channels, we are able to release data and information to physical service halls, mobile phones, and self-service terminals to provide 24/7 online government services. By doing this, we hope to cut the needs for people to visit public service halls in person. At present, the "Suihaoban" App has released more than 1,200 items of services for businesses and individuals. There are more than 3,500 public self-service terminals in districts, sub-district (towns), and villages (residential communities) in Guangzhou, which essentially cover the whole city.

**Third, we are exploring the “all-in-one network” governance model.** To promote urban development and meet the needs of residents, using big data, cloud computing, blockchain, Internet of Things, AI and other information technologies, we are setting up a centralized city operation center, “Suizhiguan”, featuring unified management through integrated network. Through integrating various factors in urban governance such as basic data, emergency management, economic operation, public safety, public health, city planning and development, urban management, transport, business friendliness, ecological environment, and people's livelihood, we have developed some twenty modules with Guangzhou characteristics. This network has five functions, namely, monitoring, warning, coordination, decision support, and command and dispatch. All these efforts aim to ensure comprehensive, high-quality and proactive urban governance.

**Fourth, we are promoting the “all-in-one public service hotline”.** To provide convenient, smart and efficient services, we have streamlined 76 non-emergency government hotlines covering 11 districts and 40 government agencies to create the 24/7 “12345” public hotline service. This all-in-one hotline service, which provides policy consultation and handles complaints and appeals for businesses and individuals, is committed to responding to all calls from our citizens. With a standardized service model, all calls are answered by a dedicated team of operators who will put the calls through to competent government authorities. All cases must be closed in a set timeframe and a unified inspection and evaluation system is also in place. As of today, a total of 52 million calls have been handled. In 2019, the Guangzhou public service hotline won the gold medal in the Contact Center World Awards for its outstanding public service of the year; in 2019 and 2020, it won the title of “China's Best Government Service Hotline” for two consecutive years.

It is imperative to provide powerful public policy support, innovate digital applications and increase the resilience of cities so as to promote sound urban sustainable development in the post Covid-19 era. We stand ready and hope to strengthen communication and exchanges with other member cities in anti-pandemic cooperation. I also hope that, during the session, you will discuss and share your insights and ideas so that we all rethink the future of metropolises in a more practical and long-term way.

Thank you!

## Speech by Aida Mehraban, Vice Mayor of Mashhad, Iran

Metropolis Policy Debate  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



I'm absolutely delighted to be in your sincere company today. Thank you for inviting me and giving me the opportunity to talk about what my city Mashhad has encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery period that follows.

Mashhad is one of the most important religious and travel centers of Iran. Many tourists in the country travel to Mashhad to gain peace and spiritual recovery based on religious beliefs. During the pandemic, these travels reached a minimum due to the total lockdown of the city. It had led to a reduction in the city's income and therefore

had slowed down the development of the spiritual and travel center that provided for a huge number of tourists and pilgrims.

Naturally, decreasing municipal revenue had negatively affected the municipal service quality. Notwithstanding this, in line with the policies of the central government, we have extensively provided widespread public vaccination for citizens.

Let me mention new highlights in this matter. One, allocation of 10 fully equipped buses for mobile vaccination in the city, especially in the suburbs and remote areas. Two, establishment of large, safe and quick drive-in vaccination, almost 6 minutes for each person at Mashhad International Exhibition Center. Three, allocation of seven municipal vaccination centers in different parts of the city. Four, launching drive-in cinemas with the participation of the private sector in the parking lots in Mashhad to help reduce stress on people, especially women and children, and prevent common and severe depression in times of crisis for elder generations. Five, developing the infrastructure to upgrade urban online services to minimize required in-



person visits. Six, long distance working for employees, especially for women and elders. Seven, providing online and offline education for the staff. Eight, increasing the daily ridership volume of the Mashhad subway, an 100% increase in comparison to pre-pandemic peaks, a small step towards combating pollution and reducing carbon footprint. As a result of these measures, tourists and business flow again in the city.

Once again, regarding urban spaces, Mashhad Municipality reformed public parks during the recovery period originally closed during the crisis. The Municipality pays attention to the physical, mental and emotional health of the citizens, subsequently providing the basis of work to strengthen physical, mental, emotional and social resilience of citizens to enable them to be more resilient in the future.

Thank you for your attention.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Santiago Saura, Member of the Madrid City Council, Spain

Metropolis Policy Debate  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



First of all, thank-you to Metropolis, and thank-you to the General Secretary and the Presidency for the organization of this Policy Debate and the possibility to participate.

The impact of the pandemic has been really bad in the large metropolises, and right now we are in times of recovery, and we want this recovery to be real, to be inclusive, and to entail improvements in the urban space, and in the model of city in general. It's important to reinforce this green and digital transformation and social cohesion in our cities.

For this recovery or transformation to be very solid, it is essential that it is based on social consensus. We have to make sure we see how we face this recovery and transformation in cities. We have to analyze what

the main accesses are that we have to deploy. In Madrid June 2020, in the midst of the pandemic, we worked and signed what we call the City Agreements, 120 measures that all the different municipal political parties agreed on unanimously as to how to go about social, health, and economic recovery after the pandemic. On the basis of these agreements, in Madrid we have taken steps to define the strategy and the model of the city that we want to promote in the coming years.

First and foremost, in March 2021, we passed the localization strategy for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Madrid Agenda, and we had 104 local measures specific to the city, together with 160 indicators to quantify and specify the follow-up and the progress as to these SDGs.

Then in March as well, we passed our road map going towards climate neutrality, and this anticipates that Madrid will be climate-neutral in 2050. The aim is to reduce 65% of the greenhouse gases by the year 2030. This is very ambitious, much more so than the 55% percentage that has been defined in the European Union.

And finally, as to these strategic steps I mentioned, we have passed in June our Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan for Madrid, containing ten strategic action lines and 105 projects with which we want to foster digital transformation, green transformation and social cohesion with the Next Generation Funds from the EU.

Let me give you some specific examples of projects that are part of this plan, and also in general, the city that we want to have. Let me talk about the Metropolitan Forest. It's a huge, green ecological and social corridor, 75 kilometers in length. It goes round Madrid as a ring. It will enable us to adapt better to climate change, and also to promote green, open, and quality areas that are close to different neighborhoods of the city, also balancing out the territory of the city, because we will be giving green areas to districts and neighborhoods that are more vulnerable and that historically had had a deficit in such green areas.

Another project that we are working on has to do with the generation of new central movements and local proximity movements around the different districts, because what we want is a more polycentric city that has proximity services everywhere and throughout, in order to favor high quality of life in different neighborhoods.

Something else that we're working on is that we want to increase the protected housing programs in different areas, with more than 1200 homes and 16 new promotions that are under public protection of rent. We also offer residences, especially for young people in the city. This means action on urban development, both in the public and private spheres.

Last but not least, let me talk about energy transition in our municipal buildings. This is something we are working on, to make sure that in the year 2030, 30% of the electric demand will happen through self-consumption, renewable energy.

All in all, in Madrid, we are, of course, ready to share all the details of these projects we have with the citizens. We want to learn from what other cities are doing so that all of us can improve and incorporate this in urban planning and employment. That's why these exchanges of knowledge, experience and challenges are so important, and it's great that Metropolis makes this possible for us all.

And finally, coming to the end, I am so happy to say and highlight that, thanks to the Metropolis Network, Madrid, Bogotá and Metropolis itself are partners of a project financed by the European Commission in the 2021 Call for Local Alliances towards Sustainable Cities. It's a European Commission project that wants sustainable mobility after the pandemic in Bogotá. This is a project that has started on the basis of this Metropolis network that we all belong to.

Thank you so much.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Zhang Yajie, Vice Chairwoman of the Guangzhou Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Co- President of UCLG ASPAC and Chair of Standing Committee of Women in Local Governments of UCLG ASPAC

Launch of Urban Innovation Exhibition  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Tonight, we are gathered here for the launching ceremony of the Urban Innovation Exhibition. Entrusted by Mayor Wen Guohui, on behalf of Guangzhou, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the distinguished guests.

For many years, Guangzhou has been committed to advocating and promoting urban innovation. In 2012, the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis) and Guangzhou jointly launched the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation (Guangzhou Award). Over the past decade, the Award has received more than 1,300 innovative initiatives on urban governance from 96 countries and regions, which are highly aligned

with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are highly recognized by the UN agencies. In 2018, Guangzhou and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) jointly launched the Global Mayors' Forum, held simultaneously with the Guangzhou Award ceremony. Since then, the Forum has always been accompanied by the exhibition to showcase innovative initiatives and experience in global urban governance.

On my right are the innovative initiatives from the 15 shortlisted cities, from which the winners will be selected and announced at tomorrow's award ceremony. Apart from that, the innovative initiatives from Guangzhou and other Chinese cities showcase "China Solutions" and "Guangzhou samples" of urban governance. The third floor exhibits excellent works from the "Metropolis through Children's Eyes" drawing contest, expressing children's wonderful hopes for cities in the future.



In recent years, following the important instructions of President Xi Jinping to inject new dynamism into our ancient city, Guangzhou has made great efforts to create new highlights in its urban functions, overall cultural strengths, modern service industry, and international business environment, showing its unique resilience and vitality. On my left is the section on this very topic.

In Joint Pursuit of Better Governance for the Cities is the common wish of city leaders, managers and experts around the world. We hope that this exhibition will bring inspirations and reflections to the audience.

To conclude, I wish the 2021 Global Mayors' Forum serial events a complete success. Wish you a great evening!

Thank you!

## Speech by Mohamad Abdul Salam Saadie, President of the Union of Dannieh Municipalities, Lebanon

Guangzhou Award Ceremony & Closing Ceremony  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Thanks to all of you. Thanks to all organizers of the 5<sup>th</sup> Guangzhou Award. Quite amazing. This is more than a prize. It's a platform allowing everyone to share their experience and benefits from others. This prize is most appreciated, and it's dedicated to the humanity worldwide.

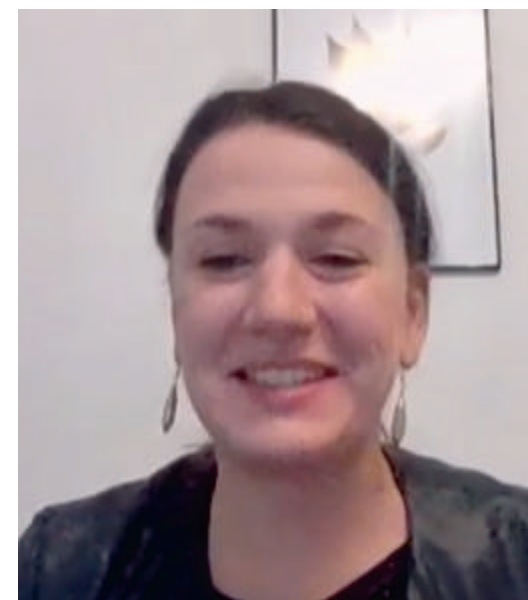
Thanks to our volunteering team which proves our solidarity. Always, we have to be optimistic, whatever the situation. We have to transform challenges into opportunities and to preserve our planet.

Thanks to Guangzhou. Thanks to all organizers. Thank you. Thanks a lot.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Speech by Dolores Bakos, Member of the City Parliament of Vienna, Austria

Guangzhou Award Ceremony & Closing Ceremony  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



I, on behalf of the City of Vienna and the Vice Mayor and City Councilor for Youth of the City of Vienna, feel very honored to receive the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation. This award aims to recognize innovation in improving sustainability in cities and regions, and in doing so, to advance the prosperity and quality of the life of their citizens. Our project aims to do exactly so by empowering children, by not talking about children, but by talking with children and letting them participate eye to eye. We are very confident that our strategy enables and empowers more children to be confident individuals, to become successful learners and to become responsible adults.

Thank you very much for recognizing the importance of our work by awarding us. I'm really happy. Thank you very much.

(Based on shorthand records)





## Speech by Wen Guohui, Mayor of Guangzhou, China and President of Metropolis

Guangzhou Award Ceremony & Closing Ceremony  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Tonight, 2021 Global Mayors' Forum, 13<sup>th</sup> Metropolis World Congress, and 5<sup>th</sup> Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation (Guangzhou Award) will come to a successful conclusion. On behalf of the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government and in my own name, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you and extend warm congratulations to the cities winning the Guangzhou Award and the winners of the "Metropolis through Children's Eyes" Drawing Competition.

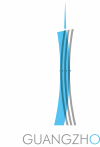
In the past few days, with the joint efforts of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis), and the active participation of city leaders, heads of international organizations, experts, and friends in the field of urban governance all over the world, we successfully held the events under the theme of In Joint Pursuit of Better Governance for the Cities and had heated discussion on Metropolises and cities in transformation: rethinking our future together. We actively shared the advanced experience of local governance, fully explored the insights of urban spatial transformation, and discussed in-depth the future path of international urban cooperation, contributing to the improvement of urban governance and acceleration of global economic recovery in the post-pandemic era.

The world is a community with a shared future. Global risks require the joint efforts of cities around the world and no one can cope with them on his own. Guangzhou will make full use of important international cooperation platforms such as UCLG and Metropolis, continue to work with cities around the world, and maintain close ties with each other. We will strengthen multilateral and bilateral learning and exchanges, deepen practical cooperation, continue to carry forward the Guangzhou Award, and make greater contributions to global urban governance innovation. We will join hands with global cities to play a leading role in overcoming the pandemic and promoting the comprehensive economic recovery in the post-pandemic era.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

Just as President Xi Jinping has said, "Our journey ahead will be a long and arduous one. But as long as we press ahead with a sense of perseverance, there will be much to expect. There will be twists and turns down the road, but hopes abound." We firmly believe that the sunshine of urban cooperation will eventually dispel the haze of the pandemic. We hope that cities around the world will overcome the pandemic as soon as possible, the global economy will be on track as soon as possible, and the Global Mayors' Forum, Metropolis World Congress and Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation will have continuous success!

Thank you!



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## Session Outlines



Finalist of Metropolis through Children's Eyes drawing contest: A city without pollution, where you can see the stars in a clear sky, as well as people protected by masks.  
Artist: Emma Camila Angamarca Barragan (aged 12, Quito, Ecuador)



## Sub-Forum 1: Modernizing Urban Governance with New Technologies and New Infrastructure

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



**Octavi de la Varga,**  
Secretary General of Metropolis

After the outbreak of COVID-19, our cities are subject to increasingly faster changes. As the metropolises are still expanding, we are facing many changes and challenges. Therefore, we need to propose solutions to address the challenges. This is also a very important theme of this forum. We should pay attention to new technologies and how to use them to provide new solutions for urban transformation.

The Metropolis Strategic Action Plan 2021-2023 points out that digital subversion is one of the challenges of urban governance. New technologies will affect the ways we govern cities and provide services, and the ways citizens connect with public management departments. We are also facing a digital divide that excludes some people from enjoying new technologies, tele-working or remote education. Therefore, we need to build a fair society for all, which is of great significance for our society.



**Anthony G. O. Yeh,**  
Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Academy of Social Sciences UK; Professor, University of Hong Kong; Member of the Guangzhou Award Technical Committee

I would like to share something about the impact of new technologies and new infrastructure on the modernization of urban governance. First of all, these technologies are game-changers, including “digital twin governance”. The past 10 years have witnessed the emergence

of digital cities and other technologies, but they are not completely connected and just operate independently. We want to connect these elements, and achieve digital twin governance. How could we do so? We must have sensors to provide us with information to realize a digital city network and control the pandemic. Artificial intelligence is also needed to provide us with feedback. If we want to improve accuracy, innovations must be made. We also need people's participation and feedback to achieve better government administration and services. This is what we call crowd-sourcing. The measures above should also be integrated into the digital twin governance.



**Xu Hui,**  
Deputy Director of the Office of Development and Construction of the China Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City (CSGKC)

Cities are facing mounting challenges in urban governance posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for economic recovery in the post-pandemic era. This forum, titled “Modernizing Urban Governance with New Technologies and New Infrastructure”, shows the urgent need for global cities to stand side by side in the face of challenges,

and express our call for better urban management and economic recovery. Gathering here today are experts and industry leaders in urban planning, technological innovation, artificial intelligence and other fields. We look forward to your wisdom on the integration of technologies, balance between city development and improving urban habitats, and digital transformation of urban governance.



**Lu Jun,**  
Deputy Dean of Urban Governance Institute, Peking University

I have summarized three aspects of the application of the “city brain” in the Chinese cities in the future. First, it can be applied in the full-cycle urban governance. Through the technologies, the city brain can realize collaboration among departments, units and communities. This is an important field for innovation brought about by the future city brain. Second, it can refine management in Chinese cities. In the past,

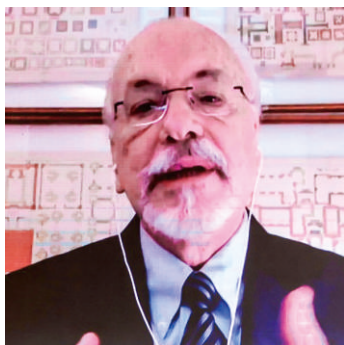
China had two-tier government systems for three-tier administration, or three-tier systems for four-tier administration. Now we have communities under the neighborhood committees. With the city brain, we can extend management into the neighborhoods. Refined management is to reflect the residents' personal preferences and personalized needs through the city brain, and identify the differences in a very information-based questionnaire. Third, the city brain can promote the construction of a smart city with innovation in digitization and intelligent management tools.



**Shen Bazhong,**  
Executive Dean of Guangzhou Institute of Technology,  
Xidian University

Over the past year, Guangzhou Institute of Technology has made remarkable achievements, focusing on the core bottlenecks related to infrastructure such as third-generation semiconductors, 5G communication and industrial Internet, cyber security, blockchain application and artificial intelligence. Working with the government and businesses, it has jointly built innovation centers, shared R & D

centers, and institutes in collaboration with enterprises for education of high-calibre professionals in their trades, fostering a model of talent cultivation characteristics of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area that targets the industrial upgrading in the Greater Bay Area. Our Institute is also exploring a new mode to apply scientific achievements based on commercialization in the industry, and a new paradigm of training teachers based on the efficient reuse of resources. Continuous efforts have been made to empower the new infrastructure of Guangzhou to facilitate the industrial upgrading in the Greater Bay Area.



**Alfonso Govela Thomae,**  
Blockchain and Urban Innovation Consultant at  
Metropolis

China has provided ample examples to other parts of the world, including planning for the decentralized blockchain, and promoting the development of blockchain since 2019. The “14<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan” issued last year also took note of the important role of the Internet in the digital economy. China's Vision 2035 also encourages innovation and technological breakthroughs.

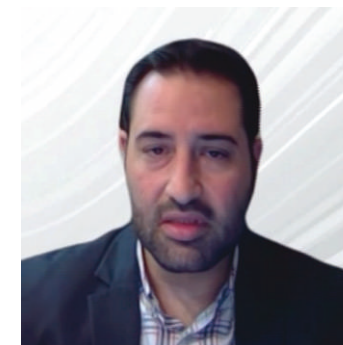
Blockchain 3.0 proposes a concept of “programmable society”, and a concept of “programmable governance”, i.e., to promote government capacity building with efficient cooperation, sound logic and optimized services. To this end, what should we do next? First, we should promote global infrastructure services; second, we should encourage the establishment of an ecosystem of public-private partnership; third, we should make the public sector more intelligent in every dimension; fourth, we should formulate detailed, practical and evolving projects; fifth, we should share experience and lessons.



**Wang Maolin,**  
Senior planning and design expert in Singapore; senior  
member of Singapore Institute of Planners

What we have done involves research, formulation and implementation of urban design and control mode. We have studied all kinds of urban design elements in about 13 cities, especially Singapore, with an eye on their digital, quantified and concise application. We have distinguished the general elements from regional-specific elements, mainly focusing on key urban design. In

terms of the digital, classified and detailed management, as urban spaces are very different in various regions, we classify them into business space, innovation space, residential space, historical and cultural space, and mixed-use space for differentiated management and research. The elements of management and control include urban layout, public space, underground space and urban landscape.

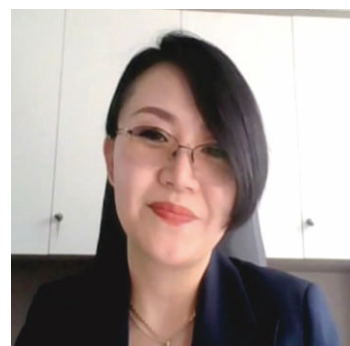


**Dr. Mohammad Farjood,**  
CEO of Tehran Municipality Information and  
Communication Technology Organization (TMICTO)

Data has changed everything in the city. The modernization of urban governance must be driven by data. We have now a lot of disruptive technologies, such as 5G, artificial intelligence and big data, which are all based on data. In cities today, the difference between modern and traditional governance lies in the treatment of data. For example, there are many data produced by the city councils, and there will be

challenges in terms of the use and management of the data, such as data privacy, the right to use the data by different stakeholders, and the supervision of relevant parties. We need rules and management to make better use of data. Other issues include trust, i.e., citizens sometimes don't trust the government enough. Therefore, we need to build a foundation of trust for modern urban governance.





**Sun Jing,**

General Manager of Apollo Intelligent Transportation Technology (Guangzhou) Co., Ltd.

Under the guidance of big data, Huangpu District of Guangzhou has achieved the largest-scale, most comprehensive and most close-loop application of data in new infrastructure and new urban construction in China, and is the most advanced in the use of data today. Urban intelligence has played a role in promoting the intelligent industries. In this process, the first urban data operator in China has been established. The data operators as we know today mainly serve mobile phones, but in the future, we believe that there will be a network of operators, with the engagement of urban stakeholders including technology enterprises crucial to the network, that runs urban data. In this process, we can expect a real blue-ocean industry.

(Based on shorthand records)



## Sub-Forum 2: Urban Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity Conservation

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



**Nicholas You,**

Advisor to the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation; Executive Director of Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation

We have different plans for controlling urban temperature and growing urban green space, and I would like to give my own example. In the 1970s, I had an unprecedented large-scale green architecture project in Switzerland. Skyscrapers were always equipped with double-layer glass, even till today. Back then, we added a third layer of curtain walls on the basis of the double-layer ones, which could automatically regulate the temperature throughout seasons. Therefore, in cold winter and hot summer, the curtain walls could keep the temperature at a relatively stable level, and the luminous energy they produced could be used in a proper way. Compared with other similar buildings, this green and energy-saving project reduced 17% of the energy consumption. I am now working in the field of urban governance and planning, and from my own experience, we can largely cut the energy consumption of buildings.



**Ouyang Zhiyun,**

Director of the Center for Eco-environmental Research, Chinese Academy of Science; President of the Chinese Ecological Society

Urban ecology is the foundation of urban management, a field of many opportunities. Urban management system is a whole that results from the interaction between urban residents and the surroundings, and from people's adaptation to and transformation of the environment. There must be not only residents and industries in a city, but also the natural environment. Without these elements, a city simply cannot exist. For a long time, we have focused disproportionately on the population and economy, at the cost of the ecology. We must acknowledge that human beings are also part of the ecology, apart from flora and fauna. In the urban ecology, there are numerous man-made elements in addition to natural features, such as buildings and artificial green spaces. But urban ecology management is different from natural ecological management: we must protect the air, waterspace, wildlife and other ecological systems with an eye on ensuring economic and social development as well as a desirable environment for citizens. As cities grow, the role of urban ecology would be more significant.

**Kurt Shickman,**

Director of Extreme Heat Initiatives, Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center

To combat climate change, we can take the following measures: We can modify the sunlight reflection of building surfaces to reduce the solar energy that the surfaces absorb. We can also use water to cool off the building, and use the steam produced in the process in moisture moderation of the surfaces, or use the steam to power other forms of energy. Apart from using air conditioning, we also have other types of cooling that allow for the adjustment of users' activities in the buildings to reduce heat. For example, we can take measures to reduce excessive heat of vehicles. In brief, we can take into full account technology-based solutions when managing our cities.

**Wang Xueman,**

Senior Urban Specialist of World Bank

For Guangzhou, I have some important advice in three aspects: First, it can take appropriate technological solutions such as creating a corridor for air-flow to allow more natural wind to cool off the city. I would like to say again that Guangzhou has done a great job in this area, and no matter it's in China or the world, it has set a good example. Second, it can go beyond connectivity in design and logistics as we discussed earlier, and increase ecological connectivity to better moderate the temperature. Third, it can have more investment in urban cooling projects. I think Guangzhou and some other larger cities have abundant resources, but cities in the third and fourth tiers in China tend to lack such financial resources. I am wondering if we can develop some human settlement models for these cities to gain sufficient funds for their own urban projects.

**Huang Jinfeng,**

Level II Bureau Rank Official of Guangzhou Municipal Planning and Natural Resources Bureau; professorate senior engineer

I would like to share Guangzhou's sustainable cooling case. First, Guangzhou is a metropolis on the Tropic of Cancer, which endows it with a unique climate and diverse geographic conditions as well as challenges. Against this backdrop, Guangzhou has made active planning and won the opportunity to be a pilot city for the World Bank's Sustainable Urban Cooling Project. Second, Guangzhou boasts good conditions for urban cooling. An important reason that the World Bank chose it as a pilot is that during the field investigation in Guangzhou's wetlands, the World Bank found that the city has done a great job in ecology protection, green development, construction of human settlement, and other sustainable aspects, laying a sound foundation for urban cooling. Third, Guangzhou has had practical explorations. To start, we developed a governance system down to each neighborhood. In overall urban planning, we mainly take into account cooling sources and air-flow corridors, and use natural solutions to protect ecological cooling sources. In our neighborhoods, we have created green spaces and guidelines on buildings as well as industrial, commercial and historical areas to promote a sustainable neighborhood management model for urban cooling.

**Zhu Shu,**

Director of ICLEI East Asia Secretariat

We hope that more cities and local governments can further integrate biodiversity into urban planning. Forward-looking macro-regulation should be in place, and local and national campaigns to protect biodiversity should be rolled out. Advanced methods for research and monitoring can be adopted for us to further understand the theoretical meaning of biodiversity to a city, and what mechanism can be in place to realize that. What's more, we should preserve biodiversity in the cause of reaching carbon peak and carbon neutrality, to promote policy coordination. We should widely apply nature-based solutions and construct relevant infrastructure to confront challenges. In the end, we need to empower ourselves. For instance, we can provide platforms for exchanges, level up people's awareness of biodiversity preservation, and establish a mechanism for the participation of enterprises and governments.



**Liu Yan,**  
Director of Biodiversity Conservation and Biosecurity Research Center, Nanjing Institute of Ecology and Environment, Ministry of Ecology and Environment

Investigation, monitoring, information sharing and valuation on ecology system can help create a comprehensive grasp of local conditions. Biodiversity preservation should be based on local realities. We can build natural corridors, and build or transform urban infrastructure closely related to biodiversity, such as museums, hospitals, and schools. Also, we can set up biodiversity attractions, to make our residence more harmonious, and provide more in-depth opportunities for people to learn about what biodiversity is, how it relates to our life, and how to protect it. We can also explore biodiversity-related tourism and finance to attract all enterprises, NGOs and citizens to play their roles in biodiversity protection.

**Du Yaodong,**  
Chief Technical Engineer of Guangdong Meteorological Department; Researcher of Guangdong Climate Center

We need to take measures to adapt to climate change. First, for any construction project, a climate suitability evaluation shall be taken before it kicks off. The Department of Natural Resources of Guangdong Province has released specific documents for climate feasibility certification and climate risk evaluation. Second, following the deployment of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the State Council, Guangdong is carrying out a major survey on national climate risks. In addition, as the climate becomes warmer, we need to modify the anticorrosion standards for houses, energy facilities, and transport infrastructure. We should solve the problem of information asymmetry at all levels and enhance primary-level capabilities. Lastly, we should mitigate the risks of major disasters. Guangdong has introduced major disaster insurance in 2016, which focuses on weather-related disasters, and has the advantages of being scientific, objective and prompt in settling claims.

**Deng Xingdong,**  
President of Guangzhou Planning & Design Survey Research Institute

One of the cores of ecological civilization is the harmonious coexistence between people and nature. Based on the features of the nine water basins around Guangzhou, we proposed numerical targets for analysis and management of key ecological functions. We established an ecological network linking mountains, rivers and the sea, in which about 5000 kilometers of ecological corridors cover mountains and waters in urban areas with multi-functions. In addition, we have developed ecological products such as urban and rural wetlands and large-scale orchards. Six kilometers away from Zhujiang New Town, we have constructed a six-kilometer pathway for sightseeing, eight central city parks, and a greenway 2,000 kilometers in length. On the basis of the characteristics of the metropolis and new farmlands in Guangdong, we are planning to create or protect urban farmlands, combined with nearby mountains, waters, orchards and parks in the ecological corridors, to balance agricultural fields and urban lands.

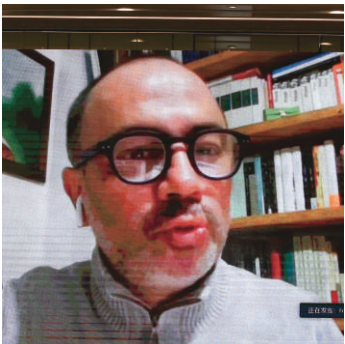
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Sub-Forum 3:

Healthy Cities: Opportunities and Challenges

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Francisco Felipe Pulgarín Hernández,  
Representative of Mayor of Medellin, Columbia

We know that Medellin had many violent cases in the 1990s, with a high crime rate and murder rate, but it has been internationally recognized that Medellin has become one of the safest cities in the world since six years ago. I want to share our practices in making this achievement. In fact, we have some councils or committees that work together with the government and other sectors to achieve our goals, such as the Planning Council and the Housing Council in the Metropolitan Area and the special councils for crisis, environment and security management. Due to the pandemic, we have also established the Metropolitan Health Management Committee and the Economic Development Committee. In the fight against the pandemic, we started to think about the approach to better manage public health. We hope to restore the work and life of all residents of the city in various ways. To this end, we also have another plan to control carbon emission. This plan has been executed for more than 30 years. We hope to achieve sustainable development through new technology and information technology.



Peng Zongchao,  
Professor, Secretary of the Party Committee of School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University

In recent years, the Chinese government attaches great importance to social security, biological security, national security, social risk, and risk governance. In my opinion, the following aspects are of great significance. First, we should acknowledge the importance of addressing urban problems, such as health, safe development, and awareness of comprehensive risk governance. Second, we should strengthen the prevention, early warning and emergency preparedness of conventional and major risks. Third, we should focus on improving the awareness, knowledge and ability of citizens and grass-roots organizations in terms of risk and emergency response. Fourth, we should actively develop multiple coordination mechanisms in urban risk governance.

Tan Ankui,  
Dean of School of Government, Sun Yat-Sen University; Director of Center for Local Governance and Public Policy Research, Sun Yat-Sen University

Our topics today include not only public health, but also emergency management, risk management, urban resilience and other common issues in urban governance. Better urban governance and better life for citizens concern each and every one of us, as well as the coming generations. Cities are not only a geographical concept, but also a public space, thus calling our attention to city governance in academic and practical manner. To solve problems in urban governance requires exchanges in research, practices and even cultures. In this sense, our sub-forum today may be small in scale, but has shown the academic, practical and cultural diversity required. We believe that we will be able to invite you to Guangzhou for on-site discussions in the near future.

Yang Lihua,  
Professor, School of Government and Management, Peking University; Head of Public Policy Department, Peking University

I would like to propose a new paradigm of “Five-Covering” health governance from a systematic perspective of nature and society.

- 1.Health governance covering health management, involving physical and psychological health of individuals, and the health of the society and nature.
- 2.Health governance covering all fields - political system, economic system, social system, cultural system and ecosystem health.
- 3.Health governance covering all levels - community, urban, regional, national, and global levels. It is also necessary to have a more systematic and multi-level concept of health, i.e., the health of citizens, communities, villages, cities, societies, nations and the world.
- 4.Health governance covering all subjects in all communities, societies and cities.
- 5.Health governance covering the whole process of things and people and the sustainable health governance for generations.



**Kirstin Miller,**

Executive Director, Ecocity Builders; Guangzhou Award Jury

From the 1990s to the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, “ecocity” has become an integral part of urbanism. To build a ecocity, we can use a digital platform that grants all stakeholders better access to open-source resources, higher efficiency in planning, and better design outcome. We have launched a series of tools for designing and learning, and a customizable set of standards in planning.

**Yue Jinglun,**

Professor, School of Government, Sun Yet-Sun University; President of Institute for Social Policy, Sun Yet-Sun University

To build healthy cities, we can promote the innovation of social policies from the following aspects. To begin with, we should vigorously develop social assistance policies. Specifically, the government should develop various forms of elderly care, child care and disabled assistance services to reduce the care deficit and health risks. In addition, we should emphasize policies promoting the balance between work and life. Nowadays, work stress can lead to mental depression, decreased life satisfaction, poor physical condition and alcohol abuse. Meanwhile, we should attach importance to the social policies related to leisure activities. As a kind of consumption, with more leisure time, more people get to make travels or participate in cultural and art activities, and other social entertainment activities, thus boosting consumption. Moreover, we should formulate green social policy. In the face of the environmental issues, it is a challenge for the social policy to improve people’s health and well-being without over reliance on economic tools. Last but not least, we should advocate the “life-oriented” social policy. The existing social policies mainly focus on the economic risks encountered by individuals in economic activities. There are few policies focusing on the life (consumption) risks that the individuals may encounter as customers in social life.

**Ren Yong,**

Professor, Deputy Dean of School of Political Science and Public Administration, East China University of Political Science and Law

At present, there are many social security risks in the process of urban development. To build resilient cities, the following five aspects should be considered:

- 1.Plan formulation. What we are talking about here is different from the formulation of emergency management plan. In the process of formulating the plan, we should take into account the elements that matter for a resilient city in the future.
- 2.Risk assessment. Although we are performing risk assessment now, there are too many things involved, some of which cannot be included in the scope of risk prevention and control for resilience governance yet.
- 3.Coordinated action. The construction of resilient cities involves the balance between sections within and beyond governments. These are the elements that should be considered in the process of promoting resilient cities and improving resilient governance capacity.
- 4.Organizational learning. Through this learning mechanism, we can improve the resilience of cities and make the urban governance process more flexible.
- 5.Repairing trust. We can establish a relation of trust through building resilient cities.

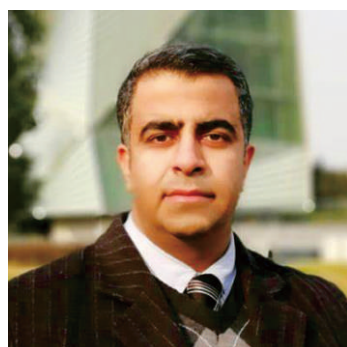


**Shen Menghan,**

Associate Professor, School of Government, Sun Yet-Sun University

Today, I want to share a thesis with you, The Impact of Policy on Outpatient Reimbursement for Chronic Diseases, and this is an empirical analysis of social policy innovation. As the reimbursement total is raised, patients with chronic diseases are entitled to more reimbursement. With this, they are more empowered to seek medical

assistance and get the right drug, while avoiding excessive treatment. Although total outpatient reimbursement costs rise, the decline in in-hospital stays means savings for the patients as well as the national medical insurance pool.



**Ali Cheshmehzangi,**

Head of the Department of Architecture and Built Environment, Director of the Center for Sustainable Energy Technologies (CSET), University of Nottingham Ningbo China; Member of the Guangzhou Award Technical Committee

At present, the relation among hearth, sustainability and peace is out of balance. Many international agendas lack the element of peace,

and only with peace can we achieve harmonious development. I believe that we should promote the sustainable and harmonious development of nature and human beings by maintaining the balance among health, sustainability, and peace. What we need to do is to reflect on the ongoing pandemic and find the missing link to solve the current problems.



**Hao Chun,**

Associate Professor, School of Public Health, Sun Yat-Sen University

The practice of Healthy City in China was based on the “national hygienic cities” campaign in the early stage. This has been promoted by the government since 1990, mainly involving the health department. The National Healthy City Initiative was launched in 1994. Dongcheng District in Beijing and Jiading District in Shanghai were the first pilots of this initiative. In 1999,

as a demonstration city, Suzhou was recognized as one of the governing city units of World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office. Further exploration and development was made between 2000-2009. In 2007, the Patriotic Health Campaign Committee Office launched the pilot cities of National Healthy City. In 2008, the government put forward the “Healthy China 2020 Strategy”, and all-round development has been achieved. Up to now, more and more cities have begun to formulate health action programs and plans with their own characteristics, such as “Healthy Beijing”, “Healthy Zhongshan”, and “Healthy City Planning of Guangzhou”. Currently, the mode of Healthy City Initiative has gradually become a “health-in-all” policy instead of relying on the health department alone. Now, solutions to the public health problems require multi-department cooperation rather than the sole efforts of the public health department. The topic of health will be included in all departments and policies rather than the health department only.

**Kang Keren,**

Senior Vice President, Guangzhou Wondfo Biotech Co., Ltd.

In 2016, China launched the “Outline of the Healthy China 2030 Plan” as a program to actively promote public health to combat major infectious diseases, chronic diseases, tumor and other illnesses. The key is effective disease control and public health measures. Rapid tests that can be widely applied in this sense have become a focal point of national support and global multi-disciplinary research. We are also aware that it requires companies to undertake more corporate social responsibility and go all the way in developing quality products for fast testing. We hope that we can contribute to a truly healthy city with technological breakthroughs and the commercialization of innovative, next-generation products.





**Chen Na,**

Associate Professor, School of Public Health, Sun Yat-Sen University

We made a tentative attempt with big data and methods of data learning. Specifically, we made a spatial comparison and distribution of the traditional indicators “sustainability” and “resilience” to find the complex relation between them. This relation indicates that we should distinguish different dimensions and indicators, and form different

models with machine learning. The models may be coherent or incoherent. Accordingly, we can see that regional cooperation can be carried out based on a certain spatial distribution.

(Based on shorthand records)



## Sub-Forum 4: Building Diverse, Inclusive and Resilient Urban Governance System

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Zhang Yajie,**

Vice Chairwoman of the Guangzhou Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Co-President of UCLG ASPAC and Chair of Standing Committee of Women in Local Governments of UCLG ASPAC

“Top cities require top governance.” As the president city of the World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis) and a national central city, Guangzhou integrates the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda into its overall urban development plan, and actively explores governance innovation for megacities. Guangzhou has participated in the movement of “Voluntary Local Reviews of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals” and the “Green Cities Initiative”, and teamed with the World Bank to carry out the Sustainable Urban Cooling Pilot Project to provide experience and reference for global cities to explore sustainable development. Guangzhou has also strengthened cooperation with the UCLG ASPAC. Through the UCLG ASPAC Standing Committee on Women in Local Governments (SCWILG) and Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation, Guangzhou has carried out international pilot projects related to women's and children's medical care, focusing on women's empowerment and well-being. Guangzhou has also been formulating and releasing the Guangzhou Urban Governance Rankings every year since 2014, and has won the first “China Urban Governance Innovation Award” held by the Institute of Urban Governance of Peking University in 2019.



Wang Weiguo,

Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Southern Metropolis Daily; Executive Director of Nandu Big Data Institute

As a media deeply rooted in Guangzhou, Southern Metropolis Daily has been paying attention to the innovation of urban governance in Guangzhou since 2014, releasing the research product of its think tank, “Guangzhou Urban Governance Rankings”, for seven consecutive years to comprehensively present the modernization process of urban governance capacity with data and cases. Since last year, the report has been promoted in other cities in China. Special seminars have been held in Beijing, Hainan and other places to unite various stakeholders to build a broader platform to exchange urban governance experience. This year, we go global. The Guangzhou Urban Governance Rankings will take advantage of the international forum for exchanges of international urban governance experience.



Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi,  
Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC

Opportunities always come with challenges. As cities evolve into metropolises, our opportunities are unlimited. At present, 60% of the world's population live in cities. We have both challenges and opportunities. During the pandemic, we found that many cities become the center of the pandemic, and also the key area of pandemic prevention and control. Cities around the world must

continue to overcome various difficulties, such as natural disasters and social emergencies. It can be said that the Asia Pacific region is at the front of prevention and control of all these disasters and situations. 95% of the problems caused by natural and social emergencies occur in cities. We have learned many lessons from them. We need in-depth reflection about the approach to building resilient cities.

Kaveh Hajialiakbari,

CEO of Urban Renewal Organization of Tehran (UROT)

In Tehran, the way that we respond to COVID-19 and enhance city resilience is to listen to the voice of vulnerable groups in the community. We need to understand problems of the most vulnerable and most devastated groups in the community. We should focus on their problems and find corresponding solutions. This method indicates that people from all walks of life can participate in the process to solve the problems facing such groups. Therefore, we have offices in the community to understand the needs of community members and the social resources available for mobilization that encourage communities to solve the problems.

Qiu Ping,

Director of Guangzhou-Foshan News Department, Southern Metropolis Daily;  
Director of Urban Governance Research Center, Nandu Big Data Institute

Our research team briefly interprets the Guangzhou resilience index from the dimensions of economic, social, environmental, cultural and public resilience. We also draw the following conclusions about Guangzhou's city resilience: Guangzhou features a high degree of resilience and displays resilient economic and social development in spite of the pandemic. A number of reproducible governance experience have also been accumulated. However, according to the assessment of urban resilience system, there are still certain problems to be solved, including unbalanced distribution of public resources, new challenges to economic development, and vulnerability in fields facing disasters.

The research group suggests that the megacities including Guangzhou should actively seize the new growth opportunities derived from the global energy revolution and improve the public service system represented by public health care. At the same time, while improving urban resilience, efforts should be made to find a suitable path to achieve low-carbon and green development. In the process of urban cultural inheritance and activation, inclusiveness is of great significance and cultural confidence is also required. Last but not least, it is also necessary to mobilize multiple stakeholders in urban governance and the modernization of urban governance system and capability.



## Wang Dong,

### Program Director for Sustainable Development Goals Localization with UNDP China

In response to the pandemic, cities should make the following considerations. First of all, they should consider the resilience of infrastructure. Cities need corresponding facilities in the process of disaster and pandemic prevention, and relevant pragmatic plans need to be drawn. Secondly, they should consider soft management. It involves disaster relief and community management in response to the pandemic, including ensuring sufficient information exchanges and circulation to create a resilient cooperation system. Thirdly, they should consider the relative long-term impact of the pandemic, especially the impact on macroeconomic and social development.

The media plays an important role in the construction of the resilient city. Specifically, it can exert its roles in information exchanges and feedback between the government and the public. Meanwhile, it serves as a channel for the government to collect information from grass-root level. What's more, it can also play a role in supervision. The media can also contribute wisdom to building smart cities, and serve as a platform for exchanges between cities and social managers.

In the whole process, forward-looking attention should be paid to the long-term comprehensive impact on society and economy, and on people's quality of life, by way of offering constructive opinions to the government. In addition, the media should attach importance to the guidance of public opinion in the whole process, and actively advocate the balance of interests between individuals and the whole society.

## Zhang Hai,

### Secretary General of Eco Foundation Global; Global Executive Director of ICLEI; Vice Convener of China Membership Network, International Union for Conservation of Nature

In my opinion, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought great challenges to the emergency response capability of the urban governance system. Meanwhile, the effectiveness of urban governance is under a severe test. The regular pandemic prevention and control has put forward higher requirements for urban governance resilience in the future.

## Chen Xiaoyun,

### Professor, Party School of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of CPC

First of all, cities should base the economies of scale on safety, which is an important factor. Second, we should fully consider the impact of the pandemic on the resilience and system building of the city. Third, we should consider top-down connection and cross-cutting coordination. We are still exploring the approach to avoiding over-reaction to the pandemic.

Regarding the roles of the media in building urban resilience, first of all, the media can identify the needs of the city as much as possible. Second, the media can create a caring environment, further ensuring effective and more inclusive delivery of services. Third, the media can further highlight the advantages of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics in the process of urban governance.

## Zeng Lingfa,

### Dean of School of Politics and Administration, South China Normal University

The resilience of super large cities can be assessed mainly from two aspects. First of all, we should determine whether the city can survive in a crisis. Moreover, we should see whether the city can recover quickly after it survives in the crisis. How should megacities respond to the COVID-19 pandemic? What matters is information, which is also important for digital and technical governance. We now have more and more ways to construct the information system. On the other hand, a megacity is often diversified, and the population is diverse. For example, there are many foreigners and elderly people in Guangzhou. Digitalized technological governance can achieve cross-cultural communication. Therefore, the diversity of the super city should be considered as much as possible.

## Wen Hong,

### Professor, Doctoral Supervisor of School of Public Administration, South China University of Technology

For Guangzhou, several changes may be found against the backdrop of the pandemic. First, the spatial layout has been changed to better adjust people's production and lifestyle to ensure people's safety during the pandemic. Second, information has been shared effectively and accurately. Third,

## Sub-Forum 5: Metropolis' Role in Fighting Poverty and Supporting Less Developed Regions

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

the industry layout has been gradually optimized. Fourth, the governance has gradually adjusted the allocation of resources to cope with uncertainties.

The media has played great roles in the construction of a resilient Guangzhou. Specifically, it has stimulated the vitality of urban innovation to improve quality and efficiency and achieve resilience in a rapid manner. Moreover, it can tap into details to make the city more caring. Meanwhile, through dialogues, experts, media, and the government can participate in discussions. In addition, effective urban resilience can be realized through government supervision or stimulating and guiding innovation.

**Shan Tao,**

Senior Partner of ETR Law Firm

First, the value of security should be incorporated into the design of governance system. Second, from a legal point of view, laws often act as a relief to the hazards. However, in the face of COVID-19, once the risks occur, the consequences and losses could be beyond estimate. Therefore, our laws should play a more preventive role. Third, adaptability and participation are emphasized for governance. The legal field has also provided a lot of public legal services since the outbreak of COVID-19.

**Zhu Tao,**

Primary Partner of ETR Law Firm

Our social governance and urban management should form an integrated, full-coverage and multi-disciplinary urban security system. Specifically, we should improve the rule of law and build an urban information chain. For example, during the pandemic, the Civil Code and the Law on the Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases of the People's Republic of China have included the protection of private information. Personal information protection and national information protection go hand-in-hand. Moreover, we should promote and support social governance. For example, during the pandemic, the regulations related to the disclosure of personal information and the screening of misinformation should be further refined under the framework of the rule of law.

(Based on shorthand records)

**Edmundo Werna,**

Associate Professor, School of the Built Environment and Architecture, London South Bank University (UK); Urban Planning Expert

To fight poverty, we can develop labor-intensive industries, which can create more employment opportunities. In addition, we should also use locally purchased materials. At the same time, we should support the local production of raw materials. Workers should be recruited from the communities as much as possible and provided with necessary training. Employment priority should be given to women, as there remains severe gender discrimination in many industries. I also want to highlight the importance of family workshops because many workers earn money by working in these workshops, and they also need the support of laws and regulations. Moreover, there are many people who work directly in public space, such as on the streets or in the squares. These people need more support because they have no other place to work. Their work should not be marginalized. Urban planning policies can be modified to support such people.

(Based on shorthand records)





Sub-Forum 6:

Sustainable Development Goals and Urban Governance

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Zhang Yueguo,

Secretary of CPC Party Leadership Group; President of Guangzhou Academy of Social Sciences

As a national central city, a city known for its rich history and culture, and an international metropolis, Guangzhou has made active efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and New Urban Agenda in innovative ways, and shouldered its responsibilities in combating risks and challenges and in championing sustainability. It has shown its increasing resistance, inclusiveness, and sustainability. We are the first Chinese city to submit the UNSDGs Guangzhou Voluntary Local Review, and the city where one of the Global Humanitarian Response Hub of the United Nations World Food Program is based. Guangzhou also plays an important role as a founding member and president city of the World Association of Major Metropolises (Metropolis), and in the founding of the Global Mayors’ Forum, Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation, and other international platforms for cooperation and exchanges. It has promoted world exchanges on ideas, practices, and progress in mutual learning among world cities. In urban governance, Guangzhou has focused on planning, management and participation of multiple stakeholders with technological innovation that has injected new dynamism into the old city for shared governance and achievements.

Kobie Brand,

ICLEI Deputy Secretary General; Regional Director: ICLEI Africa Secretariat

We should encourage green development in policies and planning to connect our cities with the natural world. In the post-pandemic period, we have to ensure harmonious coexistence of humanity and nature, promote green urban transformation, and move towards green recovery. Nature is so important to us because it provides various solutions for cities. Green infrastructure boosts plenty of business opportunities. Urban biodiversity protection helps with preserving the world’s diversity, as well as creating multiple benefits, such as more jobs, higher community resilience and higher effectiveness. These will make more contributions to social benefits and urban recovery.

Mao Yanhua,

President of Institute of Regional Openness and Cooperation Studies; Professor, Institute of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Development Studies, Sun Yat-Sen University

After the COVID-19 pandemic, we should pay attention to value chain upgrading from low to high level and green and low-carbon development. Focus has been put on the green and low-carbon aspects of enterprises, especially in the global supply chain, which concerns the climate, industrial growth, investment, and the development of labor-intensive manufacturing industries and high-energy industries. We should develop standards for growing green and low-carbon value chain, and enhance supervision and market regulation. We should also acknowledge the role of value chain. Green and low-carbon transformation, as a social issue, needs multi-party coordination. Governments shall strengthen public communication, and raise the awareness of enterprises and the public.

Ji Wen,

Deputy President, Researcher, Nanjing Municipal Academy of Social Sciences

We have been developing production-oriented cities for a long time. Since the Reform and Opening-up of China, cities have been transformed from being production-oriented to life-oriented, and from being materialism-centered to human-centered. Today, we should be people-centered, while developing micro-ecological cities, which represent the people’s longing for a better life.

Three factors motivate the transition of urban development engines from external factors to internal ones. First, the transfer from traditional materialistic development model to a model for the people shows that we should aim at increasing people’s happiness. Second, the shift from depending on physical investment to human capital investment highlights technological innovation. Third, we should make the assessment mechanisms for executive branches more scientific and sustainable.

**Serge Salat,**

President of Urban Morphology and Complex Systems Institute, Paris;  
Professor, École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Paris-La Villette;  
Senior Advisor to the United Nations Environmental Program; Member of the  
Guangzhou Award Technical Committee

We have included the new concept of “innovative, coordinated, green and open development” proposed by President Xi Jinping at the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly into our urban innovation and construction. We have learnt a lot from the Chinese culture, and integrated the traditional Hangzhou and Suzhou culture and garden design into the park we designed. We also know that mountains and waters play an important role in traditional Chinese culture. So, we incorporated the elements of mountains and waters into our Hangzhou Town. Inspired by Chinese paintings, we also designed magnificent domes and ceilings in buildings. Of course, it’s a solution with salient ecological functions. For example, the Chinese culture highlights the functions of gardens. And when we designed the town in practice, we also highlighted this concept. We can see that the whole design reflects the aesthetics in the Southern Song Dynasty.

**Huang Dingxi,**

Vice President and Secretary General of Guangzhou Urban Planning  
Association

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the new key to current problems and a keyword in the common language for global urban development. Some corresponding multilateral agendas have been launched, from taking precautions against climate disasters to urban construction. The New Urban Agenda is a demonstration of the SDGs in urban field. It reviews urban planning, design and management, and indicates that urbanization will play a decisive role in the coming decades. Through the Agenda, experts from China and abroad entered into an agreement on urban, environmental and spacial sustainability, forming multi-divisional planning guidelines, institutional arrangement, and new advice on technology innovation.

**Liu Chengkun,**

Director of Sustainable Development Institute, Macao University of Science  
and Technology

How can we promote the sustainable development of Macao? First, industries should be diversified. Second, resilience is very important for highly open microeconomies like Macao. Recently, with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in mind, we compared the four emerging industries highlighted in Macao's second Five-Year-Plan period and studied the rapid growth of the Hengqin Development Zone near Macao, which led to the conclusion that we should boost sustainable development with diversified industries and in-depth regional cooperation. In this process, we can start with modern, green or sustainable finance, which facilitates all kinds of financial services and the local gambling industry, while allowing diversified, multi-regional cooperation for sustainable development.

**Yao Yi,**

Deputy Director and Researcher, Urban Internationalization Institute,  
Guangzhou Academy of Social Sciences

Recently, the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation cooperated with the University of Pennsylvania and released the “Urban Innovation Index”. Measuring ourselves with this index, we found that China has made profound progress in urban innovation in some areas, but there are also some shortcomings, such as the long-term reliance on economy growth as a priority and top-down command. As innovation-driven and sustainable development becomes a consensus, we should recognize the following questions in future innovation and sustainable development. First, the balance between efficiency and equity. We should acknowledge that innovation can enhance social development, ensure social stability, improve people’s livelihood and preserve the environment. Innovative development aimed at equity and quality should be the way for Chinese cities towards sustainable development in the future. Second, the scientific and technological path for urban innovation. Nowadays, science and technology innovation is still the core method and top priority for Chinese cities. Third, public participation in urban innovation. People are at the core to advance social progress and realize the goal of our social strategy.





**Ying Sheng,**  
National Officer at the China Office of UN-Habitat

Here, I would like to share three pieces of information. First, for challenges confronting all of us, we need to reconsider the development mode of cities. The COVID-19 pandemic has made long-lasting influence on cities and communities. The world needs new ways to face the challenges and mitigate the potential effects in the future. Second, we should grow new drivers for urban sustainable development for our cities. We should work with other cities to explore the ideal habitat for citizens. To pool innovation, science and technologies in the city, we need to improve the life of young people so that we can bring them back to cities and keep them there. Third, we should promote higher-quality urban development. Urban governance should focus on the tangible matters of the people and enhance their sense of gain, happiness and security.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Side Event 1: Annual Conference of Alliance of Guangzhou International Sister-City Universities (GISU)

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021



**Wu Linbo,**  
Deputy Secretary General of Guangzhou Municipal  
People's Government

The Alliance of Guangzhou International Sister-City Universities (GISU), as a key project and brand of building Guangzhou international sister-city ties, has adhered to the call of the era for working with sister-city universities to promote urban development since its establishment in 2018. All member universities have united and cooperated to create a model of international cooperation among urban universities. With the joint support from the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government and the governments of sister cities, the alliance is committed to promoting international academic and scientific research cooperation, facilitating the communication and interaction of youth in sister cities, and realizing and supporting the objectives of urban sustainable development. We hope that through this annual conference, the leaders, representatives, experts and scholars of the member universities of Alliance of GISU will foster exchanges and interactions to enhance friendship and collected wisdom, and further clarify the positioning and the follow-up work of the Alliance. We are looking forward to the continuous development and growth of the Alliance. It is expected to make full use of its advantages and effectively gather the advanced ideas and practical experience of higher education development worldwide, contributing to the sustainable development of the cities where the member universities are located, and making joint efforts to build a world of lasting peace, common prosperity, openness, inclusiveness, beauty and harmony, and promote the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind.

**Barney Glover,**  
Chancellor, Western Sydney University; Executive Chairman of Alliance of  
Guangzhou International Sister-City Universities (GISU)

This annual conference is a very important part in a series of activities of the Alliance. Guangzhou has carried out sister-city cooperation with many cities to build a circle of friends. As the south gate of

China, Guangzhou has played a very important role in China's Reform and Opening-up. Therefore, it is of great significance for us to hold this conference in Guangzhou.

What we have done shows that the Alliance and its members are committed to working together and cooperating with Guangzhou. At the same time, we are also promoting innovative urban planning and construction. Urban development calls for the cross-border cooperation and the building of the international university community. I believe that the network of Guangzhou, as well as these colleges and universities in sister cities will continue to strengthen cooperation at levels of the community, city and so forth.

**Wei Minghai,**  
**Professor, President of Guangzhou University; Chairman of the Alliance of Guangzhou International Sister-City Universities (GISU)**

I would like to make a brief report on the work of the Alliance from four aspects for your deliberation:

1. As the saying goes, “A bosom friend afar brings a distant land near”, the Alliance serves as a platform for member universities to exchange opinions and learn from each other, through encouraging them to actively participate in the work of the Alliance.
2. A partnership forged with the right approach defies geographical distance. As an important flagship activity of the Alliance, we have successively held student entrepreneurship competitions themed with promoting the sustainable development of sister cities through scientific and technological innovation this year.
3. We have renewed our cooperation to make new achievements.
4. Friends with same values and opinions will follow each other despite the distance. With the increasing number of international sister cities of Guangzhou, the team of member universities of the Alliance continues to expand. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Guangzhou Foreign Affairs Office, Education Bureau of Guangzhou Municipality and the Consulates General of various countries in Guangzhou for recommending relevant universities to the Alliance and providing necessary support.

**Tshivkovhi,**  
**Professor, Durban University of Technology**

I would like to introduce the research on “Building a Sustainable Entrepreneurial Development Model for Students: Case Analysis in the Context of Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Era”, which studies the traps or difficulties encountered by small-and-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the approach to help these SMEs establish a sustainable entrepreneurial development model and the promotion of college students' entrepreneurship during the pandemic.

In the future, we hope to further enhance mutual learning with Guangzhou University. We hope that such joint research can highlight the findings on resilience, especially the way to boost the resilience of students’ start-ups, in order to help them achieve sustainable development in the pandemic and post-pandemic era. We also want to establish some indicators to better measure the horizontal and vertical impact of the pandemic on enterprises, so as to improve the training quality of students’ entrepreneurship.

**Nancy Duxbury,**  
**Professor, University of Coimbra**

We had a study on “Tourism Industry Innovation to Promote Cultural Tourism Integration and Revitalize Urban Development”, to learn about how innovative development of a city could be promoted through the cultural tourism industry. “Innovative tourism” refers to tourism that can mobilize innovative activities in the place where tourism is developed and massive potential resources can be used for innovation.

We can benefit from innovative tourism from the following aspects. First, it can help communities build cultural identity, realize the interaction between local communities and the world, and integrate community activities into the global framework. Second, for local communities, innovative tourism can act as a good platform to carry out a number of innovative activities across fields and regions. Third, innovative tourism plays an important role in interactive cultural dialogue and mutual learning among civilizations. It can empower young people to improve their competitiveness. We need to enhance communication to promote high-quality innovative tourism projects.



Huang Lei,

Associate Professor, Guangzhou University

I would like to share the study on “Intelligent Expectation and Optimization Path of Green Energy Transformation”. One of the important objectives of the global response to climate change is to achieve carbon neutrality. Heating is an important source of carbon footprint/energy consumption, and a source of most residents' energy consumption and carbon footprint. We need to get rid of the heating system that relies too much on fossil fuels, and shift the whole fossil-fuel-based heating system to green heating. In this process, we can also see what support tools are available for families and consumers when they make decisions.

Our study is supported by the research on the flexibility of smart city energy systems by the EU Horizon 2020. I would like to extend my gratitude to Guangzhou University and its International Office, as well as the Alliance of GISU for their support for this study.

Yi-Chen Lan,

Vice Chancellor, Western Sydney University

I would like to extend my thanks to the Alliance of GISU for accepting our proposal of “Digital College” and “Global Innovators” programs. The Western Sydney University has launched a business incubation project, including learning access and learning opportunities, to improve students' innovative skills. We should enable students to better understand and upgrade their skills and knowledge related to the knowledge-based economy, especially the changes brought about by disruptive technologies to the human society. Facing the increasing economic crisis, pandemic, and other uncertainties, our students need to expand their knowledge, upgrade their skills and make adjustments according to the economic, social, and environmental situations. This course enables students to improve their capacity of innovation and entrepreneurship, master and apply innovative technologies, means and abilities to adjust to new changes, and better manage crises and risks. This course can especially improve students' entrepreneurial capacity.

Nataliya Romanovna Konovalova,

Representative of the National University of Science and Technology of Ukraine

I would like to introduce how modern technologies can help young people make better use of modern science. We suggest paying attention to the application of some digital technologies related to students and individuals to empower them with those technologies. Our cooperation can also allow students to better seize opportunities for learning exchanges. We carry out the exchange programs on the campus, and enable students to learn exchange courses through online digital platforms. We believe that it can help students better understand the diverse cultures of the world and enjoy diversified learning through the courses in different member universities.

We suggest that we build an educational programming marathon or combine it with some modern tools to promote information exchanges and provide a channel for everyone to speak freely without spatial or time limits. Therefore, we are currently building a website, and we hope to work together with other member universities of the Alliance to build this platform.

François Bédard,

Representative of University of Montréal

First of all, please allow me to thank the Alliance for its strong support. We are also honored to put forward the proposal of the international forum on the integration and innovation of culture and tourism in 2022.

We mainly focus on four topics. The first is about the challenges encountered by the tourism industry in the future. We will explore the path of cultural evolution in the tourism industry. Second, we would like to rethink the relation between culture and tourism as well as the approach to highlight their integration, linkage and cooperation to increase the additional value of cultural tourism. Third, we would like to pay attention to the new tourism products generated by mass tourism, such as volunteer tourism, slow tourism and creative tourism. There are some innovative tourism products and tourism forms brought forth by mass tourism. Fourth, the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held this year in Kunming, China. The combination of smart city and tourism can also contribute to biodiversity.

## Side Event 2: Guangzhou - Los Angeles - Auckland Tripartite Economic Alliance Seminar

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Ray Priest,

Director of Asia Pacific Affairs, University of the West of England

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government and the member cities of the Alliance of GISU for their strong support. We held an innovation competition themed with sustainable and sound urban development, and received more than 100 applications from 7 universities in South China. We selected 15 contestants for this competition, which lasted from November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>. For students, this competition was not easy, because they had to overcome many cultural differences to create their products through online discussion in two days. Finally, Group 4 won the competition. Their initiatives involved transportation, energy, facilities, public services, green development, infrastructure, social communication, and so on. This team would receive a reward of 300 pounds and a scholarship from the University of the West of England.

(Based on shorthand records)

### Yuan Yue,

Deputy Director of Guangzhou Port Authority

As an important carrier of regional exchanges of goods and information, port economy plays an increasingly critical role in the regional economy and its integration into the world economy and international division of labor through expanding foreign trade. On the one hand, the port needs to keep leveling up its service quality, adopt innovative services, and increase its input-output ratio. On the other hand, it needs to extend service functions, vigorously foster capacities for transit, distribution, circulation and processing of goods, and develop professional logistics business for cold-chains, automobiles, chemicals, and other cargoes. More importantly, the port should be based on its role as a logistics hub and include services like port logistics, finance, insurance, information technology, conference and exhibition, and cultural tourism, thus realizing innovative and integrated development with services in logistics, information, capitals and other elements in an all-round and multi-layer way.

I suggest that the ports of our cities can further share management experience, reach development consensus, and deepen practical port-to-port exchanges and cooperation so as to achieve tripartite benefits and shared development.

### Shane Martin,

Chief Economist for the Auckland City Government

Today I would like to talk about the economy of Auckland, a large city in New Zealand. The COVID-19 pandemic has imposed threats to countries and regions all over the world. But the economy of Auckland and New Zealand has great resilience, and can be back to the pre-pandemic level in a short term.

We have another advantage, as we are positive about our vaccination rate, and the relatively rapid recovery from the pandemic has given us a lot of confidence.

Many contributors to our population growth are immigrants, bringing abundant human resources that can speed up our economy recovery.





**Chen Deng,**

Senior Vice President of Business Development China, Auckland Airport

Our airport is an important air hub in New Zealand and the entire area of South Pacific, and a main driver of aviation economy.

As the COVID-19 pandemic blocks in-person travels, we are striving to keep trade going, to maintain and increase passenger-and-goods flows between Guangzhou and Auckland, to help companies apply for government subsidies from New Zealand, and to support transforming passenger airlines to cargo airlines by airline operators in the two countries. Our aims are to meet the requirements for high-value logistic transportation between both sides, maintain the airline capacity between Guangzhou and Auckland, and serve the markets in China and its surrounding areas with the transport network in Guangzhou to lay a foundation for the recovery of future passenger transport.

**Harley Seyedin,**

President of the American Chamber of Commerce in South China

As far as we are concerned, China, especially South China, has a favorable business environment. To expand its market to the global market, Guangzhou Municipal Government has implemented various policies to regain the market vitality and facilitate trade. We also found that our member companies in Guangzhou have made more profits than in most of the other areas in China. I am very confident that Guangzhou will maintain the status as an optimal place for investment, and American companies will invest more here to boost business opportunities.

The COVID-19 pandemic undoubtedly has brought a huge challenge to the whole world, which makes our cooperation more important. The Guangzhou - Los Angeles - Auckland Tripartite Economic Alliance plays a significant role here as well.

**Mao Jihong,**

Vice President of China National Garment Association (CNGA); Founder of Fangsuo Commune

What are the values favored by fashion enterprises? From what aspects should we keep making contributions to the society? We proposed the idea of “One Earth, One Concern”. Throughout our manufacturing process, from raw materials to printing and dyeing, we always follow the Oriental concept of low carbon emission, environmental protection, sustainable development and the best use of materials in running an enterprise. From then on, I have been focusing on biodiversity and sustainable development.

In terms of culture diversity, I would like to mention another brand, Fangsuo Commune. As the world’s most beautiful bookstore, Fangsuo Commune provides diverse cultural space. We are preparing new projects, hoping that we can create a new cultural complex integrating virtual and physical spaces, digital technology, culture and art. We are launching it in a cultural center in the Beijing CBD.

**Qi Yilong,**

Chairman of Guangdong (China) Imported Food Association (IFA); President of Guangzhou Food2China Network Technology Co., Ltd.

The Guangdong provincial government has launched a key project to build a trading center for imported food in the province. In food trade, China focuses on B2B trading centers, but it doesn’t have a specialized trading center for imported food yet. Why should we build this trading center? First, China imports food mainly through Shanghai and Guangdong, which together account for 80% of the country's imports. Second, at present, some domestic import channels are too complicated. There are online channels, exhibitions, and markets, but no B2B and B2C trading centers. Third, for now, the mainstream market in China adheres to the traditional and old-fashioned B2B model, which is not suitable for the development of the Chinese market.

Our trading center is aimed at pooling overseas producers, traders, associations and Chinese importers and franchisers, as well as government services, to build a physical B2B2C trading center. We hope that the pandemic will be over soon, and friends and enterprises from overseas can visit the site, so that we can build a better trading center for imported food.

**Selin Lin,**

**Director - Guangzhou, Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board**

Tourism is one of the largest and healthiest industries in Los Angeles, which generates significant tax revenue for public services and is a key driver of economic growth, spurring investment in hotels, real estate and attractions. Tourism has created more than half a million jobs and contributed greatly to the overall improvement in the life of the locals.

In terms of tourism exchanges, Guangzhou, Los Angeles and Auckland are sister cities with each other. The year 2021 also marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Guangzhou-Los Angeles sister-city friendship. Under the framework of the tripartite economic alliance, friendly cooperation agreements were signed in 2016 and 2017. Meanwhile, tourism plays an important role in the connectivity of cities. I would like to quote a leader of the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board: We miss international guests very much. As the most cosmopolitan and inclusive city in the world, Los Angeles welcomes everyone. The city would not be a “city of angels” without the tourists.

(Based on shorthand records)



## Seminar on Learning from Urban Innovation 1

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021



### I. Guest Remarks

**Vice Chairwoman of the Guangzhou Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Co -President of UCLG ASPAC and Chair of Standing Committee of Women in Local Governments of UCLG ASPAC**

In 2012, Guangzhou, the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis) co-founded the Guangzhou Award to stimulate and promote global urban governance innovation. Each edition of the Guangzhou Award attracts more than 150 cities from more than 50 countries to participate in the competition. This event has accumulated more than 1,300 innovation initiatives from cities around the globe and has been highly recognized by the UN-Habitat and other international organizations. It has become an important platform for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda at the local level.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought great challenges to mankind, interfered with the realization of SDGs, and highlighted the importance and urgency of strengthening and improving global governance and cooperation. The realization of global urban sustainable development calls for the transformation of development model, the innovation of governance and the exchanges and mutual learning between cities. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has not faded away, the 5th Guangzhou Award still received



273 initiatives from 175 cities in 60 countries, including excellent initiatives to deal with the challenges of the pandemic and promote green recovery. It can be seen from these initiatives that the crises and challenges have not stopped us from moving forward, but instead have made global cities more determined to improve governance and effective response, to promote sustainable development, and to protect the environment.

## 2. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG

Guangzhou has become a hub of global innovation. If we refuse to learn from each other, we can't carry out global urban innovation. The favorable environment will help us learn from the experience of other cities for our own use and make adjustments to reflect the actual conditions. One of the characteristics of the Guangzhou Award is that it has built a community in which everyone has the opportunity to communicate with each other. And I think the process of selecting award-winning cities is actually a learning process. We can learn from these innovation initiatives. At the same time, we can think about innovation in the future based on these experience.

One of the keys to the development of this urban innovation award is to link urban innovation with the international agenda, such as the Sustainable Development Goals. The last Guangzhou Award also emphasized this connection. We also encourage this practice because we need to see the realization of the sustainable development at the local level.

## 3. Octavi de la Varga, Secretary General of Metropolis

Right now, urban innovation is more important than ever. The pandemic has confronted us with some inequalities that we are going through, and with the paradoxes and contradictions in urban development. We want to overcome them with urban innovation. Urban innovation is not only about technologies and smart cities; it is about solutions adapted to the territories and the citizens, and those solutions take into account the local knowledge, the knowledge of all stakeholders that mobilize everybody towards a better city. Urban innovation today has to help us provide citizens with high quality of life, face all the problems, and find solutions to the problems in our cities, metropolitan spaces and countries. Urban growth, most of the time, is related to the quality and challenges of life, like economical, social, and environmental resilience, or the digital disruption. That's why we need urban innovation. These seminars on urban innovation have provided us, within the framework of the

Guangzhou Award under the umbrella of this Congress, a great opportunity for all of us to work together in order to find these urban innovation solutions.

## II. Remarks at Signing Ceremony of MoU between Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation (GIUI) and Penn Institute for Urban Research

### 1. Sylvia Croese, South African Research Chair in Spatial Analysis and City Planning School of Architecture and Planning, University of the Witwatersrand; Member of the Guangzhou Award Technical Committee

The Urban Innovation Trends: A Global Report clearly indicates that the challenges of urban innovation go beyond traditional forms and methods. Therefore, we should take innovative measures to guarantee that nobody and no place is left behind. Of course, as the chairman of the Technical Committee of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Guangzhou Award, I would like to emphasize that Guangzhou Award is an exchange and sharing platform to strengthen our mutual learning and this is of great significance. I am looking forward to learning from the opinions of representatives from various countries and cities. I would like to extend my gratitude again to the Guangzhou Award for providing such an opportunity for us to get together.

### 2. Kuang Changping, Deputy Secretary General of Guangzhou People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

The Guangzhou Award has always aimed at promoting exchanges and mutual learning among cities and actively carried out urban innovation research. In August this year, it released its latest research works: The Urban Innovation Trends: A Global Report, 5<sup>th</sup> Guangzhou Award Report on Local Implementation of SDGs, and Urban Innovation Assessment Methodology: Interim Report. The Interim Report was jointly developed by the Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation (GIUI) and Penn Institute for Urban Research. It is a great pleasure to witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding between these two bodies, to establish partnership for further research cooperation to jointly promote urban sustainable development.

## III. Initiative Presentation

1. Capital Region, Denmark

Cycling Superhighways

Presenter: Diana Natascha Bern Skyum, Head of Communications

Initiative highlights:

Thirty municipalities in the Capital Region of Denmark have joined forces to create the cycle superhighways – a regional network of cycling infrastructure that allows long-distance commuters to commute by bicycle across municipal borders on cohesive and correlating routes. The initiative aims to decrease traffic congestion, improve people’s health, and save the region's cities and municipalities from the negative effects of large amounts of carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide. The construction of nine highways has been completed, with a total length of 174 kilometers.

Presentation highlights:

The presenter introduced the implementation of the project. “Organization is very important. We have established a steering group and a project team from the beginning. Each city or region has a member to ensure that they are consistent in the direction and progress of cooperation. Strategic and political organizational skills are also necessary. We need to identify collaboration priorities and cooperate with municipal groups. Here, we integrate the skills of urban planning, bicycle planning, urban innovation and project management,” said the presenter.

The audience posed a series of questions. “How do the public participate in the implementation?” “How can you attract more cities to join the project?” The response was, “Through public inquiries, public meetings and other means, the Capital Region of Denmark has a specific understanding of the public's demand for commuting with bicycles. At the same time, the Capital Region has strengthened regional coordination and cooperation, established inter-city cooperative relations, and won the support of grass-roots governments with harmonious and efficient results.”

2. Breda, Netherlands

Urban River Regeneration through Nature Inclusive Quays

Presenter: Veerle Hemerik, Project Manager

Initiative highlights:

The “Green Quays” aims to address current challenges, such as unsustainable urbanization, degradation of urban ecosystems, and lack of resilience to climate change. This initiative centers on

an innovative Nature Inclusive Quays (NIQ) technology. Newly-developed materials (a type of brick) and innovative technologies are adopted to replace traditional concrete walls along the banks with new walls extended below the parallel walkways and streets, allowing trees and bushes to grow, and local flora and fauna to prosper along the river. This technical solution is supported by external stakeholders and citizens through a participatory design process.

Presentation highlights:

Breda’s “Green Quays” is a sustainable project. “From a multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional perspective, we have closely worked with universities, governments and non-governmental organizations, and widely adopted the opinions and suggestions of stakeholders to maintain potentials of this project to expand and grow,” said Hemerik.

The host and online audience were very concerned about public participation in this project. Hemerik said that the key technology in the project comes from the research results of a local university. “When considering the protection of trees on the ancient city wall, we invited natural organizations to join our project and asked them about tree protection. We also mobilized many citizens to join,” said Hemerik.

3. Saint Louis, Senegal

Inter-municipal Approach for the Safeguard and Enhancement of the Mangroves by the Local Authorities

Presenter: Amath Dia, General Secretary of the Department of Saint-Louis

Initiative highlights:

The mangroves of Saint-Louis of Senegal (1000 ha.) are threatened with extinction due to climatic and human activities. In order to restore the mangroves, the Departmental Council of Saint Louis in Senegal developed an innovative approach to environmental governance, which integrated the restoration of mangrove ecosystems across three municipalities with strategies for addressing urgent urban climate challenges and enhancing local livelihood through the promotion of resilient and systematic economic activities based on the mangroves. This project aims to advance sustainable planning and management, the economy and sustainable and renewable use of energy.

Presentation highlights:

An inter-municipal approach is adopted in this mangrove conservation project to connect different institutions in cooperation. “For example, there are different cities in Saint Louis, and there are local



development institutions, public service institutions, non-governmental organization partners, private sectors, external partners, local universities as well as local communities,” said Dia.

On behalf of the online audience, the host asked: “How can you help residents who have lost their livelihood due to the mangrove conservation project solve their bread-and-butter issue?” According to Dia, the project will help these people find alternative jobs, provide production equipment (such as fishing boats) through some associations and non-governmental organizations, provide skill training for local residents, and offer job opportunities for women. At the same time, they will popularize the importance of protecting mangroves and let people know that everyone can finally benefit from the project.

#### IV. Expert Comments

**Nicholas You,**

Advisor to the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation; Executive Director of Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation

For the Capital Region of Denmark and Breda, Netherlands, the municipal governments play a very leading role. For Saint Louis, Senegal, although the project was initially dominated by non-governmental organizations, the municipal government also joined the project and took up a leading role gradually.

As you can see, all of these three initiatives involve sustainable innovation. In terms of leadership, they are led by local governments, and the private sectors cannot undertake these projects alone. Perhaps some private institutions can organize small-scale projects, but large-scale projects such as the Cycling Superhighways in Copenhagen, which involves different municipalities, cannot be led by the private sector.

I would like to congratulate these three cities. They have shown us the crucial role of municipalities in governance and innovation. The three projects highlight the importance of cross-sector cooperation. For example, Copenhagen has carried out vertical integration, expanding the project gradually from a relatively small scale to involving more and more stakeholders. This is what I learned from these urban initiatives today.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Seminar on Learning from Urban Innovation 2

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



### I. Initiative Presentation

#### 1. Vienna, Austria

#### Motivating Children and the Youth to Join City Decision-Making and Management

**Presenters:** Dolores Bakos, member of the city parliament of Vienna; Alexandra Beweis, member of the project team Werkstatt Junges Wien

#### Initiative highlights:

In Vienna, Austria, one fifth of the citizens are under 19 (data from 2018). How can we give them more say in city governance? The answer is the Werkstatt Junges Wien Project covering people aged 4 to 19. Children and the youth can give their opinions, formulate agendas and decide on priorities. “They even get to decide how to use a budget of one million euros in the next five years”, said the two presenters.

**Presentation highlights:**

“How will these young people influence the government?” “The youth and the children speak over 100 languages, and some of them are immigrants. How can we deal with this?” For project implementation in detail, Dolores Bakos explained with her own experience. “We collected ideas of children and young people on the internet and gave the ideas to a Youth Parliament consisting of 100 young people for offline discussion and even debate. Then we brought these ideas to the Vienna City Council for discussion, and listen to politicians’ opinions and advice.”

As far as she is concerned, languages are both challenges and opportunities. “Our working language is German, so we are planning to work with local education institutes in Vienna, and let children learn German when they participate in the project.” This can extend the influence of the project, which can help their parents better integrate into the city even though they didn’t speak German before.

**2. Berhampur, India**

**Fecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) Regulations**

**Presenter:** Siddeshwar Baliram Bondar, Municipal Commissioner of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC)

**Initiative highlights:**

Before 2017, Berhampur had no sufficient toilets and sewage systems, and it was universal for people to use open latrines, which was harmful to the environment. “So we have dealt with this problem with distributed sewage-less waste solution, and encourage women to take part in the operation and management of their communities and public toilets, and manure collection, transport, treatment and recycling. The solution is applied in a sustainable way dominated by communities,” said the presenter. Now, 90% of the population in Berhampur have their own toilets, seven mobile feces treatment trucks have been put into use, and the urban sewage treatment capacity has been raised to 40,000m3 per day. The project has also helped raise the social and economic status of women, especially those from poor communities of the city, and over 7,000 women have enjoyed the benefit.

**Presentation highlights:**

The host of the seminar and audiences are looking forward to seeing the future development of the

project. “Will a sewage disposal plant be built?” “Will the municipal service incorporate waste disposal?” The answer is, “We are living in an old and crowded city. Its roads are narrow, and infrastructure is not sound. We did consider improving sewage disposal. But we need to factor in the current needs of the city to come to a solution.”

The presenter stressed that the distributed solution led by communities could help the project realize sustainable development in the economy and environment. “We especially applied a model with low-level technologies, which can cut the complexity and cost of operation and maintenance at most, and we can better train urban women and tap their potentials. The training we provide can also integrate them into the value chain.”

**3. Bandung City Government, Indonesia**

**OMABA Cooking Center for Managing Malnourished and Stunting Children**

**Presenter:** Ahyani Raksanagara, Head of Health Department

**Initiative highlights:**

The project of OMABA Cooking Center in Bandung, Indonesia aims to solve the problems of childhood malnutrition and developmental disorder. In the pilot areas, the project has improved the nutritional conditions of children under five. The cases of malnutrition in local children have been cut down from 29 cases in 2013 to zero in 2019.

**Presentation highlights:**

During the project implementation, there is a supporting project, namely, mobile kitchen. It can train volunteers to demonstrate how to cook healthy food in their own communities, which can attract more families to learn from them. “The culinary system we have adopted can help us better recycle some wastes in the kitchen. For example, these wastes can be used as organic fertilizers. Also, we can pick up vegetables in the nearby gardens as ingredients. So it is a relatively complete process.”

Can the project get the long-term support of the government? How does it ensure food safety? What’s the relation between the government and the volunteers? What’s the difference between the project and other projects? In the Q&A session, Ahyani Raksanagara explained, “OMABA is an abbreviation. There is a primary health care system, in which, representatives of the health care system, especially



nutritionists, will come to the culinary center regularly to measure calories of the food, and finalize the menu. In the meantime, volunteers of the project will be trained on a regular basis.”

## II. Expert Comments

**Nicholas You,**

Advisor to the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation; Executive Director of Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation:

It’s a productive seminar. I would like to mention the standards of measuring innovation that we proposed at first: whether there are new policies, projects, strategies, cooperative modes, business models or technologies developed and applied. The three projects we are seeing today have corresponding and perfect demonstrations of the above standards of innovation.

Every speaker mentioned “empowering”. I think it’s a very important term, because when we carry out the project, only when more people take part, can we call the project empowering. For example, in Vienna, more children and young people get to take part in the project, and play their roles in administration and political affairs. Berhampur of India also allows more stakeholders to join the project to empower more groups, especially women. In Bandung, there are a number of volunteers in the OMABA project. We can reach the goals of the projects only by engaging more stakeholders. To conclude, these projects are closely related to sustainable development.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Seminar on Learning from Urban Innovation 3

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



## I Initiative Presentation

### 1. São José dos Pinhais, Brazil

#### Digital Platform and Social Participation Campaign to Improve Public Health Response

**Presenter:** Haroldo Greca Jr., Veterinarian of São José dos Pinhais Zoonoses Surveillance Unit

#### Initiative highlights:

In 2017, the worst yellow fever epidemic in 80 years broke out in Brazil. This disease started as a zoonosis, but as human activities changed the environment and urbanization reduced forest areas, people became more vulnerable to the disease. Therefore, the government since then needs to identify the priority areas for disease control. The local government monitors the this anthroozoonosis in real time with the SISS-Geo platform to enhance people’s awareness of public health issues, and promote public health at a local level. The platform can monitor the yellow fever and various infectious diseases such as COVID-19 in real-time.

**Presentation highlights:**

“How can we make sure that residents in remote areas can be covered by the system?” “How can we consider residents’ habits in different areas when promoting the SISS-Geo platform?” Greca Jr. answered, “For people living in rural areas or the suburbs, generally we publicize the software in farmlands, granaries or other agricultural sites. On the other hand, urban residents are more willing to adopt new technologies and software. And we will make more efforts to promote and popularize the platform in the future.” He also remarked that the SISS-Geo platform needs to find more visibility through wider promotion campaigns in the coming days, so that more people will use it.

**2. Quito, Ecuador**

**Ecological Efficiency Tools for Metropolitan Areas**

**Presenter:** Vladimir Tapia, Secretary of Territory, Habitat and Housing of the Metropolitan District of Quito

**Initiative highlights:**

Due to the special topography, Quito has a scattered, decentralized and under-planned urban layout with low population density shaped by the vertical expansion of the city around the plateau. “So we have been trying in the past six years to build more high-rise, densely-populated and sustainable buildings in the downtown area. We have also applied some incentives and urban strategic plans to attract more builders to build infrastructure and properties. We will also provide residents with affordable housing,” said Vladimir Tapia introduced. In addition, there is a supporting evaluation index system for the project, and it can access the sustainable buildings in the dimensions of water usage, energy consumption, green infrastructure and recycling economy.

**Presentation highlights:**

The host of the seminar asked about the incentive measures: “What are the incentive measures in detail?” “Will the direct stakeholders get involved in the project?” Vladimir Tapia answered that the local city has relevant policies to support projects beneficial for urban sustainable development. “If it’s a green building project, we will provide fiscal subsidies. And the township government will invest according to the value of the building.” For affordable housing, the government will offer the developers flexible subsidies and discounts.

**3. City of Cape Town, South Africa**

**Western Cape Industrial Symbiosis Program (WISP) delivered by GreenCape**

**Presenter:** Oliver Bonstein, Senior Circular Economy Analyst at GreenCape

**Initiative highlights:**

WISP, a facilitating service launched by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism of Western Cape in 2013, focuses on energy recycling and circular economy. The plan draws a large number of enterprises through building mutually beneficial channels. In the meantime, the plan recycles wastes in dumping area, and boosts economy with value-added engagement of industries to reduce carbon emissions and create more jobs.

**Presentation highlights:**

“In the industrial park project, are there any supporting incentives to draw different enterprises in?” The host asked about the overall design and sustainability of the project. Bonstein answered that the focus of the plan is on a regional recycling economy that utilizes materials not in full use or wasted in dumping areas. Different enterprises are involved in lots of business, which is one of the attractions of WISP. “For some newcomers, the government provides reductions in cost and tax, and those enterprises can find raw materials they can use from waste recycling, which can cut their cost in itself.” “What role does the government play in implementing the whole plan?” Bonstein replied that the government has played an important role of liaison in the plan, as well as strategy and policy formulation. For example, the government developed the national wastes management strategies, which further enhance the cross-border cooperative capacity of the plan.

**4. Los Angeles, U.S.**

**Open Source Tools for Action on the SDGs**

**Presenter:** Angela Kim, SDG Program and Data Manager of Los Angeles

**Initiative highlights:**

In the past four years, Los Angeles has been a model for localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). But how can this model be applied in different cities to help them realize the SDGs? Los Angeles has developed a set of open-source tools for the SDGs based on its conditions, which consist of two parts: the SDG Data Reporting Platform (Open SDG) and the SDG Activities Index. Although the platform was developed for national statistics at first, Los Angeles is the first to use the



platform for local reporting. The SDG Activity Index is a crowd-sourced encyclopedia of organizations advancing the SDGs in L.A. It allows residents to search and download, build shared capacity, and learn about the SDGs.

**Presentation highlights:**

“Did the municipal government get involved in the tool development?” “If there are odd data, will the government launch emergency program?” For these questions, Angela Kim answered, “What we do is professional statistics. Relevant departments get our reports at the end of each year, but now what they have are statistics of last year. For example, the government has special concerns about the employment, but employment relies on long-term planning, not an emergency plan.” Regarding government involvement, she said that many cities will cooperate with Los Angeles in the project to make the data more relevant. Sometimes in the initial stage of the project, governments will take part in.

## II. Expert Comments

**Nicholas You,**

Advisor to the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation; Executive Director of the Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation

I would like to make a conclusion for the seminar. First, each initiative involves communication tools. These tools are important for capacity building, data gathering, circular industry development, and so on. I think we should remember that it is very important for us to choose the right tools and channels for communication.

People have to know the communication tools they use — their values, and how to use them. It's not simple, but it is crucial for better governance and innovation. I believe that we can see more projects like WISP, where wastes are truly used as resources. The implementation of the project of São José dos Pinhais illustrates how important it is for people to communicate. In addition, leadership also matters. Top-down innovation needs strong and revolutionary leadership, without which there will be no innovation.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Seminar on Learning from Urban Innovation 4

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021



### I. Initiative Presentation:

#### 1. Chongqing, China

##### Safe and Efficient Disposal of Urban Medical Wastes

**Presenter:** Hu Gang, Deputy Director of the Solid Waste and Chemicals Department, Chongqing Ecology and Environment Bureau

**Initiative highlights:**

COVID-19 has posed severe challenges for urban medical wastes disposal. What should we do to ensure effective supervision of medical wastes and prevent the spread of virus? The Chongqing Municipal Ecological Environmental Bureau used an innovative “3-Level Emergency Mechanism” to achieve coordination among several departments and systems with clear responsibilities, building an efficient management structure. By the end of 2020, a total of about 25,000 tons of medical wastes had been disposed of, realizing 100% safe disposal of medical wastes.

**Presentation highlights:**

The host asked the following questions on site: “Can Chongqing's model be popularized?” “What can

we learn from Chongqing's experience in disposing urban wastes?" In response, Hu Gang said that Chongqing's experience lies in mobilizing participants in various sections, such as government departments, medical institutions and disposal enterprises to treat the medical wastes immediately. "The disposal of medical wastes between cities is basically the same under normal circumstances. However, in case of health emergencies, some cities may lack experience in responding to emergency, and our experience can be popularized to different cities."

2. Odisha, India

Empowering Communities in the Employment of Poor Urban Population

Presenter: G. Mathi Vathanan, Principal Secretary to Government of Odisha

Initiative highlights:

COVID-19 induced national lockdown in India, leading to the sudden unemployment crisis for a large number of poor urban residents. In response, the provincial government launched the Urban Wage Employment Initiative (UWEI). The initiative aims to provide employment opportunities for the urban poor as quickly as possible by carrying out labor-intensive municipal projects, and ensure the livelihood of the poor, especially the vulnerable groups, such as migrant workers, women, and the disabled.

Presentation highlights:

"The project is implemented through community organization in a participatory and bottom-up approach. Community organizations, women's groups and residents' associations in the slums are selected as partners to quickly track the implementation of the project," said Vathanan. Some plans of the current project require cooperation with grass-root organizations to involve them in management, empower the communities and enable the communities to assume part of the functions of the government. In response to the question raised by the host, "What changes will be made to the UWEI after the pandemic?" Vathanan said that providing employment opportunities for the urban poor is a long-term necessity rather than a short-term demand for people from all walks of life to find jobs.

3. Union of Dannieh Municipalities, Lebanon

Engaging the Citizens to Fight COVID-19

Presenter: Sandra Aoun, Executive Assistant at the Union of Dannieh Municipalities

Initiative highlights:

Under the influence of multiple factors such as the economic crisis, international situation and COVID-19, Dannieh is plagued by high poverty, low employment and other social problems. In order to fundamentally address the current social challenges, the Union of Dannieh Municipalities has put forward an emergency plan to engage citizens in the fight against COVID-19. Social organizations, volunteers and citizens are fully engaged in the plan, and the youth are encouraged to participate in governance.

Presentation highlights:

"The participation of social organizations, volunteers and citizens has relieved the shortage of manpower. Although there have been challenges at every stage of the implementation of the project, the unity in Dannieh enables us to resist any possible crisis in the future," said Sandra Aoun. The on-site host and online audience were very concerned about the participation of young people in Dannieh. They asked several questions, such as: "How are the young leaders selected for the collaboration?" "Is there a corresponding assessment system and indicators to screen the participating youth?" Sandra Aoun replied sincerely that there was no overly specific standard at the initial stage of the project. "We went deep into the local communities to understand the specific situation, and looked for young people who are willing to participate in some small volunteer projects." said Sandra Aoun.

4. Municipality of Antananarivo, Madagascar

Vegetable Gardens in Schools to Reduce Malnutrition among Students

Presenter: Nome Randriamantanena, Director of Economic Development

Initiative highlights:

Antananarivo is a city with a very high population density and its population growth rate is 2.6%. However, about half of the children are malnourished. Therefore, the Antananarivo municipal government implemented three innovative initiatives, namely, "Mamboly Aho ('I Farm')", revising the city's food priorities, and Better Food for Kids, to enhance the resilience of the urban food system.

Presentation highlights:

"We launched the school canteen program and vegetable garden project to provide children with better food, encourage children to receive school education, and improve children's living standards."



said Randriamantanena. The project combines waste management in urban agriculture and food production, focusing on providing food for vulnerable urban areas.

At the same time, Randriamantanena said frankly that the initiative has indeed encountered some challenges in terms of cohesion and sustainability, such as difficulties in waste management, lack of green space to deal with air pollution, and insufficient public awareness of urban agriculture. When asked about the main experience of the project, he said that the key to the success of the project mainly lies in strengthening cooperation among stakeholders.

II. Expert Comments

Nicholas You,

Advisor to the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation; Executive Director of Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation

One of the common features of the initiatives today is that the improvement of resilience shall be based on partnership. Whether it is the public sector or the private sector, the government or the company, partnership is crucial. In this seminar, Chongqing demonstrated an excellent example of cooperation between the government and the private sector. An emergency waste treatment facility was built in 14 days at an extremely fast speed. This initiative is a prime example of public-private partnership (PPP), and reflects the leadership of Chongqing and the cooperation of different government departments.

The third initiative involves universal participation, especially by women. The overall transparency of the project is indeed very critical and fundamental in the project. What's more, monitoring is important as it can help us better understand the crisis and take various measures accordingly. In addition, data sharing is very important. If data sharing cannot be realized, there will be no cooperation among stakeholders.

(Based on shorthand records)

Opening Session of the 13<sup>th</sup> Metropolis World Congress

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Octavi de la Varga,  
Secretary General of Metropolis

This is the most special congress that we have organized since Metropolis was founded 36 years ago. It is special because of a series of reasons:

- For the first time in our history of congresses, this is a hybrid one.
- This congress is the continuity of the on-line General Assembly that took place last November when a new Board of Directors was elected and a new President was appointed (Mayor Wen, the Mayor of Guangzhou).
- This congress is the result of the reflection we started in May 2020 when we launched the “call to rethink metropolitan spaces”. This call aimed to

mobilize our membership and stakeholders in order to think together the challenges and solutions for improving the quality of life of our metropolises after the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have realized that we were missing an essential voice, a voice that most of the time is not considered but that in fact represents the future. That is, the voice of the children living in our metropolises. That’s the reason we decided to launch a contest: “Metropolis through Children’s Eyes”, where more than 1,200 children from 33 cities around the world submitted their pictures and shared their imaginary cities with us.

## Marina Canals, Secretary General of International Association of Educating Cities

When it comes to listening to the voice of children and adolescents, their opinions are not always taken into account, even sometimes in the very policies directed at people under 18 years of age. Listening to the voice of children and young people is a necessary exercise because it is a Right included in Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We know that the first years of people's lives are decisive for the formation of their personalities and their habits. Thus, a person who during these early stages has had experience of participation, or teamwork, or has been receiving messages that his opinion or involvement is important, will probably as an adult respond better to invitations to citizen participation from a critical, constructive and co-responsible perspective.

The International Association of Educating Cities believes that citizens, in general, and children and young people in particular, are great connoisseurs of their environment, and that local and metropolitan governments should take advantage of, and value their curiosity, capacity for innovation and creativity to solve problems and present and future challenges. Listening to their ideas and projects, and knowing their needs is as important as incorporating their perspectives into the various aspects of city life. Proof of this is evident in the fabulous drawings made by the boys and girls of their cities who have participated in the “Metropolis through Children’s Eyes” drawing contest organized by Metropolis.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Metropolis Policy Debate

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



## Felipe Toledo, Representative of São Paulo, Brazil

São Paulo is committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goals and has launched four plans to deal with climate change. First, it plans to build more nature-based drainage systems. Second, it plans to promote afforestation and create a “rain garden”. Third, it plans to implement the project of “sustainable street market”. The last and most important plan is to build a “Green São Paulo” whose novelty lies in that it brings together all relevant parties in the field of sustainable technologies and provides a platform for communication and interaction. Therefore, relevant personnel can make concerted efforts to jointly develop sustainable technologies and incubate relevant start-ups.

São Paulo is also committed to ensuring food supply, upgrading the logistics industry, carrying out efficient industrial production, improving urban sanitation and disposal of waste, as well as boosting the quality of urban water resources and atmosphere.



**Mariana Flores,**

Advisor, General Coordination of International Affairs, Mexico City

Mexico is a bridge connecting North and South America. However, Mexico City, its capital, is encountering the challenge of inequality, which is exacerbated by the pandemic. Therefore, we must address this challenge with greater efforts, resources and determination through public policies. To this end, efforts have been made to promote equality in different regions of the city. At the same time, we should also bridge the “digital divide” and improve the mode of work and education. In terms of the implementation of public policies, a lot of work must be done to achieve equality. We also need to maintain better public security and eliminate urban violence. We should address the root causes of violence, such as poverty.

Mexico City believes that the exchanges of experience are very important, and only by working together can we tide over the current crises and difficulties.

**Dili Ram Banstola,**

Chief of the International Relations Secretariat, Kathmandu Metropolitan City Office

In order to deal with the pandemic, the governments and the private sectors need to strengthen cooperation and better coordinate their activities. At the same time, we should also pay attention to the role of social media to promote coordination and cooperation between different sectors of the society. In order to provide technical assistance to groups in need, special guidance manuals can be distributed.

In terms of urban planning and crisis response, Kathmandu has learned a lesson of insufficient emergency shelter from the Nepal earthquake in 2015. Therefore, it has continuously expanded open space in the city, built more sufficient disaster shelters, and paid attention to coordinating disaster response of local, provincial and central governments, so as to enhance urban resilience. In addition, in response to the psychological needs of citizens after the disaster, Kathmandu has opened a special hotline for citizens in need of psychological counseling.

**Véronique Lamontagne,**

Director of the International Relations office of Montréal, Canada

In response to the pandemic, Montréal has established two special working groups and a committee to promote planning and green projects to better respond to climate change. According to the plan, Montréal will strive to improve urban transport, increase public transport, create a 15-minute life circle, and protect biodiversity.

In response to social inequality, Montréal has launched the “social inclusion standard system” to evaluate the degree of social inequality through corresponding indicators and take corresponding measures. The city also works to ensure that relevant actions such as housing and sustainable development resources are in place through the efforts of designated staff. At the same time, we are making efforts to strengthen the coordination between governments at all levels, implement pragmatic policies, and formulate strategic plans and measures according to the specific situations of the city.

**Lalla Amina Sbail,**

Vice President of the Communal Council of Rabat

Rabat has launched a number of key projects and is committed to the comprehensive development of the city. As the cultural center of Morocco, Rabat pays due attention to the protection and inheritance of its cultural heritage for citizens to fully bathe in our rich Moroccan culture in the city. The City Council has also launched a project to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and strengthen mutual learning with other cities.

In terms of sustainable transportation, the municipal government has announced a series of specific measures and projects, such as ensuring that vehicles on the road meet the emission standards, banning vehicles that do not meet the standards, and monitoring urban air quality at the same time. Community medical projects are launched to deal with the insufficiency of medical resources in many communities and provide more medical services for residents. Inter-governmental cooperation projects have been launched to promote employment. Citizens are encouraged to participate in social affairs through digital technologies, which enable them to participate in municipal affairs more conveniently, and make municipal affairs more transparent and facilitating. Last but not least, green public space is built for citizens to enjoy.

(Based on shorthand records)

Asian Metropolitan Report

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021



**Bharat Dahiya,**  
Co-author of Asian Metropolitan Report; Professor, Thammasat University

The report consists of six parts. The first part is the general overview, the second part is the report overview, the third part is the context of urbanization in Asia, and the fourth part analyzes the 38 indicators for evaluating Asian metropolises. These indicators can be classified into five categories: Context and Governance, Economic Development,

Social Cohesion, Environmental Sustainability, and Quality of Life. This part is supported by relevant cases and data. The last two parts are the conclusion and the appendix.

The governance methods of Asian metropolises basically include autonomous urban authorities, mixed system of regional governance and unified metropolitan governments.

There are 312 metropolises in Asia. The expansion of Asian cities in scale is the fastest in the world, and the number of urban population is also soaring. Policymakers and urban planners need to address growing urban challenges, including scarcity of land, limited public investment and rising housing construction costs.



**Mamta Dahiya,**  
Co-author of Asian Metropolitan Report; Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering & Technology, SGT University, India

The air quality of 28 Asian metropolises is still barely satisfactory. In order to improve environmental sustainability, the metropolitan governments need to take a series of measures, such as setting policy norms, reducing carbon dioxide emission, and regulating urban

infrastructure and services, including services for green space, solid waste and wastewater treatment, and renewable energy.

**Do Young Oh,**  
Co-author of Asian Metropolitan Report; Research Assistant Professor, School of Graduate Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, China; Expert in Charge of Sourcing the Metropolitan Indicators

My work mainly involves data as a foundation of indicator analysis. We hope to better optimize the quality of data. As the urban population is growing rapidly, it is especially necessary to collect data from different metropolitan areas. It also brings greater challenges indeed. The difficulties we encounter include the unification and harmonization of data across urban areas and formulation of a standard for evaluating indicators.

We have redefined the concept of metropolitan area with reference to international research and general standards and in consideration of the features of the boundary of metropolitan areas and their surroundings. After that, some indicators have been selected for us to consider the availability of the data and the existing databases, such as the database of UN-Habitat. I would also like to take this opportunity to call on everyone to better share the data in their own cities.



**Zhan Meixu,**  
Deputy Chief Engineer of Planning and Research Center of Guangzhou Urban Planning and Design Survey Research Institute (GZPI)

Today, I would like to share something about Guangzhou, a city of flowers and a vibrant international metropolis.

Urban physical examination is an innovative exploration of urban governance in China. It evaluates and dynamically monitors cities from eight aspects: ecological livability, health and comfort, convenient transportation, industry and trade characteristics, environmental management, safety and resilience, diversity and inclusiveness, and innovation quality. From 2019 to 2021, Guangzhou has carried out urban physical examination for three consecutive years, which helps with improving urban environment and governance.



Specifically, first of all, we need coordination between the upper and lower levels and departments in the administration. In addition, we need to encourage wide participation of the public to ensure that a city for the people is built by the people. Environmentally, we should strengthen the coordinated protection of mountains, water systems, farmlands and wetlands and joint control of regional water and air pollution to maintain the ecological barriers and preserve rivers in Guangzhou.

Adhering to global sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations, Guangzhou submitted Sustainable Development Goals Guangzhou Voluntary Local Review (VLR) to the UN in March this year. The report benchmarked against the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to establish the relations between Guangzhou's development strategy and the 17 SDGs, and shared the Guangzhou experience of green development with the world.

(Based on shorthand records)

## Metropolis Pilot Project Learning Webinar

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021



**Tony Van Nuffelen,**  
Head of International Relations, Urban Planning  
Administration, Brussels-Capital Region

Brussels, the capital of Belgium, is committed to urban planning, urban transformation and cultural heritage protection. It has identified five thematic areas, including coordinated urban development, improvement of its legal framework, good governance, and achieving the above objectives in a variety of ways. We organized an expert group to visit the site and carry out exchanges and cooperation in the five key areas above.

At the end of the 20th century, due to deindustrialization and large-scale infrastructure construction, some areas of Brussels fell into poverty and suffered population loss. Our project deploys productional activities along the Brussels Canal, and we are transforming the old city around the town hall near the canal, aiming to build a sustainable community which supports the industrial and residential areas. Well-known experts in spatial planning have been engaged to carry out greening and upgrading of the community. We are still exploring ways to improve energy efficiency to achieve zero carbon emission and minimum energy consumption. We hope to better realize biodiversity, ensure that the city has high-quality living space, and create diversified employment opportunities.



**Julien Lahaie,**  
Syndicat mixte des Rives du Rhône, Métropole de Grand  
Lyon

We have carried out two innovative projects in the southern community of Lyon and established a diversified team composed of landscape designers, urban planners and architects to transform this industrial corridor.

We need to think about how we can ensure the safety and health of residents while continuing to grow our industries. There are potential safety hazards in the chemical industry, which have caused many accidents and land pollution. Therefore, we have deployed large-scale urban planning projects and carried out a series of innovative practices, such as establishing new power plants, using renewable energy, and adopting protective devices to reduce the risks. We combine landscape building with economic development as landscape itself can also bring about economic values and employment opportunities. In the whole project, industry-related landscape not only supplements the scenery, but also generates economic benefits.

We have carried out three economic actions at the same time, including creating fertile land to build urban green space, developing biomass energy, and purifying the environment to eliminate pollution. Under the European legal framework, there is a high-quality land covering 400 hectares to be developed in the region, and we hope to build it into a public area.

**Victor Said,**  
Representative of Institut Paris Région, France

We reconstructed a wharf in the north of Paris, and took full account of the environmental and administrative needs in this process. As the whole project could not be carried out by the municipal government on its own because of the economic affordability, it required the cooperation of industrial groups. In the process, these industrial groups and the municipal government worked together to lay out some basic frameworks. We can realize certain economic values in this area and ensure environmental protection and sustainability with appropriate landscape design.

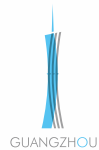
As a comprehensive project, the regional transformation involves many residential and office areas. We are committed to transforming 100% of the former industrial areas into areas with different functions and various facilities and services. We also hope to achieve energy balance, take into account the needs of different generations, and pay attention to environmental livability through space greening, rainwater collection, waste recycling and treatment, power conversion, use of renewable energy and other measures.

**Benjamin Cadranel,**  
Managing Director of City Development Department, Brussels-Capital Region

In the case of "Tivoli/Green Business Project", our community plan includes not only daily living facilities, such as supermarkets, but also a circus. In fact, urban planning should consider long-term development as much as possible. The duration of the urban planning projects is related to many factors, including the public/private nature of urban land. We should also carry out more publicity and education campaigns to enable citizens to actively participate and better understand the concepts of urban planning and renewal.

(Based on shorthand records)

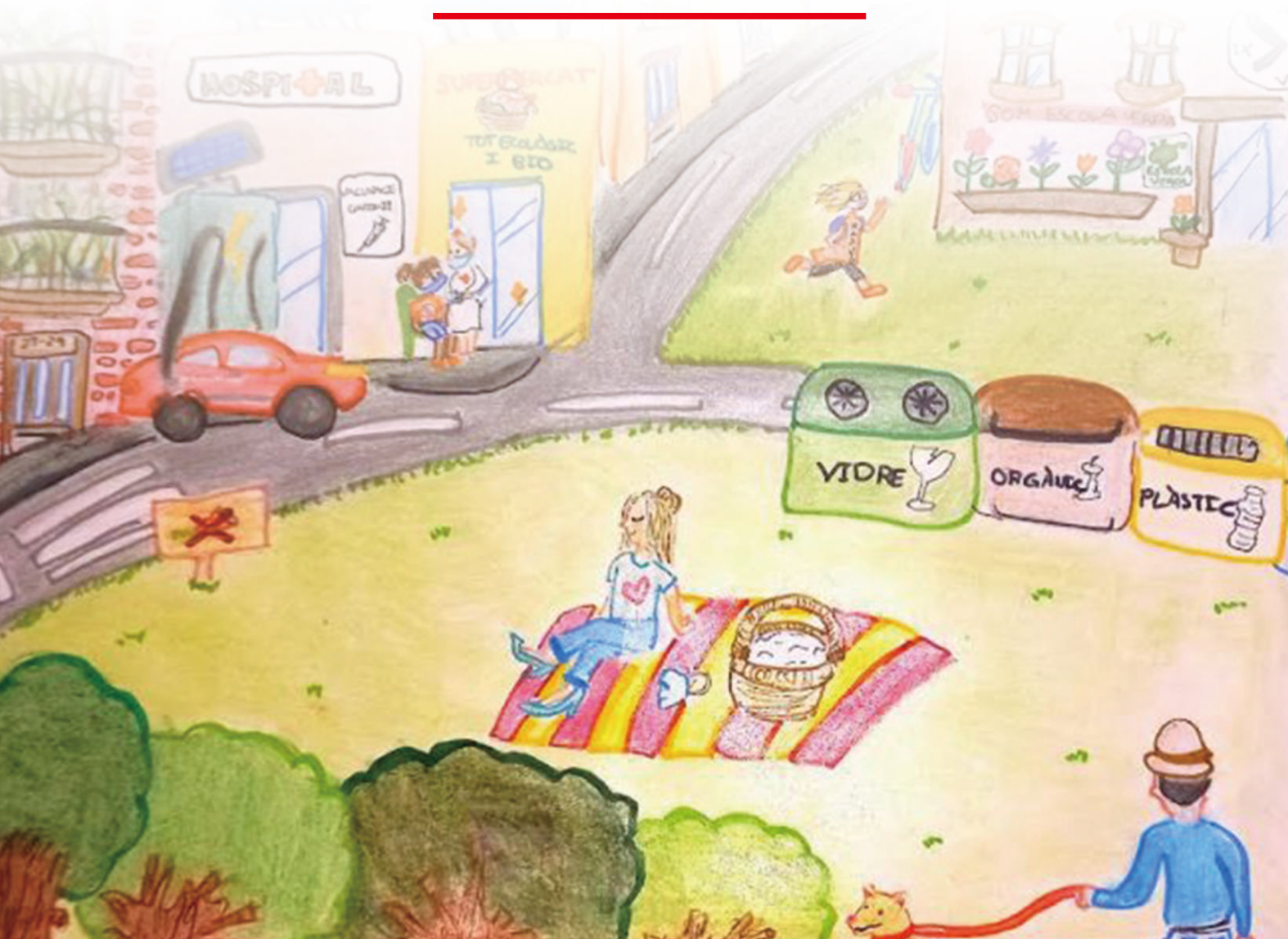




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# Program



Finalist of Metropolis through Children's Eyes drawing contest: Castelldefels, a sustainable city  
Artist: Huda Shaat Alagha (aged 13, Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, Spain)

## November 8<sup>th</sup>, Monday

- 20:00-20:30 Opening Session of the 13th Metropolis World Congress
- 20:30-22:00 Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting (Closed-door)
- 20:30-22:30 Seminar on Learning from Urban Innovation 1

## November 9<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday

- 18:30-20:00 Seminar on Learning from Urban Innovation 2
- 20:00-21:00 Metropolis Joint Session with UCLG on Territorial and Urban Systems
- 21:00-22:30 Metropolis Policy Debate: Novel Solutions That Can Transform Metropolitan Spaces in the Long Term
- 22:30-24:00 Seminar on Learning from Urban Innovation 3

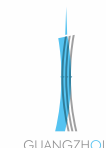
## November 10<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday

- 14:00-17:00 Side Event 1: Annual Conference of Alliance of Guangzhou International Sister-City Universities (GISU)
- 18:30-20:00 Asian Metropolitan Report (Asia in the Metropolitan Era: Trends and Projections)
- 20:00-21:30 Seminar on Learning from Urban Innovation 4
- 21:30-23:00 Guangzhou Award Jury Meeting (Closed-door)
- 21:30-23:00 Metropolis Pilot Project Learning Webinar

## November 11<sup>th</sup>, Thursday

- Daytime On-site Guests Arrival in Guangzhou
- 18:00-19:30 Launch of Urban Innovation Exhibition
- 20:00-22:00 Plenary Session of Global Mayors' Forum
- 20:00-21:30 Guangzhou Award Jury Meeting (Closed-door)





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## November 12<sup>th</sup>, Friday

- 09:30-11:30 Sub-Forum 1: Modernizing Urban Governance with New Technologies and New Infrastructure
- 09:00-12:00 Sub-Forum 2: Urban Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity Conservation
- 09:30-11:30 Sub-Forum 3: Healthy Cities: Opportunities and Challenges
- 09:00-11:00 Side Event 2: Guangzhou - Los Angeles - Auckland Tripartite Economic Alliance Seminar
- 15:30-17:30 Sub-Forum 4: Building Diverse, Inclusive and Resilient Urban Governance System
- 15:30-17:30 Sub-Forum 5: Metropolis' Role in Fighting Poverty and Supporting Less Developed Regions
- 15:30-17:30 Sub-Forum 6: Sustainable Development Goals and Urban Governance
- 20:00-21:30 Guangzhou Award Ceremony & Closing Ceremony

\* NOTE: The program uses Beijing Time (GMT+8).



Finalist of Metropolis through Children's Eyes drawing contest:  
Wu Zicheng (aged 13, Guangzhou, China)