

## **Organisation of sessions:**

In each session, time will be allocated as follows. The **Chair** will:

- Introduce the session (no more than **5 minutes**).
- Invite the **Expert** to make a keynote presentation (**12 minutes**)
- Invite each speaker to make initial remarks (**no more than 8 minutes**). It is absolutely essential that speakers finish their presentations within the given time limit. For this reason, there will be **no power point presentations**. It is absolutely essential that panellists respect the allotted time. The Chair is responsible for ensuring that this is respected so that all panellists have their fair share of speaking time.
- Invite questions and comments from the panellists in response to the initial presentations.
- Open the session to questions and comments from the audience.
- Make final remarks (no more than **5 minutes**), highlighting a couple of key points that emerged from the discussion. It is not necessary to summarise the whole session.
- Ensure good timekeeping -- all sessions will be stopped at the end of the allocated time, and it is necessary to allow sufficient time for discussion.

The **Chair** should endeavour to make the session as lively and interactive as possible, for example by:

- Putting one or two key questions to all the panelists for their initial presentation -- see "Issues for Discussion" below.
- Commenting on the content of the presentations and asking follow-up questions;
- Asking questioners from the floor to introduce themselves and to limit themselves to short comments or questions (no long speeches) and focussing the audience discussion.

### **Session I-B: Climate Change and adaptation in the water sector**

**9 October, 11:15 – 12:45**

The CVs and photos of the speakers can be found on the Conference website, at [www.oecd.org/gov/urbandevlopment/milanconference](http://www.oecd.org/gov/urbandevlopment/milanconference) under the heading "Speakers".

## **Issues for discussion:**

Of the many potential impacts of climate change, effects on water resources is a centrally critical area for people's lives and for the economic stability and competitiveness of cities. Water resource issues interact with a wide range of socio-economic and environmental sectors, including health, agriculture, energy, biodiversity, industry and navigation. Indeed, there are few activities that do not in some way depend on water resources. This sector is also a particular concern because many cities around the world are already facing significant water stresses, due to competing demands (of urban/industrial, agricultural, recreational and ecological protection purposes), pollution of surface water sources, and over-exploitation of groundwater sources. Climate change is likely to greatly exacerbate this situation, as shrinking glaciers and snowpacks (a primary source of freshwater for many areas) shrink, as rising sea levels lead to salt-water intrusion that contaminates groundwater aquifers, and as more extreme cycles of precipitation and drought make it more difficult for water managers to make planning and investment decisions.

## Key questions

- What types of ‘adaptive management’ practices can urban water resource managers use to effectively cope with the uncertainties arising from changing and more extreme hydrological patterns?
- What are the most effective methods of encouraging water conservation among key players within an urban environment (households, business and industry, etc)?
- What types of improvements to urban water management infrastructure are most critical for reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts (e.g. for water conservation measures, preventing saltwater intrusion, managing stormwater overflow events)?
- What feedbacks between climate change and urban water resource management may be possible (for instance, will warmer temperatures increase water demand?)

In order to facilitate your intervention and the dialogue within the session, we propose that you send us three key questions related to the main theme of the session that the Chairman may ask you. We would be grateful if you could send these three questions to: **Suzanne-Nicola.Leprince@oecd.org**

Conference sessions are designed to be a lively and interactive discussion, and we do not provide facilities for speakers to use PowerPoint, slides or overhead projections. However, we can post the text of your remarks or a PowerPoint presentation on the conference website after the session. Please send me such documents at the same time as your questions, or as soon as possible next week. This will help the chairs, moderator and interpreters in preparing the session.

Please note that simultaneous interpretation will be provided in: English, French, Italian, or Spanish.

On the day of your session, we request that you arrive at least one hour before your session starts. On arrival, you will be met by the OECD Protocol Team and escorted to the “Speakers’ Lounge” where you will meet the other speakers for the final preparations for your session.