

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-A: “Climate-proof”urban infrastructure

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 under the heading “Speakers”.

Issues for discussion:

The infrastructure for essential services such as energy, water, waste management, transportation, and communication drives a city’s economic growth, supports social needs, and is closely linked to urban residents’ health, well-being, and quality of life. For cities to be liveable and sustainable they must have robust and adaptable infrastructures. Disabling, and even temporarily disrupting, these critical services can have major detrimental impacts on a city’s economy and competitiveness. Climate change impacts such as increased risk of severe storms and extreme heat pose serious threats to urban infrastructure. Coastal cities, in particular face threats to critical infrastructure from rising sea levels. Both the technology and management of modern urban infrastructure is built on assumptions that future climate will look very much like it has in the past; yet climate change threatens to significantly change these baseline conditions. So the goal of developing ‘climate-proof’ urban infrastructure is to adapt not only the relevant technologies, but also the institutions and management practices that have co-evolved with these technologies.

Key questions

- What measures can be taken to make urban infrastructure (e.g. buildings, utilities, roads and transit systems, and in the case of port cities, sea-barriers, dikes, and drainage systems) more resilient to changing climate patterns, more extreme weather events, and sea level rise?
- How can urban planning strategies reduce a city's vulnerability to climate change by directing new development away from areas at greatest risk, and by adopting land use practices that mitigate climate change impacts (e.g. urban forestry and greenspaces, use of more light-reflecting urban surfaces)?
- How can low-lying coastal cities best protect themselves from the risks of sea-level rise and flooding, through risk analyses and response strategies such as land use planning and infrastructure including sea-barriers, dikes, and drainage systems?
- How can adaptive water resource management strategies help cities to prepare for climate change impacts on water quality and quantity and to avoid subsidence and exacerbation of flood risk?
- What public health protection measures do cities need to institute, to protect urban populations against the health threats posed by climate change?

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 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.