

Organisation of sessions:

In each session, time will be allocated as follows. The **moderator** 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.
- 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 **moderator** 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.

Plenary I: Competitive Cities and Climate Change: A Global Challenge

9 October, 9:30 – 11:00

The CVs and photos of the speakers can be found on the Conference website, at www.oecd.org/gov/urbandevelopment/milanconference under the heading "Speakers".

Issues for discussion:

It is widely recognized that climate change is an urgent global challenge, and cities around the world must be at the front lines of meeting this challenge. As both human economic activity and population becomes increasingly concentrated in cities, urban areas are increasingly at the heart of climate change mitigation and adaptation policy. Our scientific capabilities for projecting future climatic changes and the resulting impacts is rapidly increasing. Likewise, many recent studies have helped elucidate the potentially enormous economic costs of not taking action to address climate change. There are still however, large uncertainties when it comes to 'downscaling' these projections and estimates to levels that are useful to city-level decision makers. Understanding and managing climate change risks at the urban scale requires developing a common vision among key stakeholders about likely future climate change scenarios and risks, and ensuring engagement of these stakeholders in reaching a common set of goals to manage risks. Delivering meaningful information at the local scale requires working scientific and technical experts, as well as drawing upon local knowledge and insights for exploring questions about how a city can develop in response to changing climate conditions. The challenge is not to predict the future, but to approach the future with the right tools and the right information.

Questions

- What experience do we have with assessing local-scale climate change impacts, and using this information for planning adaptation measures?
- What types of information are required and who needs to be involved in creating a vision of the “future city” and urban development in general?
- What type of science-policy interface is needed to assure that cities have access to timely, up-to-date scientific information about local-scale risks and impacts? What models for partnerships (across national and local, private and public entities) are most effective for funding and conducting the necessary assessment work?
- What role can governments play to sensitize and engage the private sector and the general public in local-scale adaptation efforts? What other local actors and knowledge resources need to be engaged?
- What is the most effective way for cities to identify highly vulnerable populations, and develop strategies to reduce their vulnerability?

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.

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.