



## SESSION DESCRIPTION

# P1 Resilient urban futures: Where we are and where we need to go

## OPENING PLENARY

**Date:** Thursday, 26 April, 2018

**Time:** 10:00-12:00

**Room:** S29-32

**Language:** English

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### OBJECTIVE

The concept of resilience has been mainstreamed into urban planning theory, practice, and policy over the past several years. What remains is to convert theory into reality by embedding resilience principles into the design and implementation of urban development plans across all sectors.

Often, the true value of resilience is found at the nexus of two or more sectors, for example, waste, energy, and buildings or health, environment, and transport. There is beauty in the complexity of urban systems and societies. However, navigating interdependencies to buoy adaptive capacity and reduce risky behaviors – without introducing new hazards or undermining existing capacities – is a persistent challenge. As we have evidenced in past years, it requires meaningful multi-collaboration, community buy-in, and systems thinking. It also requires foresight to anticipate necessary or projected changes to the urban form, technologies, and social contracts.

The opening plenary considered where we are in the international processes and the local realities.

And, it set the tone for congress discussions: What lies ahead for cities and human settlements seeking to pursue more resilient development pathways? How can advances in science and technology help local practitioners visualize risks and impacts to guide better planning? How can data be used to tell a story and influence positive behavior change? How can governments manage physical loss and damage without compromising social and cultural assets which underpin the true worth and identity of a community? How can solutions that reduce risk in the short term but introduce new or additional risk in the long-term be avoided? Which resilience challenges result from digitalization entering the local and regional governments practice?

### METHODOLOGY

- Welcome and congress opening. **(35 minutes)**
- Thematic messages with Q&A. **(80 minutes)**
- Introduction to the congress program. **(5 minutes)**



## CONTRIBUTORS

### Facilitator:

- *Monika Zimmermann, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Bonn, Germany*

### Welcome and opening remarks

- *Ashok Sridharan, Mayor, City of Bonn, Germany; First Vice President, ICLEI Global Executive Committee (2015 – 2018) / Co-Chair and ICLEI special messenger to UNFCCC and carbon Climate Registry; Co-Patron of Resilient Cities 2018*
- *Franz Marré, Head of Division „Water, Urban Development, Mobility“ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Bonn, Germany, on behalf of Norbert Barthle, Parliamentary State Secretary to BMZ*
- *Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability*

### International agenda on resilient cities

- **Implementing the Paris Agreement together with local & subnational governments**  
*Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, UN Climate Change, Bonn, Germany; Co-Patron of Resilient Cities 2018*
- **CitiesIPCC: How data can best inform political decision**  
*Don Iveson, Mayor, City of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (video intervention)*

### Resilient Cities in 2018: Opportunities and challenges

- **Louisiana, Isle de Jean Charles: The first community-scale, climate induced resettlement project in American history**  
*Dakota Fisher, Resilience Program Analyst, State of Louisiana's Office of Community Development, New Orleans, USA*
- **Prepared for the future: Quito's resilience strategy and how it relates to SDGs implementation**  
*David Jácome Polit, Chief Resilience Officer, Municipality of Quito, Ecuador*
- **Realizing a global transition to resilient development paths by 2030**  
*Peter Head, Founder and CEO, The Ecological Sequestration Trust, London, UK*
- **Can digital cities be resilient?**  
*Ina Schieferdecker, Director, Fraunhofer-Institut für Offene Kommunikationssysteme (FOKUS), Berlin, Germany; Member of the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU)*