



## SESSION DESCRIPTION

# F3 The new ISO standard for resilient cities indicators: Opportunities for city and expert input

## Roundtable Discussion

**Date:** Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2018

**Time:** 16:30-18:30

**Rooms:** S01-02

**Language:** English

**Contact:** Matthew Lynch

**E-mail/web:** [matthew.lynch@globalcities.ca](mailto:matthew.lynch@globalcities.ca)

**Organized by:** World Council on City Data (WCCD)/UNISDR

### OBJECTIVE

ISO 37120 *Sustainable Development of Communities: Indicators for City Services and Quality of Life*, is the first ISO standard for cities. ISO 37120 defines a comprehensive set of 100 indicators that enables any city, of any size, to measure and compare its social, economic, and environmental performance in relation to other cities from around the world. This standard is now being applied by rapidly-growing number of cities, with more than 60 cities having achieved WCCD ISO 37120 Certification, driving benchmarking, innovation, city-to-city learning and data-driven decision making globally.

In response to demand from cities and other stakeholders, the development has begun within ISO of a complementary standard on Indicators for Resilient Cities (ISO 37123). The availability of ISO standardized metrics for resilience will assist local governments to determine their exposure to and capacity to cope with potential hazards, extreme events or stresses while maintaining their essential functions and safeguarding their population. Local governments need reliable, comparable data to set targets and measure their performance, particularly when developing a comprehensive and effective response to the challenges of managing complex risks and enhancing resilience. Standardized metrics allow municipal leaders to measure and benchmark their performance and learn from comparable cities.

The ISO city indicators will also play an important role in driving and measuring local level action to ensure progress towards the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the WCCD are working together to drive awareness of cities of the development of ISO 37123 and encouraging their input in the development process. This 'roundtable' session was convened to build awareness of ISO 37123 and to encourage city and expert input to maximize the practicality and effectiveness of the new standard.

### OUTCOMES

This highly interactive session enabled participants to:

- Understand the development process for the new ISO 37123 Indicators for Resilient Cities Standard and the likely key elements of the Standard.
- Provide their comments and perspectives on the development of ISO 37123 to help maximize the practicality and effectiveness of the new standard in enhancing resilience at the city level.



## **METHODOLOGY (2 hours session)**

- Session introduction and overview by the facilitator.
- Introduction to the ISO City Indicator Standards - ISO 37120 and the new draft ISO 37123 Standard by the facilitator.
- The importance of ISO standardized indicators to support local implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- ICLEI perspectives on the development of the ISO 37123 Standard.
- Facilitated discussion with Roundtable Session participants.
- Session wrap up and next steps by the facilitator.

### **Guiding questions:**

1. What are the most important indicators and metrics used by your city to guide resilience planning and to measure progress towards resilience objectives?
2. Which resilience indicators can guide city-to-city learning and collaboration on resilience?
3. Which indicators should be prioritized for inclusion in the new ISO 37123 Standard? Which measures would benefit from global standardization (i.e. definitions and measurement methodology) to enhance comparability of data?
4. Do you see key indicator gaps?

## **CONTRIBUTORS**

Facilitator	<i>Matthew Lynch, Vice President, Global Partnerships &amp; Initiatives, World Council on City Data, Toronto, Canada</i>
Panelist	<i>David Stevens, Head of Office, UNISDR Bonn, Germany</i>
Panelist	<i>Holger Robrecht, Deputy Regional Director, ICLEI Europe, Freiburg, Germany</i>
Panelist	<i>Lykke Leonardsen, Head of Program, Resilient and Sustainable City Solutions, City of Copenhagen, Denmark</i>
Panelist	<i>Daniel Stander, Global Managing Director, Risk Management Solutions, London, UK</i>

---

### **Further recommended reading**

The ISO 37120 Standard <https://www.iso.org/standard/62436.html>

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction <https://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>

UNISDR Making Cities Resilient website <https://www.unisdr.org/we/campaign/cities>

World Council on City Data <http://www.dataforcities.org/>

---