

# BRIDGE FOR CITIES 2020

Driving the Decade of Action through Urban Innovation

5 October 2020  
Digital Edition

## Event Report



### Co-Organizers:



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



FINANCE CENTER FOR  
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION  
南南合作金融中心

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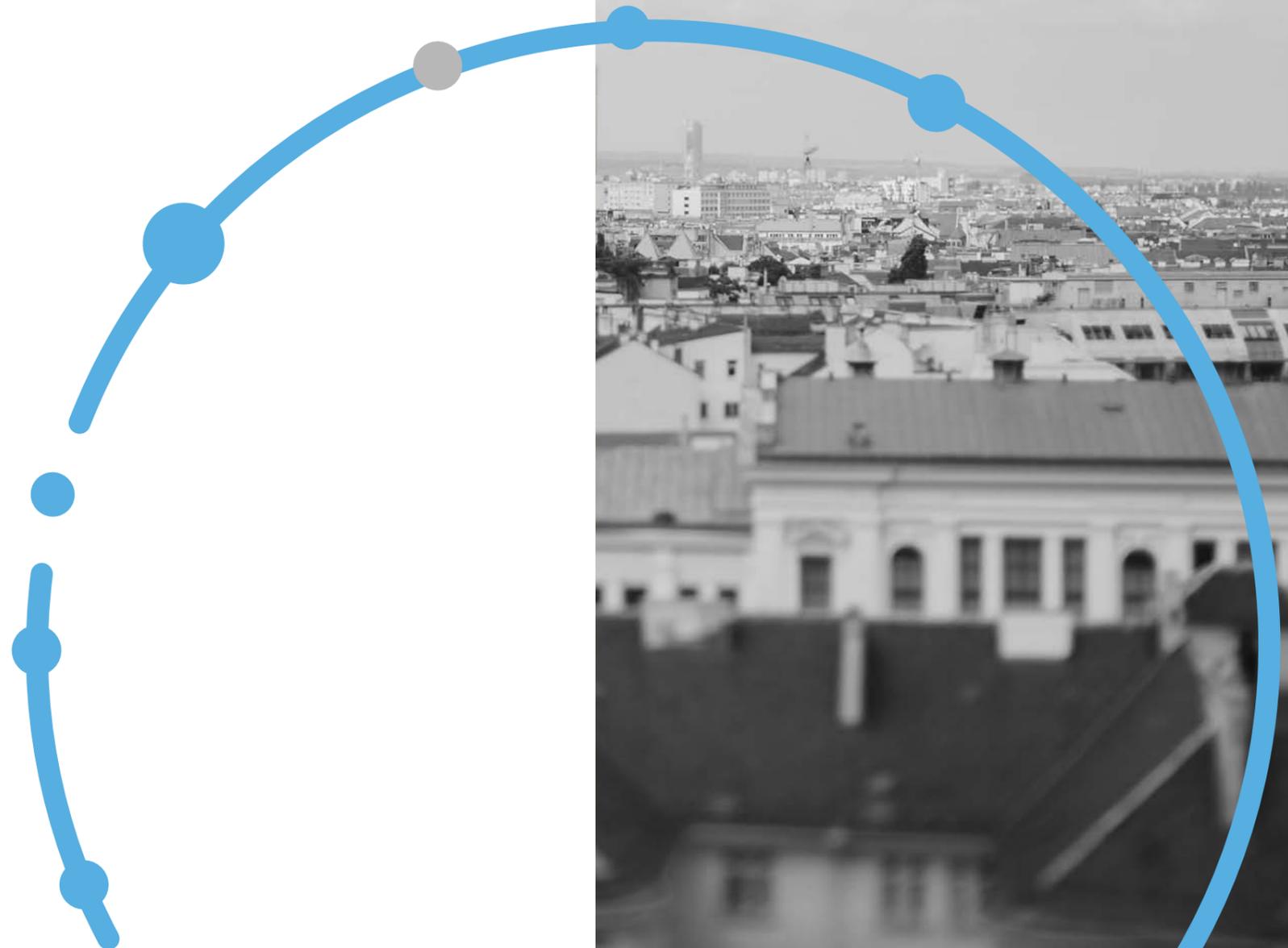
# Acknowledgements

This report summarizes the discussions held at UNIDO's "Bridge for Cities 2020" event, which took place virtually on 5 October 2020. The event explored the role of cities in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and how measures taken at the local level can be replicated to respond and recover from the pandemic and its economic negative spillovers.

The organization of the event was undertaken by UNIDO's Regional Division for Asia and the Pacific, under the supervision of the Managing Director of the Directorate of Programmes, Partnerships and Field Coordination. UNIDO's Technical Departments managed the organization and design of the two mayors Roundtable. The Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agri-Business was responsible for the session titled "Inclusive economic recovery: Driving business innovation and job creation for liveable cities", while the Directorate of Environment and Energy led the session titled "Green economic recovery: Re-thinking urban development models for sustainable cities".

The event would not have been possible without the strong support and involvement of UNIDO Staff, consultants and interns. In particular, Mr. Kai Bethke provided substantial support in moderating the entire event and in conducting the interview with Prof. Carlo Ratti.

UNIDO gratefully acknowledges the support of the event's co-organizer, Finance Center for South-South Cooperation (FCSSC) and sincerely thanks all its activity-level partners: City of Vienna, Eurocities. Special thanks goes to the Government of China for the extensive support to the organization of the event, as well as to all the participating cities, in particular to the executive offices of the Mayors.





# Event Overview

**Organized jointly by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation (FCSSC), Bridge for Cities 2020 was held on 5 October 2020, on the theme “Driving the Decade of Action: COVID-19 and the Future of Cities.” Bridge for Cities is an annual event which encourages the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The event provides an opportunity for stakeholders to share relevant experiences and local knowledge, forming partnerships for ongoing industrial and social development.**

As the recent UN Policy Brief ‘[COVID-19 in an Urban World](#)’ shows, cities and municipalities have displayed solidarity and resilience. In many countries, cities and regions have core competencies for policy areas and with urban infrastructure which supports the SDGs such as water, housing, transport, as well as attentive to land use and climate change.

Find more information on Bridge for Cities at:

[www.unido.org/bridge-for-cities](http://www.unido.org/bridge-for-cities)

Beyond SDG 11, which focuses on cities and communities, an estimated 65% of the 169 targets behind the 17 SDGs will not be reached without engagement of local and regional governments.

Bridge for Cities 2020 provided a forum for Mayors and urban stakeholders to discuss and exchange views on relevant experiences, challenges and opportunities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event placed particular emphasis on green, social, and technological innovations coupled with ways in which countries might respond and recover from this global health crisis. It also highlighted the role of political actors as accelerators towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Bridge for Cities 2020 focused on cities in the context of the pandemic in order to allow actors to share their own practical strategies and socio-economic aspirations from which the global community itself can learn and form resilience in the future.



# Opening ceremony

## Master of Ceremonies:



**Mr. Kai Bethke**  
Director  
Department of External Relations  
UNIDO

## Statements by:



**Mr. António Guterres**  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
(written message)



**Mr. Li Yong**  
Director General  
United Nations Industrial Development  
Organization



**Mr. Cai E-Sheng**  
Chairman  
Finance Center for South-South  
Cooperation  
Hong Kong, China



**Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**  
Executive Director  
UN-Habitat



**Mr. ZHAO Houlin**  
Secretary-General  
International Telecommunication Union



**Mr. Ernst Woller**  
First President of Provincial Parliament  
Vienna, Austria



**Mr. Pirouz Hanachi**  
Mayor  
Tehran, Iran



**Ms. Anna Lisa Boni**  
Secretary General  
EUROCITIES



During the opening ceremony for Bridge for Cities 2020, the high-level guests shared their vision on how cities have the potential to lead sustainable economic recovery efforts from the COVID-19 crisis. They highlighted the opportunities and possibilities presented by smart city policies and technological solutions, while also stressing the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships among urban stakeholders.

In his opening statement, **UNIDO's Director General, Mr. Li Yong**, outlined that "In spite of this unprecedented

global challenge, cities have focused their energies on protecting the health of their citizens through national containment strategies. Urban leaders have worked tirelessly to encourage public protective measures and practices. The pandemic has forced us to think outside-the-box and identify innovative solutions." In this context, he stressed the importance of working 'collaboratively towards an inclusive and climate-resilient recovery'. The Director General highlighted that "Bridge for Cities 2020 aims to facilitate long-lasting city-to-city partnerships in the course of the COVID-19 crisis and beyond."

With equal concern for the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the **United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres**, stressed that “what started as a health emergency has quickly exacerbated major development challenges, such as unemployment and rising inequality.” By describing the challenges of the pandemic, the Secretary-General described the essential role of public actors during this health crisis which “has also reminded us of the urgent need to transform cities to prepare for future crises.”

**Mr. CAI E-Sheng, Chairman of the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation** and co-organizer of the event focused on the opportunities that the crisis brings about: “For urban development, the COVID-19 pandemic is a “double-edged sword”, which can be viewed as both a crisis and an opportunity. Cities around the world and urban stakeholders should join hands to make the post-pandemic recovery more digitalized, smart green and low-carbon, so to increase cities’ resilience and better face tomorrow’s challenges. “We should further improve cities ability to resist the crisis, improve the crisis management mechanism from the city to the community, strengthen the urban public health system, and carry out innovation”, added Mr. CAI.

**Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN Habitat** highlighted the close linkage between urbanization and the spread of the pandemic, with more than 95% of cases recorded in urban areas. Ms. Mohd Sharif stressed how “COVID is hitting the most vulnerable the hardest, including the 1 billion residents of the world densely populated informal settlements and slums, as well as those

lacking access to adequate, affordable and secure housing”. Quality of urban planning and innovation are therefore more important than ever, to ensure the resilience of urban settlements.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has been closely following the impact of the pandemic on the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) worldwide, and in cities particularly. **Mr. Zhao Houlin, ITU’s Secretary-General**, emphasized the importance of ICTs in building smart cities, stressing that: “Better ICT mean better cities. ICT infrastructure and services have been essential to keep societies and economies running during the pandemic”.

Moving to specific experiences of cities, the case of Vienna was presented. The event’s host city, City of Vienna, has been a long-time partner of the Bridge for Cities initiative. **Mr. Ernst Woller, First President of Provincial Parliament of Vienna**, highlighted some key initiatives implemented in Vienna, to ensure inclusiveness and protect people’s jobs during the pandemic: “the campaign Wien Online supports Viennese SMEs with €15 million, aiming to strengthen competition with big international online shops. Moreover, companies can apply for tax relief and the guarantees scheme for companies was doubled”.

**Mr. Pirouz Hanachi, the Mayor of Tehran**, enriched the event by stressing the importance of multilateralism and partnerships: “The presence of cities in the international scene reflects the presence of citizens in the global decision-making process”. Mr. Hanachi also presented an innovative self-financed project to be implemented jointly by UNIDO and other

UN agencies. The ‘SMART Tehran’ project aims at turning Tehran into a smart and sustainable city, focusing on sustainable energy, smart transportation and digital technologies.

**Ms. Anna Lisa Boni, Secretary General of EUROCITIES**, highlighted the voice of European cities: “the COVID-19 crisis has exposed, aggravated and accelerated a series of transition that were already ongoing. Cities cannot surrender and have been working together to find ways out in terms of their recovery. EUROCITIES established an online platform where were collected more than 800 success stories to be shared”. Ms. Boni stressed that there is a need for strategic thinking at the city level, and cities must see this crisis as an opportunity to build-back-better.





# Bridge Townhall Interview

**Innovative economic recovery: Accelerating digitalization for smarter cities**

**Expert:**



**Mr. Carlo Ratti**

Director

MIT Senseable City Lab

The interview session discussed how smart initiatives can help cities to overcome some of the challenges of the pandemic. Lockdown and social distancing measures have disrupted our normal ways of living, forms of working and communicating. Digitalization has proven to be instrumental to overcome some of these difficulties, helping local governments to respond to ever-changing exigencies in terms of governance, social services, commerce, work and health.

The interview focused on the role of advanced information and communication technologies (ICT) in changing our understanding of cities, and in particular of the interaction between technology, urban planning and the natural world. Mr.

**Interviewer:**



**Mr. Kai Bethke**

Director

Department of External Relations, UNIDO

Ratti stressed that disruptive technologies are now entering the physical space with the internet of things, allowing us to gather more data to design and live in cities.

This is the concept behind the Senseable City Lab: make good use of advanced technologies always maintaining people and citizens at the center. Mr. Ratti highlighted that “to respond to the pandemic, cities must act fast, try new innovations, and obtain citizens feedback, as this constant feedback loop will allow the transformation of cities for the future.”

Most industrial activities take place in urban settings. When comparing the disruptive changes brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, one that

is often underestimated is the “lighter” approach to industrial production. Mr. Ratti noted that while, for example, it has been impossible to adapt the old European cities to the heavy industrial reality, Industry 4.0 allows to have a much lighter approach to production, through 3-D printing or subtractive manufacturing. These techniques allow for higher flexibility on work and production, and for an easier adjustment from pre-existing conditions.

At the same time, fears are on the rise that digitalization and robotization may cause a loss of jobs, as well as the early de-industrialization in developing countries. According to Mr. Ratti, this is a crucial point: “similarly to what happened 200 years ago with the transition from agriculture-based societies to industrial-based ones, this change has been brought about by technological transformations. Some jobs will change, or vanish but the key question is how to redistribute the value generated by robotization? How people can be retrained when jobs vanish? If we manage to answer, machine can take the repetitive jobs that we - as humans - enjoy less”.

The concept of leapfrogging, a key one for least developed and developing countries, is closely related. Mr. Ratti tackled the question of how to best implement technology in relation to each country’s level of industrial development. Mr. Ratti

stressed that technologies are most often divisive, as only rich countries or rich individuals initially can afford them. However, in the longer term the same technology can help the poorer ones, helping them access real-time information or allowing mobile-based payments just to make few examples.

The discussion also revolved around the potential role of technology in mitigating excessive urbanization and in making megacities in the developing world more liveable. Mr. Ratti first made clear that technology and the emergence of virtual spaces and ways of communication will not reduce human willingness to move to and live in cities: “Cities have a magnetic power, as together we are more than each of us. Technology, though, may make our lives more flexible, allowing to break extreme synchronization in peoples’ schedules and thus reducing stress on infrastructure”. Mr. Ratti also stressed that investment should be focused more on digital infrastructure, but this requires future-proving those investments, as – unlike hard infrastructure – the digital ones change very fast.

Mr. Bethke then introduced the theme of the use of ICT during the pandemic, deliberating if technology can compensate for the lack of social interactions. Mr. Ratti recognized that this can happen to a certain extent, but ICT cannot account for

all the weak links we build every day. In fact, physical spaces have some qualities that – as of now – cannot be replicated by digital spaces. Moreover, diversity cannot always be replicated, as digital spaces allow us to easily filtrate out people that are different or think different, thus forcing us to challenge our comfort zone.

With a wider perspective, Mr. Ratti also stressed that while some measures taken – such as social distancing – will disappear with the pandemic, some innovative approaches spurred by the emergency should stay: this is the case for higher flexibility on the workplace and, at the city level, the ability of local administrations to act much faster. Moreover, citizens have been much more attentive to some negative aspects of urbanization while being conscious to the environment sustainability. Many studies highlighted

the relation between COVID-19 morbidity and pollution, just to make an example.

In terms of implementation of smart measures, people often understand smartness as a top-down approach, but a bottom-up approach is often much more effective, making citizens the first-line responders to cities' problems. For the same reason, as mayors are very close to the citizens they are better equipped to drive the transformation towards senseable cities. Mayors should thus lead the transformation, but with constant feedback from the citizens – and break the siloed approach that is often found in municipal administrations. Technology can close the loop between municipal administration and citizens, allowing real-time feedback rather than hotlines and grievances. It is also a tool for citizens to propose new ideas.



# Mayors Roundtable: Session One

**Inclusive economic recovery: Driving business innovation and job creation for liveable cities**

**Moderator:**



**Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla Sarmiento**  
Managing Director  
Directorate of Digitalization, Technology  
and Agri-business  
UNIDO

**Statements by:**



**Mr. Ullrich Sierau**  
Mayor of Dortmund  
Germany



**Ms. Maria Isabelle Climaco**  
Mayor of Zamboanga  
Philippines



**H.E. Sheikh Hisham bin  
AbdulRahman Al Khalifa**  
Governor of the Capital Governorate  
Kingdom of Bahrain



**Mr. Bakytzhan Sagintayev**  
Mayor of Almaty  
Kazakhstan



**Mr. WANG Xinwei**

Vice Governor of Henan Province  
Mayor of Zhengzhou  
China



**Mr. Naina Andriantsitohaina**

Mayor of Antananarivo  
Madagascar



**Mr. Ernst Woller**

First President of the Provincial  
Parliament of Vienna  
Austria



**Mr. ZHANG Yong**

Vice Mayor of Shenzhen  
China



As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold globally, cities are currently bearing the brunt of the crisis. 90 percent of the cases reported have occurred in cities. If not addressed effectively, the health and socio-economic impact of the crisis threatens to jeopardize the ambitious goals set out in the 2030 Agenda.

The first Mayors' Roundtable brought together representatives from Almaty, Antananarivo, Dortmund, Manama, Shenzhen, Vienna, Zamboanga and Zhengzhou to present their cities' response in ensuring an inclusive recovery from the crisis. The original focus of the event provided space for mayors to share

different local policy responses aiming to protect the health of residents, address the unprecedented social and economic impact of the virus, and keep forging a path to a more sustainable and resilient future.

The discussion focused on solutions to protect employment, especially for the most vulnerable, and support measures for Micro, Small- and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) which will assist urban development in the long term. This session focused on cities' inclusive economic recovery, while driving business innovations and job creation schemes. In many cities, the economic decline during

the coronavirus pandemic has followed income lines, with repercussions on citizens' wellbeing and access to basic services. In this case, women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected.

During the COVID-19 crisis, the largest decline has been witnessed in MSMEs. **Mr. Ernst Woller, First President of the Vienna State Parliament**, outlined some of the key response measures undertaken by Vienna, including the support campaign 'Wien Online' addressing MSMEs, and the City of Vienna's grant schemes. These include immediate but also long-term, business-related measures aimed at a recovery of the Viennese economy and labour market, such as the suspension of some fees and taxes; the provision of vouchers to restart the gastronomy sector, as well as the support form a public company to business in crisis by buying their stocks.

**Mr. Bakytzhan Sagintayev, Mayor of Almaty, Kazakhstan**, described how the city has put in place a strategy to support MSMEs, stressing how: "40% of the Almaty economy is dependent on MSMEs. The city decided to support them by abolishing taxes and social payments, as well as stopping collection of rents and facilitating lending at convenient rates".

Expanding on the crucial role of MSMEs in ensuring economic resilience, **Ms. Maria Isabelle Climaco, Mayor of Zamboanga, Philippines**, highlighted the importance of digital transformation: "the city supported MSMEs by providing online training and mentoring on entrepreneurial mindset and on business registration. Webinars on e-commerce has proven to be very useful, as they have helped people who lost their jobs to earn for their families".

**H.E. Sheikh Hisham bin Abdul Rahman Al Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate, Kingdom of Bahrain** focused on how the city of Manama aims to turn the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis into opportunities for women and youth. "Empowerment of women is a priority. The pandemic created an opportunity: mothers were allowed to work from home in the public sector, enabling them to continue taking care of their children while schools were closed. Moreover, in Bahrain MSMEs are often run by women and youth, and they were supported with tax breaks and suspension of payments of utilities and loans".

With China called to an early response to the pandemic, **Mr. WANG Xinwei, Mayor of Zhengzhou** illustrated the policies taken in the city to fight COVID-19. At first, the safety of the population was ensured through innovative measures: "for example, big data collection helps in locating the cases and better tracking". Particular attention was given in parallel to support the private sector by promoting e-commerce development.

Antananarivo, the capital city of Madagascar, developed a set of measures to protect citizens' health while helping private businesses as well. **The Mayor, Mr. Naina Andriantsitohaina** highlighted how: "we used the lockdown time to design a digital cashless system that could help both to reduce corruption and physical contacts, thus giving benefits to the city, the customers and the commercial activities as well". The city also supported the population by building social housing, which are paid by the tenants by working few days per month for the government.



The experience shown by the city of Dortmund confirmed the importance of innovation in recovery. Dortmund underwent a long innovation process, transitioning from heavy steel industry to digital enterprises. Now this process is moving further, and the pandemic spurred new ideas. **The Mayor, Mr. Ulrich Sierau**, highlighted how “the government contributed by financing projects and startups to trigger innovation and bring in new impulses to the economy. Public investment helps to attract private investment, and this worked during the pandemic”.

### Key Points discussed by the panel:

- Shared the actions undertaken by cities to support inclusive recovery, especially in the areas of women and youth employment and support to small businesses.
- Highlighted examples of response and recovery measures taken by cities to leverage the disruptions created by the crisis to promote inclusive, gender responsive, sustainable 4IR transition.
- Discussed the potential of city-based initiatives to improve the enabling ecosystem for MSMEs; promote innovation, inclusivity and partnerships; secure investment in digital infrastructure; ensure local access to advanced technologies; develop local digital skills and attract talent.
- Explored the role of cities as launch pads for the digital transformation of MSMEs.

# Mayors Roundtable: Session Two

Green economic recovery: Re-thinking urban development models for sustainable cities

### Moderator:



**Mr. Stephan Sicars**  
Managing Director  
Directorate of Environment and Energy  
UNIDO

### Statements by:



**Mr. Yousef Al Shawarbeh**  
Mayor of Amman  
Jordan



**Ms. Rosy Senanayake**  
Mayor of Colombo  
Sri Lanka



**Ms. Manal Awad**  
Governor of Damietta  
Egypt



**Mr. Milan Trivić**  
Deputy Mayor of Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina



**Mr. Kong Vitanak**

Deputy Governor of Sihanoukville Province  
Cambodia



**Mr. Abderrazak Bouziri**

Deputy Mayor of Tunis  
Tunisia



**Mr. Carlos Mario Marin**

Mayor of Manizales  
Colombia



**Mr. Gabor Kerpel-Fronius**

Deputy Mayor of Budapest  
Hungary



Urban resilience is not limited to the response to pandemics. Tackling the climate crisis remains one of the vital challenges of our times. Today, cities are a key contributor to climate issues: they consume roughly 60% of the planet’s energy and generate 70% of greenhouse gas emissions. However, cities are also an integral part of the solution.

The second Mayors’ Roundtable touched upon the topic of a green economic recovery. Mayors and representatives from Amman, Budapest, Colombo, Damietta, Manizales, Sarajevo, Sihanoukville and Tunis offered diverse perspectives on the issue, including opportunities to decouple industrial production and urban infrastructure growth from environmental degradation by making the necessary investments in the context of the pandemic. Cities are home to the majority of a country’s productive, industrial and manufacturing base. The lockdown measures applied in the great majority of industrialized and other countries have had disastrous consequences on economic growth but shown positive short-term environmental impact. This demonstrates that collective action can emphasize the importance of the natural environment and thus steer industrial development towards green economic solutions.

The debate started with **H.E. Mr. Yousef Al Shawarbeh, Mayor of Amman, Jordan**. The Mayor stressed that Amman has managed to continue providing basic services in the last few months. At the same time, the city has succeeded in scaling up its efforts towards green economy and environment protection: “We have to make sure that green economy will enhance economic recovery: for example, by financing development projects through the green economy fund, making available enough resources and facilitating investments. The goal is to make Amman a green city in the short and medium term”.

Linking economic recovery amid the COVID-19 crisis to longer-term environmental goals is

the approach chosen by Colombo, the capital city of Sri Lanka. **Ms. Rose Senanayake, the Mayor** highlighted the good results obtained in Colombo in containing the spread of the disease, with the city having only a fraction of Sri Lanka’s cases despite being the largest city of the country. In parallel, efforts were made to maintain a green approach, even during the total lockdown: “the delivery of essential goods was organized in a sustainable manner, choosing sustainable packaging and reducing plastic use”. Businesses have been supported as well by developing low-cost funding schemes through Public Private Partnerships and crowd funding.

**Ms. Manal Awad, Governor of Damietta, Egypt**, one of the most important coastal port cities of Egypt, presented the recently launched ‘Safe city’ project, which is implemented by the local administration, with key support by UN women. The project aims to develop local fishery infrastructure in an eco-friendly manner. Through the project, it is envisioned that fish processing MSMEs run by women will gain resilience – especially in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, spurring in turn local economic recovery and securing job places.

The **Vice-Mayor of Tunis, Mr. Abdelrazak Bouziri**, enriched the discussions by sharing Tunis’ experience in handling the COVID-19 crisis. Concretely, Mr. Bouziri underscored that while cities are facing an unprecedented challenge, the pandemic has shown the importance of international cooperation and social cohesion. Moreover, “the pandemic pushed us to re-think urban development. Today, we are convinced of the necessity of multiplying green spaces and of ensuring good living conditions for youth, and we are cooperating with FAO and with EBRD on

these issues". Mr. Bouziri also stressed the importance digitalization to ensure that no major disruptions happen while smart working and smart learning. Tunis' approach is thus "very concrete, but attentive to citizens' well-being. We are learning from the crisis to become more resilient and live better together and make the most of our diversity".

Building a green city is the goal of **Manizales**, Colombia, as presented by its **Mayor, Mr. Carlos Mario Marin Correa**. Mr. Marin stressed the importance of taking green measures to mitigate the effects of climate change, with a view to achieving the SDGs and to respecting the COP21 commitments. Mr. Marin stressed the importance of addressing the problem of pollution: "the transport sector is the one that contributes the most to climate change. For this reason, 80% of the investments we are going to make are addressed to sustainable transport, aerial cables, bicycle lanes, with the goal of creating an integrated transportation system". In addition, the city is active to reduce extensive livestock in its surroundings, acquiring land for reforestation. The goal is to achieve a 24% increase in protected areas and reaching 8m2 of public space per inhabitant.

**Mr. Milan Trivić, Vice Mayor of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**, maintained the focus on the need of green, innovative actions to tackle pollution and aim for sustainable development. Mr. Trivić highlighted that Sarajevo has a very particular institutional setting that supports citizens engagement and enables for a wider public response to the city's problems, exacerbated by the pandemic.

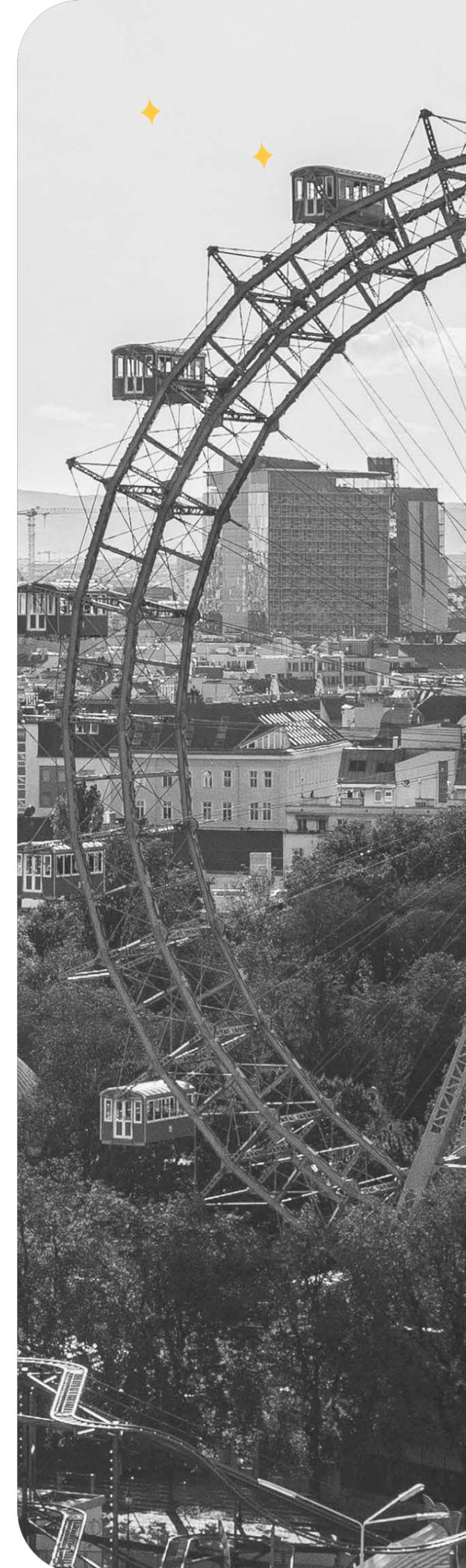
**Mr. Kong Vitanak, Deputy Governor of Sihanoukville Province, Cambodia**, shared his views on the challenges posed by the pandemic and the response measures taken by the province. Sihanoukville's government put an emphasis on building a hub for trade and tourism, developing a Special Economic Zone to attract foreign direct investments, also with support by UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnerships in Cambodia. The COVID-19 crisis,

while halting some commercial activities, provided an opportunity for the Government to invest on green innovative projects, such as the construction of wastewater treatment plants, the installation of solar street lights, the plantation of flowers and trees and the cleaning of beaches. Thus, Sihanoukville can be highlighted as a good example of how challenges can be turned into opportunities by cities.

Lastly, the experience of Budapest, another major European capital, brought innovative recovery measures and examples to the table. **Mr. Gabor Kerpel-Fronius, Deputy Mayor of Budapest, Hungary**, presented the innovative 'Budapest Restart' programme, which focuses on short-term recovery measures that are nevertheless in line with the city's long-term strategic goals: "the programme is an opportunity to re-design Budapest by experimenting with public spaces". During the lockdown bicycle lanes were created and the relative data was monitored when the city reopened. The data informed policy makers on which lanes were widely used and those which instead made traffic worst. Citizens are also able to monitor how crowded parks are, thus allowing a safe environment for the citizens during the pandemic.

## Key points discussed by the panel:

- Discussed effective institutional frameworks and policies, including green procurement and public-private partnerships for harnessing stakeholders' potential for enhanced greening of the cities economies in the postpandemic world.
- Presented examples of cities' economic recovery plans, highlighting successful co-design and synergies with businesses deploying green technologies.
- Highlighted the role of key stakeholders to address COVID-19 related urban development challenges, through eco-design solutions, bringing circular economy integration to life in companies, cities and within digital/physical networks.



# Workshops and Exhibitions



In order to encourage and foster communication between participants, the Bridge for Cities 2020 event hosted multiple Chats throughout the course of the event. The main "Event" chat invited all participants to contribute to the discussion by posing questions addressed by moderators

and panelists. Moreover, private and public sector partners were able to showcase their innovative solutions throughout the duration of the event, by posting materials and organizing workshops in the virtual exhibition booths.

The following organizations and cities participated in the exhibition:

 <p>FINANCE CENTER FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION 南南合作金融中心</p>		
<p>Finance Center for South-South Cooperation</p>	<p>World Trade Centers Association</p>	<p>EUROCITIES</p>
		
<p>Vienna Austria</p>	<p>Almaty Kazakhstan</p>	<p>Budapest Hungary</p>
		
<p>محافظة دمياط Damietta Egypt</p>	<p>Essen - Ruhr Metropolis Germany</p>	<p>DORTMUND Germany</p>



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# Closing Remarks



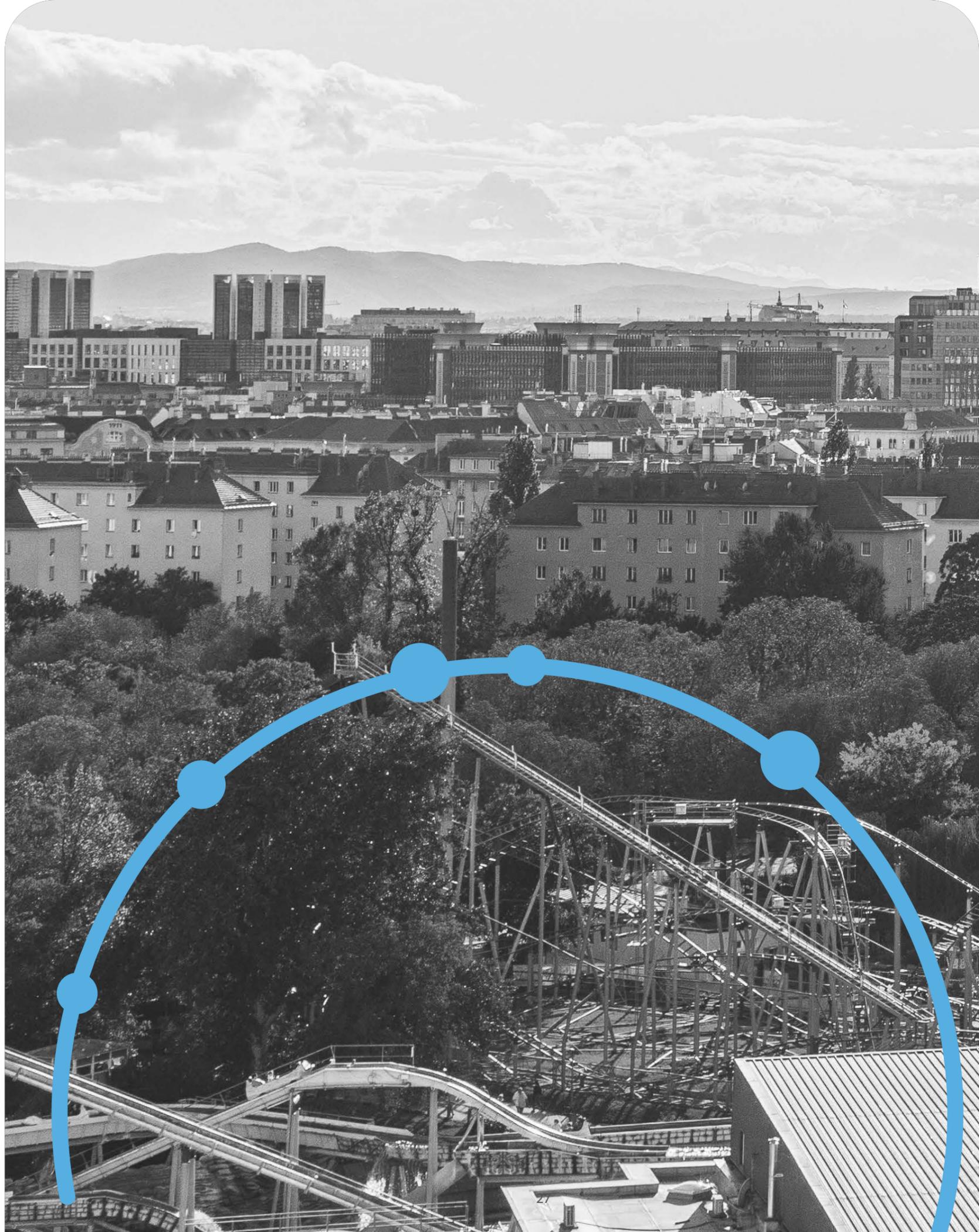
**Mr. Ciyong ZOU**

Managing Director  
Directorate of Programmes, Partnerships  
and Field Coordination  
UNIDO

In his closing remarks, **Mr. Ciyong Zou** thanked all mayors and participants for joining Bridge for Cities 2020, where concrete strategic approaches relevant to the challenges and opportunities of social and technological innovation were discussed.

Mr. Zou highlighted that “to achieve the 2030 Agenda during the Decade of Action, the international community must join hands and reap the benefits of global partnership platforms, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, and at the same time, support city-to-city cooperation. In an urban world, cities will be even more at the front line of sustainable development in the future, and cooperation among them will be instrumental for ensuring knowledge exchange and sharing of experiences in the uptake of new technologies and business models.”

He shared that the subsequent editions of the Bridge for Cities forum will continue to facilitate knowledge exchange and technology transfer, and prepare countries and cities for the uptake of new technologies and business models.





 **BRIDGE**  **2020**  
**FOR CITIES**

Driving the Decade of Action through Urban Innovation

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