



**World Climate Research Programme**  
**JOINT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**  
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## **2018 Cities and Climate Science Conference (#CitiesIPCC) Planning**

### **1. Background and Objectives**

The role of cities and human settlements in the Paris Agreement was discussed at COP22 (November 2016, Marrakesh). Beforehand, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) decided to hold a major scientific conference (October 2016, Bangkok) to further develop the scientific understanding of climate change and cities, in support of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Cities and Climate Change Science Conference, to be held in March 2018, aims to bring together representatives from the academia, research organisations and agencies; concerned member states of the United Nations; city and regional governments; and urban and climate change practitioners, to:

- identify key research and knowledge gaps with regard to cities and climate change;
- inspire global and regional research that will lead to peer-reviewed publications and scientific reports; and
- stimulate research in Cities and Climate Change over the AR6 cycle.

The Conference is expected to catalyse a generation of new data and research on climate impacts and solutions at local level. Its outcomes will inform the upcoming IPCC reports and ultimately support cities and citizens to build low-carbon, climate-resilient and sustainable cities.

A diverse group of urban and scientific organizations comprises co-organizers of this Conference, identified as #CitiesIPCC - C40, Cities Alliance, ICLEI, Future Earth, SDSN, UCLG, UN-Habitat, UN Environment and WCRP.

### **2. Progress**

The overall process is guided directly by the chairs of three Working Groups of IPCC, emphasizing the nature of this event as a scientific conference. A Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) is being established to lead the overall process (develop the strategy, vision, conference programme, etc.), working closely with an Organizing Committee (OC) that will be in charge of communications, logistical arrangements and workplans for implementation. A management group (co-led by the host city) will look after budgeting and fundraising.

[An open call to host the conference](#) was launched on 10 November 2016 during the COP22. The selection process was facilitated by the C40 Secretariat until the finalization in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March. Applications from 10 cities received – showing good regional balance, high level of interest by cities worldwide, and the good audience of the consortium of co-organizers. By the representatives of #CitiesIPCC, Edmonton of Canada was finally selected for its significant commitment by the municipal government toward the event, and for the detailed and high-quality proposal to ensure the success. The official announcement will be made in May 2017 during the Resilient Cities Congress (Bonn, Germany), after signing of the MoU for conference hosting.

Other information relating to the Conference logistics (e.g. conference web site) are also expected with rapid development as of May after the official announcement.

The selection process for the SSC members is to complete by the first week of April. The SSC members are selected by their personal capacity in the areas of climate science (physical and social), urban planning and related areas, in consideration of geographical and gender valance and to work with the IPCC Working Groups chairs and ex-officio members from the co-organizers.

### **3. WCRP engagement and expected outcome**

WCRP was invited during the COP22 to be a co-organizer of this Conference to ensure representation of (physical) climate science, being recognized for its value as a preferred and helpful research information resource as well as a good coordinating mechanism across a breadth of climate topics and research communities.

The conference provides an exceptional opportunity to establish positive connections with urban communities, to contemplate possible developments for urban-focused climate information. Recalling a brief discussion at the previous JSC session (April 2016), WCRP could take this opportunity to become a prominent partner for urban agenda, pursuing its goal to encourage and support credible research leading toward reliable climate and environmental services for urban community.

So far, WCRP has been actively involved in the overall selection processes of the host city and SSC members, through JPS. It is expected that WCRP will continue its leading role in the organization, through the SSC and OC. Dr Helen Cleugh, JSC member, is invited to be a SSC member representing WCRP. JPS will work closely with other #CitiesIPCC co-organizations through the work of OC.

Challenges are associated with available resources; 1) strong demands for experts' time and effort to influence the Conference agenda and scientific programmes, to advocate strongly for the need for climate research on global and urban scales based on "WCRP science", and; 2) financial resources to support participation of climate scientists (especially those from developing countries and early career scientists), under competing priorities within the limited budget for WCRP. JSC is invited to advise on ways to address these issues, possibly considering this Conference as a priority in the 2017-2018 plans.

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