



**2018 Cities and Climate Change Science Conference**  
**Edmonton, Canada**  
**March 5-7, 2018**

## The 2018 Cities and Climate Change Science Conference

### Background

The Cities and Climate Change Science Conference is planned on March 5-7, 2018 in Edmonton (Canada) and will bring together representatives from the academia, scientific bodies and agencies; concerned member states of the United Nations; city and regional governments; and urban and climate change practitioners. The main aim is to stimulate scientific research (including peer review publications) around cities and climate change to provide input to be assessed by the three Working Group Reports and three Special Reports (SRs<sup>1</sup>) of the sixth assessment cycle (AR6) and to establish the foundation for the SR on cities and climate change that will be undertaken during the seventh assessment cycle (AR7).

### Objectives

The overall objectives of the 2018 Conference on Cities and Climate Change Science are 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 specific aims of the conference are to:

- i. Take stock of the scientific literature, data and other sources of knowledge that have emerged around cities and climate change since the close of AR5 (i.e. March-October 2013<sup>2</sup>) and build on ongoing work as part of the AR6 cycle.
- ii. Identify key gaps in the scientific literature, in keeping with the emphasis that arises from the scoping of the AR6 and its three SRs and international, regional and national policy and implementation imperatives that emerge from COP21, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda.
- iii. Identify key research and knowledge gaps, with the aim of stimulating new research, the findings of which to be assessed in AR7's Special Report on Cities and Climate Change<sup>3</sup>.
- iv. Develop novel assessment frameworks that take into account the systemic linkages, synergies and trade-offs between urban systems and climate change, especially action at the local scale.
- v. Identify the research gaps in terms of policy and implementation in order to facilitate the consideration of such areas in anticipation of the Special Report on Cities and Climate Change.
- vi. Bring together key urban and climate change stakeholders<sup>4</sup> to identify priorities for scientific and policy research during the AR6 cycle and to stimulate the co-design and co-production of actionable knowledge.
- vii. Building on established United Nations, member state and research network initiatives, help define appropriate global, regional and local monitoring systems and data architectures to facilitate scientific research and to help inform evidence-based policy development on climate change and cities.

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<sup>1</sup> SR on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways; SR on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems; and a SR on Climate change and oceans and the cryosphere.

<sup>2</sup> AR5 cut-off dates for literature to be considered: WG I: 15 March 2013; WG II: 31 August 2013 and WG III: 3 October 2013

<sup>3</sup> Decision IPCC/XLIII-6 # 6 "AR7 cycle will include a Special Report on climate change and cities."

<sup>4</sup> This includes UN member states, representatives of city and regional governments, UN and international organisations, representatives of the scientific community, universities and think tanks, urban and climate practitioners; organisations of the urban poor, development partners and donor institutions

- viii. Establish a partnership-based platform to systematically accumulate, assess, analyze and disseminate information on science-policy-practice linkages that enable an upscaling and mainstreaming of urban climate actions at all scales.

### **Outcomes**

The expected outcomes of the conference include:

1. A report of the meeting to be prepared under the guidance of the Scientific Steering Committee with inputs from conference participants. This report will provide a summary of the conference discussions. These proceedings will:
  - include a full list of participants;
  - indicate when and by whom they were prepared;
  - indicate whether and by whom they were reviewed prior to publication;
  - specify all sources of funding and other support; and
  - prominently display the following disclaimer at the beginning of the document:  
“IPCC co-sponsorship does not imply IPCC endorsement or approval of these proceedings or any recommendations or conclusions contained herein. Neither the papers presented at the Workshop nor the report of its proceedings have been subject to IPCC review”
2. Scientific Proceedings and commissioned background papers to inform discussions at the conference.
3. A paper on key short to mid-term research themes during the AR6 cycle and opportunities to support these.
4. A proposal on appropriate global, regional and local monitoring and data architecture to assist in scientific research and inform evidence-based policy development on climate change and cities.
5. A proposal to build a partnership-based platform to systematically accumulate, assess, analyze and disseminate information that enables upscaling and mainstreaming of urban climate actions at all scales.

### **Partner Organisations**

To make maximum progress on these objectives, the conference is co-organized by three main constituencies: the research community, represented by Future Earth and WCRP; the global urban community, represented by C40, ICLEI, UCLG Cities Alliance, and SDSN; and the intergovernmental system represented by UN Environment, UN-Habitat; and IPCC. This will create synergies with the three agreed intergovernmental processes: the SDGs, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Habitat III, and will facilitate engagement with Future Earth’s emerging research agenda on cities and sustainable urbanization currently being built around a growing international network of over 50,000 researchers.

The conference will include contributions from a set of five primary partners:

1. IPCC through its co-chairing and sponsorship
2. UN-Habitat and UN Environment, co-organizers, representing the United Nations system
3. Future Earth, a co-organizer, representing academia and the scientific community, with a specific focus on cities and transdisciplinary approaches, together with WCRP as a co-organizer representing the climate research community;
4. Cities Alliance, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, ICLEI, UCLG and SDSN, co-organizers, representing city and regional governments, the enterprise sector, and a range of member states;
5. The City of Edmonton, host city, with the support of the Province of Alberta and the Federal Government of Canada, as well as several Canadian stakeholders

### **Timing and Duration**

The conference will be held on March 5-7 2018 and to last three days.

### **Conference Participants**

Expected participants' constituencies: representatives from academia, scientific bodies and agencies; concerned member states of the United Nations; city and regional governments; and urban and climate change practitioners. A call for contributions and papers will be launched later in 2017.

### **Scientific Steering Committee**

A Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) will manage the conference and its proceedings. SSC members are as follows:

- Xuemei Bai, Australian National University
- Aliyu Barau, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Bayero University Kano
- Helen Cleugh, Director of the CSIRO Climate Science Centre
- Richard Dawson, School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences, Newcastle University
- Gian Carlo Delgado, Interdisciplinary Research Center on Sciences and Humanities of the National Autonomous University of Mexico
- Shobhakar Dhakal, Head of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand
- David Dodman, Director of the Human Settlements Group at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
- Lykke Leonardsen, Head of Climate Unit, City of Copenhagen
- Valérie Masson-Delmotte, CEA Senior scientist at LSCE (IPCC Co-Chair Working Group I)
- Megan L. Melamed, International Global Atmospheric Chemistry (IGAC)
- Debra Roberts, Sustainable and Resilient City Initiatives Unit, eThekweni Municipality, Durban, South Africa (IPCC Co-Chair Working Group II)
- Roberto Sanchez Rodriguez, Department of Urban and Environmental Studies, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte
- Cynthia Rosenzweig, Senior Research Scientist, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies
- Seth Schultz, Director of Science and Innovation, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group
- Karen Seto, Yale University, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
- William Solecki, CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities

- Diana Urge-Vorsatz, Director, Center for Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Policy, Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy, Central European University (IPCC Co-Vice Chair Working Group III)
- Maryke Van Staden, ICLEI's Low Carbon City Agenda & Bonn Center for Local Climate Action and Reporting

## About #CitiesIPCC

At the 43rd session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in Nairobi from 11-13 April 2016, the Panel agreed (Decision (IPCC/XLIII-6):

1. **To give cities a special focus in all scoping processes of the sixth assessment cycle (AR6)**, i.e. in the next main assessment report (due by 2022), and the three special reports on 1.5 degree, Oceans and Cryosphere, Land-Use related themes, to be delivered between 2018 and 2019.
2. To include a **Special Report on Climate Change and Cities** in the seventh assessment cycle (AR7)
3. *“To consider working with academia, urban practitioners, and relevant scientific bodies and agencies, to organize an international scientific conference on climate change and cities early in the AR6 cycle, in order to stimulate scientific reports and peer reviewed publications on this subject”.*

These are very positive developments in light of the **#CitiesIPCC campaign** led by C40 and ICLEI in March-April 2016, and supported by 20 cities and 25 organizations<sup>5</sup>. This decision<sup>6</sup> was **celebrated** by urban stakeholders because:

- After the political recognition at COP21, **cities are gaining increased recognition amongst the international scientific climate community**, which provides the evidence base for the UNFCCC negotiations. So the Paris momentum is strengthened by this decision
- It provides **opportunities to dramatically increase the scientific evidence on cities and climate change**, in order to enable better climate policy-making at local level
- With the Special Report decided seven years in advance, it provides adequate time for cities and networks to **work with National governments and universities on new, well-funded research programs on cities and climate change in order to generate the literature that will provide the basis for this assessment. The International Scientific Conference on Cities and Climate Change is an important international milestone beginning this process.**

A joint proposal from C40, Cities Alliance, ICLEI, Future Earth, SDSN, UCLG, UN-Habitat, UN Environment and WCRP to co-organize an international scientific conference on cities and climate change co-sponsored by IPCC was subsequently submitted to the IPCC Bureau in August 2016, and approved by the IPCC 44<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session in Bangkok on October 20 2016<sup>7</sup>.

For the purposes of this conference, “#CitiesIPCC” includes the following as co-organizers of the International Conference on Cities and Climate Change Science:

- C40

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.c40.org/blog\\_posts/mayors-city-networks-and-urban-stakeholders-worldwide-call-for-an-ipcc-special-report-on-cities-and-climate-change](http://www.c40.org/blog_posts/mayors-city-networks-and-urban-stakeholders-worldwide-call-for-an-ipcc-special-report-on-cities-and-climate-change)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.c40.org/blog\\_posts/ipcc-to-give-cities-special-focus](http://www.c40.org/blog_posts/ipcc-to-give-cities-special-focus)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.c40.org/press\\_releases/from-bangkok-to-quito-cities-at-the-forefront-of-our-sustainable-future](http://www.c40.org/press_releases/from-bangkok-to-quito-cities-at-the-forefront-of-our-sustainable-future)

- Cities Alliance
- Future Earth
- ICLEI
- IPCC
- SDSN
- UCLG
- UN-Habitat
- UN Environment
- WCRP

**For More Information:**

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- WCRP: [wcrp@wmo.int](mailto:wcrp@wmo.int)
- Edmonton: Jim Andrais: [jim.andrais@edmonton.ca](mailto:jim.andrais@edmonton.ca), +1-780-944-7520.

Website under construction: [www.citiesipcc.org](http://www.citiesipcc.org)

**Requests to speak to Mayor Iveson:** Cheryl Oxford: [Cheryl.oxford@edmonton.ca](mailto:Cheryl.oxford@edmonton.ca), +1-780-496-8104.