Metropolitan Policy Program
at BROOKINGS

For immediate release:
September 29, 2016

CONTACT: Allison Courtin, acourtin@brookings.edu, 202.238.3556

REPORT: Redefining global cities: The seven types of global metro economies

New report identifies seven types of global cities

Washington, D.C.—The world's largest metropolitan economies can be classified into seven groups that reveal their distinct competitive advantages in the global economy. A new report from the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program, released today as a part of the Global Cities Initiative, a joint project of Brookings and JPMorgan Chase, introduces a typology that categorizes global cities and assesses the opportunities and challenges they confront for powering the next wave of global economic growth.

The report, "Redefining global cities: The seven types of global metro economies," by Brookings Fellow Joseph Parilla and former Brookings Research Analyst and Associate Fellow Jesus Leal Trujillo uses a first-of-its-kind database of dozens of indicators to examine global city economic characteristics, industrial structure, and key competitiveness factors: tradable clusters, innovation, talent, and infrastructure connectivity. Their analysis focuses on the 123 largest metropolitan economies in the world, which collectively account for one-third of global GDP despite containing only 13 percent of global population.

Analysis of these data reveals seven types of global cities—**Global Giants**, **Asian Anchors**, **Emerging Gateways**, **Factory China**, **Knowledge Capitals**, **American Middleweights**, and **International Middleweights**—each with its own distinctive assets, challenges, and growth trajectories.

"This report provides fresh evidence that there is no one way to be a global city," Parilla said. "Cities that understand their unique niche in the global economy are better positioned to create economic strategies that will be successful in the long-term."

The report—and its accompanying online interactive—uses the typology to help metro decision makers understand the local assets that drive economic competitiveness, benchmark their performance against peer cities, and identify the global innovations most relevant for local growth and prosperity.

Today, in conjunction with the release of "Redefining global cities," the Global Cities Initiative also released "The Making of Global Cities: Stories from the Global Cities Exchange," a collection of stories about U.S. metropolitan areas that have leveraged local assets to improve their competitiveness and connections in the global economy. The efforts of these regions clarify the imperative and the process for local actors to engage globally.

In November, Brookings will release a new book by internationally renowned urbanist Greg Clark, *Global Cities: A Short History*. The book examines the enduring forces—such as trade, migration, diversity and technology—that have enabled some cities to emerge from the pack into global leadership. Much more than an historical review, Clark's book looks to the future, examining the new waves that are transforming cities around the world as well as the emerging challenges that global cities will face.

The Brookings Institution is a private non-profit organization. Its mission is to conduct high-quality, independent research and, based on that research, to provide innovative, practical recommendations for policymakers and the public. Brookings recognizes that the value it provides is in its absolute commitment to quality, independence and impact, and makes all final determinations of the scholarly activities in the Global Cities Initiative, including the research agenda and products.

The Global Cities Initiative is a joint project of the Brookings Institution and JPMorgan Chase designed to help metropolitan leaders advance and grow their regional economies by strengthening international connections and competitiveness on key economic indicators such as advanced manufacturing, exports, foreign direct investment, and traded sectors. GCI activities include producing data and research to guide decisions, fostering practice and policy innovations, and facilitating a peer-learning network. For more information please visit www.brookings.edu/projects/global-cities.aspx or www.jpmorganchase.com/globalcities. For more information on the Global Cities Exchange, a peer-learning network, please visit www.brookings.edu/gci/exchange.