

**SDG LEADERSHIP CITIES: SPRING 2022**

Washington, D.C.

March 4 & March 5, 2022

**FORMAT OF THE CONVENING**

**Methodology.** We will apply the SDG Leadership Cities convening methodology to create a frank and honest exchange and to surface tools and approaches on sustainable recovery. We consider you the experts: as per our usual practice, we will rely upon your experiences, innovations, and challenges to drive the content for our meeting, with the sessions strongly participatory.

The key objective remains to provide a platform for direct city-to-city discussion and information-sharing on novel practices and tactics. Our intent is to provide an opportunity to take a step back from day-to-day management and share ideas with your peers about the challenges and future of your city. We are cognizant that the time spent with us is taken from your daily job or personal time and seek to maximize the value of this exchange as well as offer time for personal interactions.

As such, we will conduct the gathering similar to our past meetings of the SDG Leadership Cities, with sessions in roundtable format, their topics explored in highly interactive sessions designed to promote exchange that surfaces your best practices, innovations, and challenges. We also seek to facilitate and build relationships that provide opportunities for continued engagement that persists long after the meeting itself. Sessions are held under the Chatham House Rule to encourage candid discussions between peers and enable collective problem-solving with frank and honest assessments of limits, challenges, and obstacles as part of the discussion.

**Social Time and DC Networking.** During the meeting, there will be ample opportunities for discussions in small groups, and there will be the opportunity for social interaction each day. The agenda also seeks to leverage your presence in a city that hosts many key international development organizations as well as the foreign policy and diplomatic community. In-person attendees will have the opportunity to participate in sessions that bring in experts from external organizations as well as a networking evening with the DC diplomatic community hosted by Meridian International.

**Virtual Attendance.** We understand that some participants will join this convening virtually only. We have organized the agenda in a way that ensures all SDG Leadership Cities participants can attend the full substantive program, interact with their peers, and participate in the conversation.

SDG leadership is a team effort, so in addition to hosting invitees in person, we invite each city to have one additional person participate via video. A zoom link will be provided.

AGENDA

Wednesday, March 2		
Ongoing	Arrivals and Check-in at the <b>Dupont Circle Hotel</b>	
19:00 – 21:00	Opening Reception and Dinner at <b>Tabard Inn</b>	
Thursday, March 3		
8:15	Meet Max in the hotel lobby and walk to Brookings	
8:30 – 9:15 45 min	<i>(Breakfast)</i> <b>Welcome &amp; Purpose of the Convening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome remarks by Tony Pipa Sr Fellow, and Brahima Coulibaly, Director of the Global Economy and Development program</li> <li>Round of Introduction (in-person and virtual)</li> </ul>	
9:15 – 10:15 1 hour	<i>Session I-a</i> <b>Mobilizing Resources: New Avenues for Financing</b>  As the global community has identified that \$3.3-4.5 trillion per year need to be mobilized to achieve the SDGs by 2030, there is growing acknowledgement that success involves cities. But this recognition falls short of action to move the needle and reach scale. Cities face their own obstacles (creditworthiness, local capacity, lack of investment-ready projects).  Kickoff remarks by cities and group conversation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can a city use its SDG efforts to strengthen its financial credibility and opportunity for financing partnerships?</li> <li>What are the frontier efforts and collective action underway to enable new sources of financing for cities committed to the SDGs?</li> </ul>	<i>Kickoff:</i> <i>Carolina Cuenca</i> <i>(Buenos Aires)</i> <i>Allan Macleod (Bristol)</i>
10:15– 10:30	<i>Coffee &amp; Tea Break</i>	
10:30 – 11:30 1 hour	<i>Session I-b</i> <b>Mobilizing Resources: Private Sector Engagement</b>  While cities need private sector investments to achieve the SDGs, challenges to integrate businesses into local SDG strategies remain. Cities are rethinking their approach to leverage new models of investments partnerships between the public sector, businesses, and philanthropy.	<i>Marianna Koval</i> <i>Carleigh McFarlane</i> <i>(NYU Stern School of Business)</i>

Presentation by InvestNYC of the NYU Stern School of Business on a 2-year initiative to identify private sector business, philanthropy, and finance opportunities with significant impact in meeting the SDGs.

Group conversation:

- What were the challenges and drivers of success in InvestNYC's experience?
  - How to create business incentives to meaningfully recruit the private sector into SDG-driven projects?
  - What is the potential of the SDGs to build public-private partnerships?
- 

11:30 – 12:30  
1 hour

*Session II-a*

**Raising Awareness: Focus Group with Project Everyone**

*Kate Garvey  
Alice Macdonald  
(Project Everyone)*

Presentation on communicating the power of local leadership in global SDG campaigns with [Project Everyone](#), the team that created the SDG icons and major public campaigns).

Focus group on creative ways to connect local leadership to the [World To Do list](#) global communication campaign.

- How best to showcase local leadership? How to elevate city innovation and how it connects with global progress?
  - How to drive global action through the communication of local leadership and storytelling?
  - How to leverage city innovation and how it connects with global progress?
- 

12:30 – 13:00  
30 min

*Session II-b*

**Raising Awareness: Participating Cities' reflection on SDG communication**

Group conversation:

- How can communication on the SDGs inspire and mobilize citizens and constituents?
  - How to apply storytelling and communication in driving a shared sense of purpose and collaboration on local priorities?
- 

13:00 – 14:00

*Lunch Break*

---

14:00 – 15:15  
1 hour 15 min

*Session III*

**Global City Leadership & Continuity of SDG Strategies**

*Kickoff:  
Aissata Camara (NYC)  
Beryl Mphakathi  
(Durban)  
Grant Ervin (Pittsburgh)*

The long-term horizon of the SDGs poses a challenge to any elected government since their achievement depends on sustained efforts across multiple election cycles. As cities seek to consolidate and institutionalize longer-term commitments to the SDGs, several common approaches are beginning to emerge.

---

Kickoff remarks by cities going through political transitions and group discussion:

- What are the obstacles of continuity of previous commitments and initiatives on the SDGs?
- How to integrate the SDGs into the decision-making process in a way that maintains them as part of the city strategy across political mandates?
- What kinds of policy, funding, and staffing have been important during transitions to support durability of the 2030 goals? How can we rate the power of each of these?

*Whiteboarding session in small groups*

15:15 – 15:30	<i>Break</i>	
15:30 – 16:30 <i>1 hour</i>	<p><b>In-person Bilateral Meeting on the <a href="#">Truman Center’s City &amp; State Diplomacy project</a></b>          Remarks from leaders advancing U.S. city and state diplomacy and connections with the U.S. federal government.</p> <p>Group conversation on different approaches to local-national connections, experience in other countries, opportunities, and pitfalls.</p>	<p><i>Erin Bromaghim          Jon Temin (Truman Project)</i></p>
16:30 – 17:30 <i>1 hour</i>	<p><b>In-person Bilateral Meetings</b></p> <p>Group conversation on the global policy agenda of two major US city networks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the key global policy issues that are animating the leading city organizations in the US and how that intersects with other city networks globally?</li> </ul>	<p><i>Cooper Martin (US National League of Cities)          Luis Renta (US Conference of Mayors)</i></p>
17:30 – 18:00	<p><b>Travel by Taxi/Uber to Meridian International House, 1630 Crescent Pl NW, Washington, DC 20009</b></p>	
18:00 – 20:00	<p><b>Reception at the <a href="#">Meridian International House</a></b>          Invitation to the “Welcome to Washington” cocktail honoring newly-arrived foreign ambassadors in D.C. alongside members of Meridian’s network (private sector leaders, representatives from the US government, philanthropists).  <b>Dress Code: business</b></p>	
20:00 – 22:00	<p>Dinner at <b>The Admiral, Dupont Circle</b></p>	

Friday, March 4

8:15 Meet Max in the hotel lobby and walk to Brookings

8:30 – 9:45  
 1 hour 15 min

*Session IV*  
**Urban Development Framework: ‘Doughnut Economics’ & the SDGs**

*Kate Raworth  
 Leonora Grcheva  
 (DEAL)*

Presentation by founder Kate Raworth of the Doughnut Economics Action Lab on tools for rethinking sustainable development and city design.

Group conversation:

- What is the convergence and divergence of the Doughnut Economics with the SDGs?
- What new tools and innovations can cities embrace to rethink their development strategy?

9:45 – 11:00  
 1 hour 15 min

*Session V*  
**Governance & Partnerships That Deliver**

*Jean Duff  
 (Partnership for Faith  
 and Development)  
 Blessing Omakwu  
 (Gates Foundation)  
 Chris Castro (Orlando)*

Beyond their own trust capital and legitimacy, cities need to leverage new partnerships with local actors that connect with wider circles and communities. Faith leadership and other regional actors participate in delivering the success of local SDG strategies especially when navigating political nuances and interacting with audiences that might be unaware, unfamiliar, or resistant to the SDG branding or to some issues within the framework.

Group conversation:

- How do cities approach new governance arrangements in the face of mistrust? What non-traditional partnership levers exist to recruit supporters from wider circles?
- How can leadership from all faiths be harnessed to take steps and scale SDG strategies?
- What innovative forms of collaboration have been effective to deliver on the SDGs?

11:00 – 11:15

*Coffee & Tea Break*

11:15 – 12:30  
 1 hour 30 min

*Session VI*  
**Building Momentum to 2030 – and Beyond**

*Celeste Connors (HGG)  
 Diana Alarcon (CDMX)  
 Luz Amparo (Bogota)*

Panel conversation on the roadmap for collective action during the last half of the SDGs towards 2030 and mid-reviews of progress and influence.

Group conversation:

- How should cities use their time and influence to keep the momentum on the SDGs towards 2030? How can their local momentum influence the global agenda? What summits and engagement opportunities should they prioritize?
- How are cities organizing to influence the post-2030 agenda?

*Whiteboarding session in small groups*

**Participants (in-person)**

- ❖ Diana Alarcón González, Chief Advisor to the Mayor and Foreign Affairs Coordinator, Mexico City
- ❖ Luz Amparo Medina Gerena, District Director of International Relations, City of Bogota
- ❖ Erin Bromaghim, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Fellow on the Sustainable Development Goals, Mayor's Office of International Affairs, City of Los Angeles
- ❖ Chris Castro, Director of Sustainability & Resilience and Senior Advisor to the Mayor, Orlando
- ❖ Celeste Connors, President & CEO, Hawaii Green Growth
- ❖ Carolina Cuenca, Director of International Relations, Buenos Aires
- ❖ Nicolas Gharbi, Principal Advisor for International Affairs, City of Madrid
- ❖ Rainer Kern, Head of Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Mayor, City of Mannheim
- ❖ Frida Leander, Agenda 2030 Sustainability Strategist, City of Malmö
- ❖ Allan Macleod, Operations and Stakeholder Manager, Bristol City Office
- ❖ Beryl Mphakathi, Deputy City Manager for Human Settlements, Engineering and Transport, Durban (eThekweni Municipality)
- ❖ Toshikazu Yazawa, Director, Office of the City of Yokohama, Representation to the Americas, City of Yokohama

**Participants (virtually)**

- ❖ Ken Akaoka, Director General of the Global Network, Office of the City of Yokohama, Representation to the Americas, City of Yokohama
- ❖ Maria Vittoria Beria, Director of International Affairs, City of Milan
- ❖ Kaimana Bingham, Aloha+ Dashboard & Partnership Manager, Hawaii Green Growth
- ❖ Tim Borrett, Director of Policy, Strategy, and Partnerships, Bristol City Council
- ❖ Aissata Camara, Deputy Commissioner for Operations and Strategic Partnerships, Office for International Affairs, New York City
- ❖ Mariana Cammisa, SDGs Analyst, General and International Affairs Secretariat, Buenos Aires
- ❖ Mariana Flores Mayén, Executive Director for Institutional Representation, Mexico City
- ❖ Christian Hübel, Head of Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Mayor, City of Mannheim
- ❖ Angela Kim, SDG Program and Data Manager, City of Los Angeles
- ❖ Andrea Laverde Quintero, Deputy Director of International Relations, Bogota
- ❖ Sandile Mbatha, SDG Principal, Durban (eThekweni Municipality)
- ❖ Mia Malin, SDGs Project Manager, Helsinki
- ❖ Francisco Resnicoff, Undersecretary for International Relations, City of Buenos Aires
- ❖ Laura Uuttu-Deschryvere, Head of International Affairs, City of Helsinki

**Center for Sustainable Development, Brookings Institution:**

- ❖ Max Bouchet, Senior Policy Analyst & Project Manager
- ❖ Olivia du Bois, Intern
- ❖ Tony Pipa, Senior Fellow
- ❖ Zoe Swarzenski, Extern