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Report of the Innovate4Cities conference in 2021

(Prepared by Scientific Steering Committee for the Conference)

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

FINAL REPORT

Innovate4Cities Climate Change Conference 2021

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Innovate4Cities Climate Change Conference

Virtual, 11-15 October 2021

Introduction

History

The International Scientific Conference on Climate Change and Cities (which for communication and branding purposes was later renamed Cities and Climate Change Science conference) was held in Edmonton, Canada, March 5-7 2018. The Conference, co-organized by Cities Alliance, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, Future Earth, Sustainable Development Solutions Network, United Cities and Local Governments, UN-Habitat, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Climate Research Programme, and co-sponsored by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); created an enhanced understanding of the impacts of climate change at the urban level, the range of possible responses, and the role of cities in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and other international global climate change agendas.

The Cities and Climate Change Science conference laid a foundation for better-informed climate decision-making at the local level because of greater engagement between the policy, practice, and scientific communities working on/in urban areas.¹ It also led to the creation of the Innovate4Cities initiative of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy which has a specific focus on enhancing the development of climate change science relevant to urban policymaking. The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is the largest global alliance for city climate leadership, built upon the commitment of over 11,700 cities and local governments and partnerships with more than 100 city and regional networks and other non-government organisations, international institutions, and governments. These cities hail from 6 continents and 140 countries and represent more than 1 billion people.

The primary outcome of the 2018 Cities and Climate Change Science conference was the Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science that advances the understanding of climate change science relevant to cities and gives recognition and visibility to the knowledge generated by urban actors.² The agenda is a synthesis of the most important topics that emerged from the Conference. It attempts to summarise these and highlight gaps in knowledge and research.³

In the months following the Conference - based on outcomes of and discussions which took place during the Conference - several initiatives, in addition to the Global Covenant of Mayors' Innovate4Cities initiative, were informed and catalysed by the Conference and its outcomes.⁴ These initiatives have been organised by Scientific Steering Committee members, Organising Committee

¹ "The science we need for the cities we want: working together to implement the global research agenda on cities and climate change: Joint Statement". Agenda available [here](#)

² The Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science was first reported at the 48th session of the IPCC and is available [here](#).

³ PROGRESS REPORT, International Conference on Climate Change and Cities, 48th Session of the IPCC Incheon, Republic of Korea, 1 – 5 October 2018.

⁴ Ibid

partner organisations, and by other organisations to further the discussions between the research, urban practice, and policy communities on cities and climate change science.⁵

The Conference also stimulated research and the production of knowledge on the diversity of issues related to cities and climate change science, including peer-reviewed research that can be assessed by the IPCC and contribute to local, national, and international policymaking, and that ensures that a diversity of perspectives – Global South, secondary cities, women, youth, Indigenous communities – are engaged and that the research responds to city needs.⁶

The rationale for a 2021 edition

Much had changed globally and locally since the 2018 conference. Issues of gender, race and intergenerational justice had come even more prominently to the fore. COVID-19 had affected almost every aspect of urban life. There was a growing recognition that the post-pandemic recovery must involve an innovative pathway to a green and sustainable economy that produces jobs and prosperity, reduces emissions, and builds resilience⁷ and that cities play a central role as change agents and pilots for new and integrated solutions.

2021 was also set to be an important year of climate action; including the convening of the postponed United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties, COP26 meeting at which a five-year stocktake of the Paris Agreement would take place in Glasgow, United Kingdom in November.

2021 was also an important year of climate change action for the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and UN-Habitat. With its focus on developing implementation pathways involving many different stakeholders, Global Covenant of Mayors' Innovate4Cities initiative put this challenge at the core of its work in 2021. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) planned a year-long campaign that focused on urban climate action to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals under the UN Decade of Action to deliver the Global Goals. The virtual year-long [Urban Thinkers Campus](#) series was initiated to give partner organisations a chance to share and discuss their climate change initiatives.

With three years having passed and given the significance of 2021 from a climate change perspective, it was felt a re-convening of the community of practice that met in 2018, to review progress made and chart a way forward for continued science practice collaboration would be an important contribution to the global climate change response. As a result, UN-Habitat and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy offered to co-host a virtual follow-up conference to the

⁵ 5 Ibid. In particular, the following are examples of forward-thinking initiatives that have emerged to continue this journey. (1) The Science we Need for the Cities we Want, signed by most of the Conference's organising partners and the Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN) at the end of the Conference, and now signed by 23 organisations ; (2) the Edmonton Declaration, which calls on cities to support evidence-based decision-making and action to address climate change in cities; (3) a national gathering of science, policy and practice in Mexico City (organised by the National Autonomous University of Mexico-UNAM) to discuss the outcomes of the Conference in the Mexican context; (4) The Conference partners, led by ICLEI, together with the UNFCCC, are working towards an annual gathering of UNFCCC members, city and research partners around cities and climate; (5) Innovate4Cities initiative from the Global Covenant of Mayors, to work with cities to further develop this Research and Action Agenda to align specifically with their needs. In addition, UN-Habitat one of the four focus area under the UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020-2023 is Strengthened Climate Action and Improved Urban Environments. Innovation is a key cross-cutting theme in the strategic plan.

⁶ Innovate4Cities - A Global Climate Action Accelerator: Edmonton Declaration. Available [here](#).

⁷ <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/>

Cities and Climate Change Science conference, *Innovate4Cities 2021* to track progress made on the urban and climate change research gaps identified in 2018, and to capture and encourage innovation, to inform COP26 in November 2021, as well as to help inform the IPCC's Special Report on Climate Change and Cities planned for the 7th assessment cycle. A proposal to the IPCC to once more act as a co-sponsor to the conference was agreed by the Co-Chairs of IPCC Working Group I, Working Group II, and Working Group III, and endorsed by the IPCC Excom on 3 March 2021.

Aims of this report

This report provides a concise summary of the objectives, governance, budget, key outcomes, and next steps emanating from the 2021 conference, including annexes of some of the key conference outputs, and recommendations to the IPCC.

Conference Objectives

The 2021 Innovate4Cities conference focused again on the nexus between science and practice, this time including the vital component of innovation for ambitious delivery of climate change goals, and a stronger focus on regional voices, challenges, and priority needs in terms of research and action. The overall objective of the Innovate4Cities Conference was to continue the conversation between science, policy and practice started at the 2018 Cities and Climate Change Science conference and reinforce the strong urban messages emanating from the products of the IPCC's 6th assessment cycle.

The Conference had three formal objectives:

1. Advance progress towards meeting the research gaps identified by the Global Research and Action Agenda, as well as newly identified gaps, especially considering the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Catalyse engagement between scientists and practitioners to inform the IPCC's Special Report on Cities and Climate Change in the 7th assessment cycle, to support the strengthened focus on regional and urban issues in the IPCC's sixth assessment cycle and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change discussions
3. To generate new, and strengthen existing platforms and partnerships for the co-creation and dissemination of promising evidence-led policy, technology, and organisational innovations for climate-neutral and resilient cities

Summary Budget

This budget covers costs managed by UN-Habitat as co-host and sponsor liaison. (Full budget found as Annex).

Table 1.1 Summary Budget

Budget category	Amount (USD)	Description
Conference management personnel costs	157,274	Staff, consultants, and administrative staff assigned to project
Travel/workshops	8,000	Travel to COP26 for Innovate4Cities side events
Event management costs	90,000	Includes costs of the event management company and interpretation services
Total Operations + Event management budget	255,274	

Programme Support Costs (UN-Habitat)	18,886	
Total Costs	274,160	

Governance Structure

The Innovate4Cities Conference was managed by an Executive Management and Decision Group, the Organizing Committee, a Science and Innovation Steering Committee, and a Partners Network Organizing Committee.

Organizing Committee

The Organizing Committee was responsible for overall conference planning, fundraising, communication and outreach, speakers and participants mobilization, and reporting. UN-Habitat and the Global Covenant of Mayors, co-hosts of the Innovate4Cities conference, were part of the Organizing Committee. In accordance with the decisions of the Executive Management and Decision Group and the Science and Innovation Steering Committee, the Organizing Committee was responsible for planning, budget, and fundraising, communications, logistics, thematic content, and conference agenda as well as liaising with the event management partner.

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and UN-Habitat worked to ensure an efficient interaction between all committees and organizations via the Executive Management and Decision Group, also involving the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Research & Innovation Technical Working Group that is working to secure the long-term continuity of the Innovate4Cities Initiative and Agenda. The Organising Committee met fortnightly throughout the conference planning and implementation period.

Table 2.1 Members of the Organizing Committee

Name	Last Name	Organization
Cathy	Oke	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
Hedda	Roberts	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
Jorn	Verbeeck	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
Diana	Carrillo Silva	UN-Habitat
Margot	Lootens	UN-Habitat
Jasdeep	Randhawa	UN-Habitat
Sai	Joshi	UN-Habitat
Steven	Bland	UN-Habitat

The Executive Management and Decision Group

The Executive Management and Decision Group is comprised of representatives of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and UN-Habitat (both co-hosts of the Innovate4Cities 2021 conference), this group met on a bi-monthly basis to monitor work plan milestones, providing strategic advice and feedback, and endorsed all financial and operational decisions of the

conference. The group served as the chief coordinating unit between the Science and Innovation Steering Committee and Partner Network Organising Committee to ensure synergies in the respective committees' functions and deliverables. In particular, the Executive Management and Decision Group was the custodian of the overall Innovate4Cities program architecture. The Executive Management and Decision Group met fortnightly throughout the conference planning and implementation period.

Table 2.2 Members of the Executive Management and Decision Group (+ Organising Committee above)

Name	Last Name	Organization
Andy	Deacon	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
Bernhard	Barth	UN-Habitat

The Science and Innovation Steering Committee

The Science and Innovation Steering Committee coordinated the substantive and scientific conference programme inputs and oversaw the conference's objectives and proceedings.

The members of the Science and Innovation Steering Committee met six times and two times jointly with the Partner Network Organising Committee members:

- Inaugural meeting: 5 May 2021
- 2nd meeting: 1 June 2021
- 3rd meeting: 01 July 2021
- 4th meeting: 9 August 2021
- 5th meeting: 1 September 2021
- 6th meeting: 5 October 2021
- 7th meeting: 29 October 2021 (joint with Partner Network Organising Committee)
- 8th meeting: 6 December 2021 (joint with Partner Network Organising Committee)

Table 2.3 Members of the Science and Innovation Steering Committee

Name	Last Name	Organization
Debra	Roberts	(Co-chair) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (WGII)
Mauricio	Rodas	(Co-chair) Universidad Católica de Quito
Seth	Schultz	(Co-chair) The Resilience Shift
Sheela	Patel	(Co-chair) Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centres
Aklilu	Fikresilassie	World Resources Institute Africa
Aliyu	Barau	Bayero University Kano
Arnoud	Molenaar	City of Rotterdam
Aromar	Revi	Indian Institute for Human Settlements
David	Dodman	International Institute for Environment and Development
Diana	Urge-Vorsatz	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (WGIII)

Ghislaine	Kieffer	International Energy Agency
Gian Carlo	Delgado Ramos	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Harriet	Bulkeley	Durham University
Indy	Johar	Dark Matter Labs
Joanna	Masic	World Bank
Maryke	van Staden	ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
Meredith	Adler	Student Energy
Panmao	Zhai	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (WGI)
Paolo	Bertoldi	European Commission
Thomas	Osdoba	Climate-KIC
William	Solecki	City University of New York
Winston	Chow	Singapore Management University
Xuemei	Bai	Fenner School of Environment and Society
Youssef	Nassef	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

The Partners' Network Organizing Committee

The Partners' Network Organizing Committee co-developed the conference programme through member and partner outreach, content development and making links to members relevant existing programmes and initiatives.

The members of the Partner Network Organising Committee met six times and two times jointly with the Science and Innovation Steering Committee members:

- Inaugural meeting: 10 May 2021
- 2nd meeting: 1 June 2021
- 3rd meeting: 08 July 2021
- 4th meeting: 11 August 2021
- 5th meeting: 15 September 2021
- 6th meeting: 07 October 2021
- 7th meeting: 29 October 2021 (joint with Science and Innovation Steering Committee)
- 8th meeting: 6 December 2021 (joint with Science and Innovation Steering Committee)

Table 2.4 Members of the Partners' Network Organising Committee

Name	Last Name	Organization
Aditya	Bahadur	International Institute for Environment and Development
Bruce	Stiftel	Planners for Climate Action, Georgia Institute for Technology
Cynthia	Rosenweig	Urban climate Change Research Network
Elena	Crete	Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Giles	Sieon	Future Earth
Greg	Munro	Cities Alliance
Himanshu	Shekhar	UN University
Jon	Walton	Future Earth
Kyra	Appleby	Carbon Disclosure Project
Leo	Horn-Phathanothai	World Resources Institute
Maria	Cortes-Puch	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
Martina	Otto	UN Environment Programme
Oscar	Chamat	Metropolis
Pourya	Salehi	ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
Rich	Freeh	Urban Sustainability Directors Network
Sanjaya	Bhatia	Urban Climate Change Research Network
Simone	Sandholz	UN University

Regional Curators

The Regional Curators helped shape the conference programme to ensure that it was representative and reflective of cities climate change science regional priorities and interests. The Regional Curatorial teams were recognized as supporters of the event, for providing curated programme segments that featured tangible on-the-ground outcomes, co-creation of regional solutions, and presenting leading research, innovation, and practice from their nominated region.

A list of the regional curators can be found in Annex F.

Relationship with IPCC

The relationship between the IPCC, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and UN-Habitat was governed by an MoU, signed in August 2021 by the above parties which clarified the roles and responsibilities of the parties and was signed off by the three organisations.

Conference Programme

The conference programme was built around the core themes of the Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science (GRAA) developed at the 2018 Cities and Climate Change Science conference . There have, however, been many developments in the urban climate change and sustainability agenda since Edmonton, in particular, COVID-19 has transformed cities, widening existing inequalities, creating financial hardship and exposing new vulnerabilities. Considering these developments, Justice & Equity, Health & Wellbeing and Digitalisation/Smart Cities were added as cross-cutting themes for the conference and were actively considered in the GRAA review process that took place before, during and after the conference.

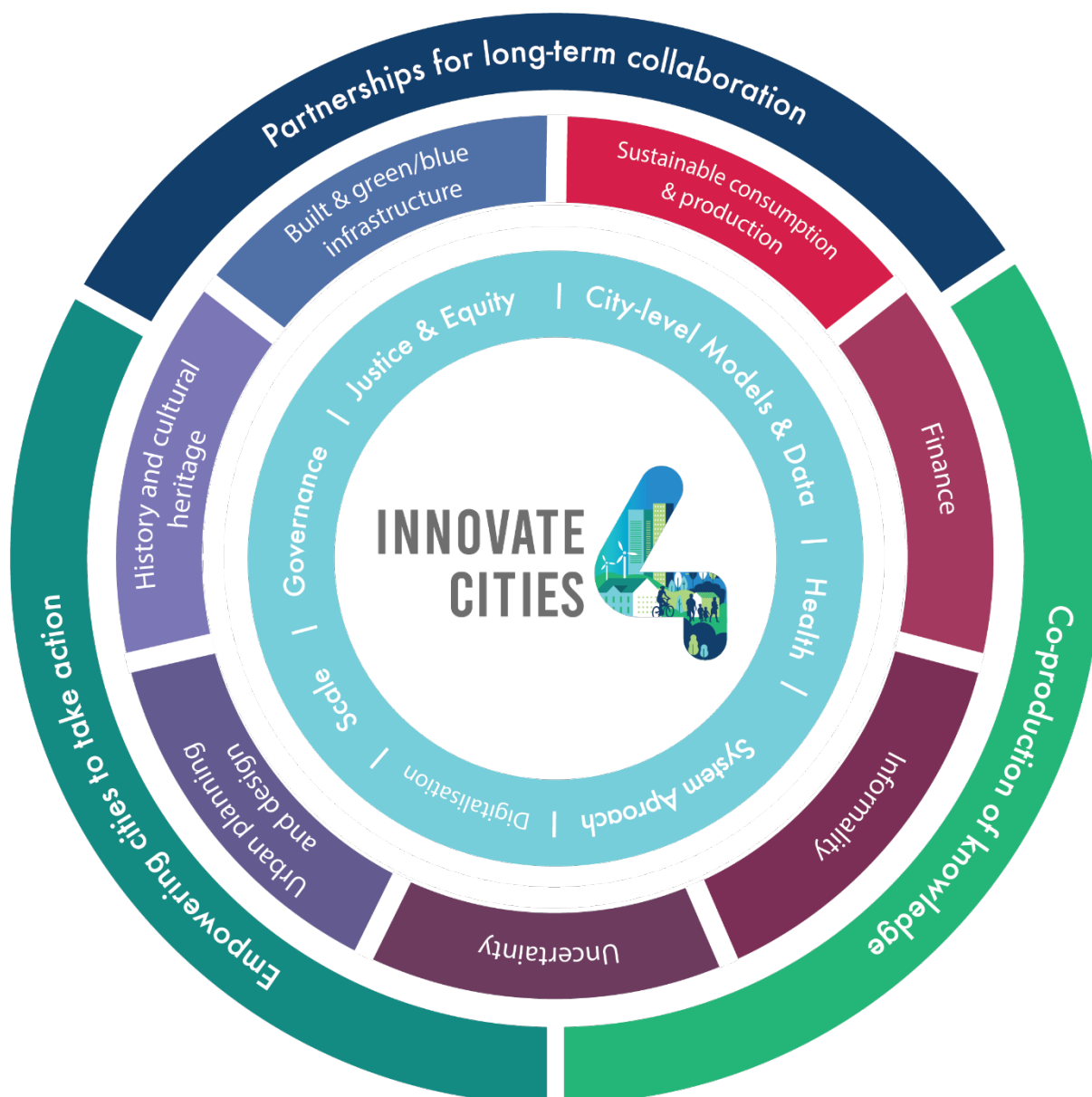


Image 1. The inner circle shows key cross-cutting themes; the middle circle shows the 7 key topic areas, the external circle shows three suggested approaches that help facilitate the implementation of collective efforts, which were identified in writing the Global Research and Action Agenda for Cities and Climate Change Science. Adapted from the 2018 Global Research and Action Agenda graphic originally designed by Amanali Cornejo V.

Topical and Cross-cutting themes

The conference programme included Built and Blue/Green Infrastructure, Sustainable Consumption & Production, Finance, Informality, Uncertainty, Urban Planning and Design, as well as cross-cutting themes on City-level models and Data, Governance, Scale, Systems approach, Justice and Equity, Digitalisation and Smart Cities, and Health and Wellbeing.

Conference format

The conference programme was globally and regionally curated, with opportunities for each region to join plenary and parallel sessions taking place in different locations. A rolling conference

programme allowed maximum participation from those in different time zones, taking place over multiple days. The following session types were available:

Plenaries

Plenaries focused on major conference themes. They consisted of a mix of live and recorded contributions with a panel discussion and audience contributions. Plenaries took place across a range of time zones, with all being recorded and available to view for those that were unable to see them live. Each time zone had the opportunity to host a live plenary. Some plenaries had a theme relating to those found in the GRAA, and some were regionally focused.

Parallel Sessions

Parallel sessions were organised along with the major themes of the conference. Parallel sessions involved a mix of contributions from diverse groups and interests. Whilst most included a mix of global and regional perspectives, some were organised purely with a regional focus to allow for regional interaction and agenda-setting.

Innovation Lab

The innovation lab was a place where participants could learn about different methodologies and approaches to promoting innovative practices in their organisations and research, as well as practical examples of how other organisations have used them to promote climate action in cities.

Mayoral Receptions

Mayoral receptions took place in each region at the beginning and end of the conference and offered an opportunity for high-level political engagement in conference themes and agenda-setting. This was set in a format to encourage virtual networking amongst participants online. This format provides space for people to introduce themselves and find collaborators or connections across their region or across regions.

Cinema Space

The virtual cinema space was a place where conference partners and contributors showcased their visual and audio content, available on demand. In addition, the cinema space contained a TED-talk style set of short provocations (max 3-5 minutes). Accessible at any time, these contained bold ideas or practical experiences, told in story form, to encourage and inspire participants. A message board accompanied the short talks for people to post reactions and spark discussions.

Details on all conference sessions and conference recordings can be found in the Innovate4Cities 2021 Conference Proceeding.

Process for populating the Innovate4Cities conference programme

A rigorous application and review process was followed, with the involvement of Science and Innovation Steering Committee and Partner Network Organising Committee members, in the period July-September 2021, to curate the conference programme sessions and presentations. This process is shown in the timeline below:



Image 2. Programme review process

Call for submissions

A public call was issued on 5 July 2021 and disseminated widely. The statistics for the submissions received are summarised below:

Table 3.1 Total number of submissions received

Contributions	Number
Open call total (received)	463
(Of which) Sessions	213
(Of which) Individual presentations	216
Regional curators' sessions	70

Table 3.2 Total number of contributions

Contributions	Number
Total number of contributions (selected)	345
Total submitted sessions	164
Total curated sessions	53
Total pre-recorded sessions (cinema space)	28

*Curated = individual contributions submitted as 20-minute individual presentations which were grouped together into sessions by conference organisers

In addition to the open call, regional curator teams were invited to submit several sessions which had a regional focus. These were then also reviewed as per the guidelines used during the open call. There were 70 such submissions from regional curators, 45 of which were selected for presentation at the conference.

Description of process to review submissions

Guided by Science and Innovation Steering Committee approved criteria, the approach to submission review was based on the approach to programming undertaken for the 2018 Cities and Climate Change Science Conference.

The criteria for review of submissions were as follows:

Sessions at the Innovate4Cities conference must contribute to conference aims by:

- Contributing to new urban strategic knowledge or knowledge-gathering, advancing the state of the art or helping put emerging themes on the agenda
- Proposing innovation solutions in line with the GRAA and Innovate4Cities agendas
- Identifying and addressing the interlinkages between GRAA and Innovate4Cities themes to ensure cross-sectoral and systems approaches
- Produce or progress useful knowledge for relevant decision-makers and practitioners that present pathways to net-zero resilient cities in different contexts

Session design and the outcome must:

- Offer active participant engagement and or collaboration opportunities
- Be designed to help strengthen implementation pathways
- Aim to deliver concrete outcomes related to new partnerships, initiatives, and discussions
- Include experienced presenters (as demonstrated by presenter bios/experience)
- Employ tested, sound, online session methodologies
- Allow for knowledge gathering and dissemination post-conference contributing to longer-term conference objectives

Sessions must meet standards of scientific excellence by:

- Demonstrating scientific excellence to help deepen, refine, or answer listed knowledge needs and gaps in GRAA-topics, or by identifying additional gaps
- Demonstrating best practice industry, business or practice approaches to listed knowledge needs and gaps in Innovate4Cities or GRAA-topics, or by identifying additional gaps

Sessions must contribute to diversity by:

- Engaging a diverse set of urban stakeholders (government, civil authorities, private sector, and civil society) and other levels of government
 - Noting the scope and format is broad, knowledge excellence is a requirement, but all knowledge is considered important, not just academic
- Integrate gender, diversity, culture, and heritage perspectives
 - Noting the aim for no sessions with all-male presenters, and for regional and local government diversity (north/south; big, small, informal)

The above criteria were weighted as follows:

Table 3.3 Criteria to review submissions

Criteria	Weighting
Contribution to conference aims	50%
Contribution to session design and outcome	20%
Scientific and or innovation excellence	15%
Contribution to diversity	10%
Contribution to a global-regional dialogue	5%

As far as possible, these additional non-scored principles were followed:

- Speakers/presenters should not speak more than twice in the programme.
- Individuals should chair/facilitate a maximum of 4 sessions in the programme.
- Each region will host live a minimum of one plenary session
- Ideally, session chairs can be found from presenters within the sessions.
- Sessions should not consist of entirely male presenters
- Diversity of local governments, research institutes, regions
- Underrepresented voices to be prioritised (youth, early-career scientists and practitioners, Indigenous, informal, women, Global South)
- Sessions should present or generate new knowledge, be outcomes focused, seek pathways for implementation, be of relevance for more than one region

There were several rounds of review which were conducted by the conference organisers and the Science and Innovation Steering Committee. During the first round of review sessions were scored and 234 of those who had scored above 7 of 10 moved on to the next round of review. During the next round, a quality control review was then performed, reviewing those sessions who had received a 6 on 10 to confirm that none had been omitted which also passed the above qualifications. Sessions were also sorted by conference theme at this point, to ensure that there were no large gaps in session topics. Themes which did not have many submissions were revisited by conference organisers and Science and Innovation Steering Committee members and several sessions were added to the conference program to fill in gaps. Some of these gaps were filled through direct outreach, either through entirely new sessions proposed by members of the Science and Innovation Steering Committee and Partner Network Organising Committee, or by securing speakers to extend the thematic coverage of existing sessions.

Communications

Activities and outputs

The key goals of the Innovate4Cities communications, marketing and promotional activities were to attract at least 4000 people to register for the conference, generate greater community and business awareness of Innovate4Cities, its networks, partners, and sponsors, as well as broaden the type of people attending the event, with a particular focus on people who were not actively engaged with Innovate4Cities. This was done in collaboration with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy communications team pre-event, during the event and post-event during COP26, through email marketing, social media, media releases, web stories, marketing materials such as fliers, programme, and social media cards. The impact of communications activities was successful as participants' registration reached approximately 7000 people.

There was a close relationship through preparation for, during and after the conference with the IPCC communications team, who were consulted for approval on key conference communications.

The post-event marketing analytics focused on social media reach and engagement with the hashtags #I4C and #Innovate4cities. The results indicate that Innovate4Cities content reached an audience of 2.9 million users over a 90-day period between 23 September - 23 November 2021, while interactions (likes, retweets, shares, comments) stood at 1,200. The top 4 influencers with regards to Innovate4Cities content in order were UN-Habitat, African Cities Research Consortium, UCLG and World Bank Cities.

Table 4.1 Web coverage and media pickups summary

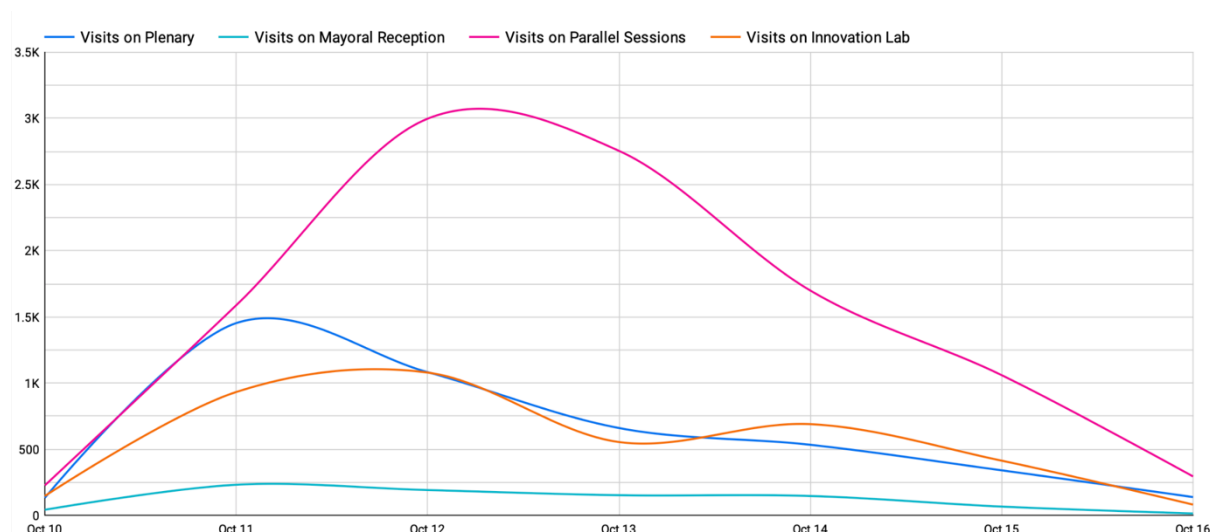
Media Opportunity	Media	When	Links
Innovate4Cities Conference to explore climate crisis solutions	China Global Television Network	13/09/2021	Innovate4Cities Conference to explore climate crisis solutions CGTN Africa
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change joins as co-sponsor for the Innovate4Cities climate change conference	UN-Habitat Website	21/09/2021	https://unhabitat.org/the-intergovernmental-panel-on-climate-change-joins-as-co-sponsor-for-the-innovate4cities-climate
UN-Habitat conference to focus on cities' role in climate change	The Star Digital News	23/09/2021	UN-Habitat conference to focus on cities' role in climate change (the-star.co.ke)
Innovate for Cities Conference to encourage climate-smart technologies to tackle global warming	UN-Habitat Website	10/10/2021	https://unhabitat.org/innovate-for-cities-conference-to-encourage-climate-smart-technologies-to-tackle-global-warming

Innovate for Cities Climate conference opens with high-level speakers ahead of COP26	UN-Habitat Website	12/10/2021	https://unhabitat.org/innovate-for-cities-climate-conference-opens-with-high-level-speakers-ahead-of-cop26
Virtual Innovate4Cities Conference on cities and climate used innovation for global reach	UN-Habitat Website	15/10/2021	https://unhabitat.org/virtual-i4c-conference-on-cities-and-climate-used-innovation-for-global-reach
Future Earth at Innovate4Cities 2021	Future Earth Website	25/10/2021	Future Earth at Innovate4Cities 2021 Future Earth
COP26: What does it mean for Cities' climate action?	International Science Council	04/11/2021	https://council.science/current/blog/cop26-what-does-it-mean-for-cities-climate-action/
Participants at COP 26 event call for innovative approaches to mobilize urban climate finance	UN-Habitat Website	15/11/2021	https://unhabitat.org/participants-at-cop-26-event-call-for-innovative-approaches-to-mobilize-urban-climate-finance

Registration, participation, and speaker statistics

The total number of visits to the conference website from Oct 10-16 2021 was 22, 884 with 6,901 total registered participants.

Figure 5.1 Visits per type of session from 10 to 16 October 2021



Registered participants

Figure 5.2 Cumulative number of registrations from 12 September to 16 October 2021

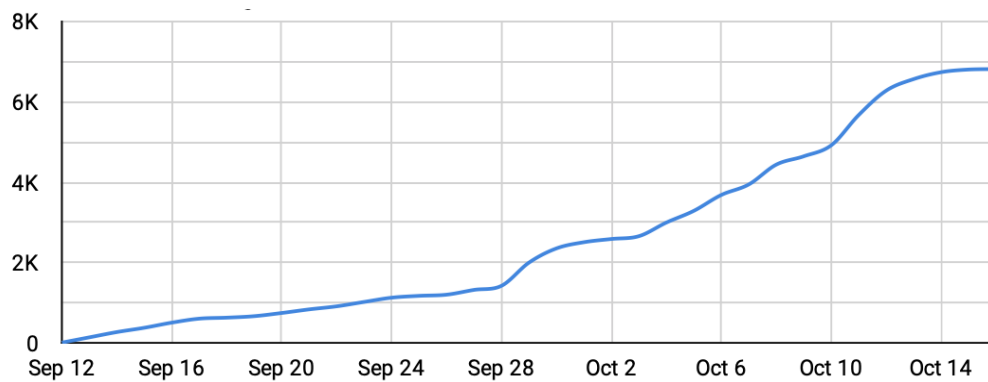


Figure 5.3 Percentage of registered participants by region

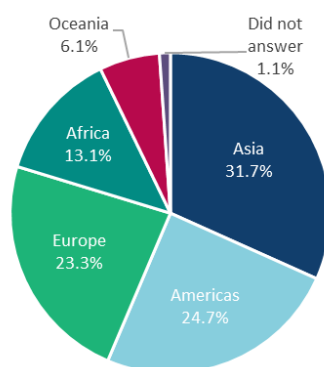


Figure 5.4 Percentage of registered participants by age group

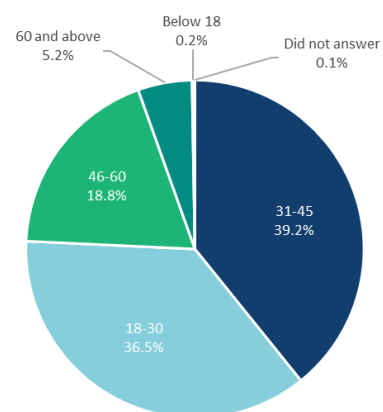


Figure 5.5 Percentage of registered participants by gender

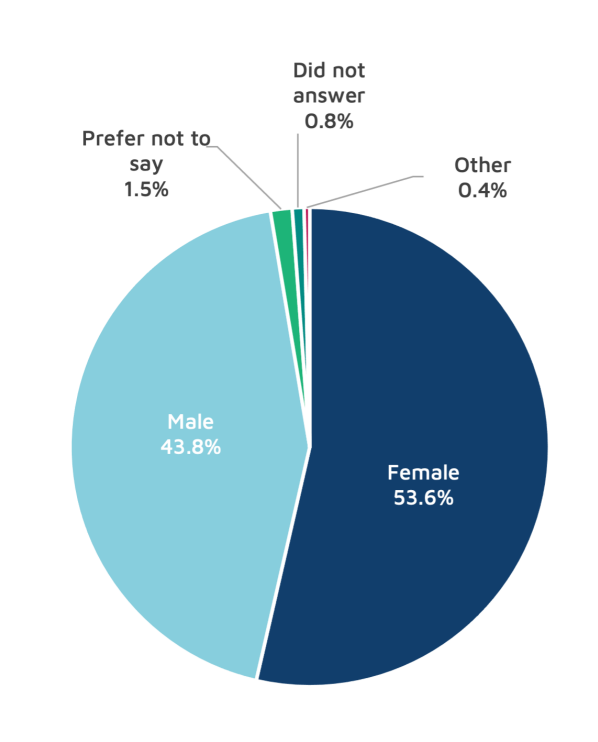
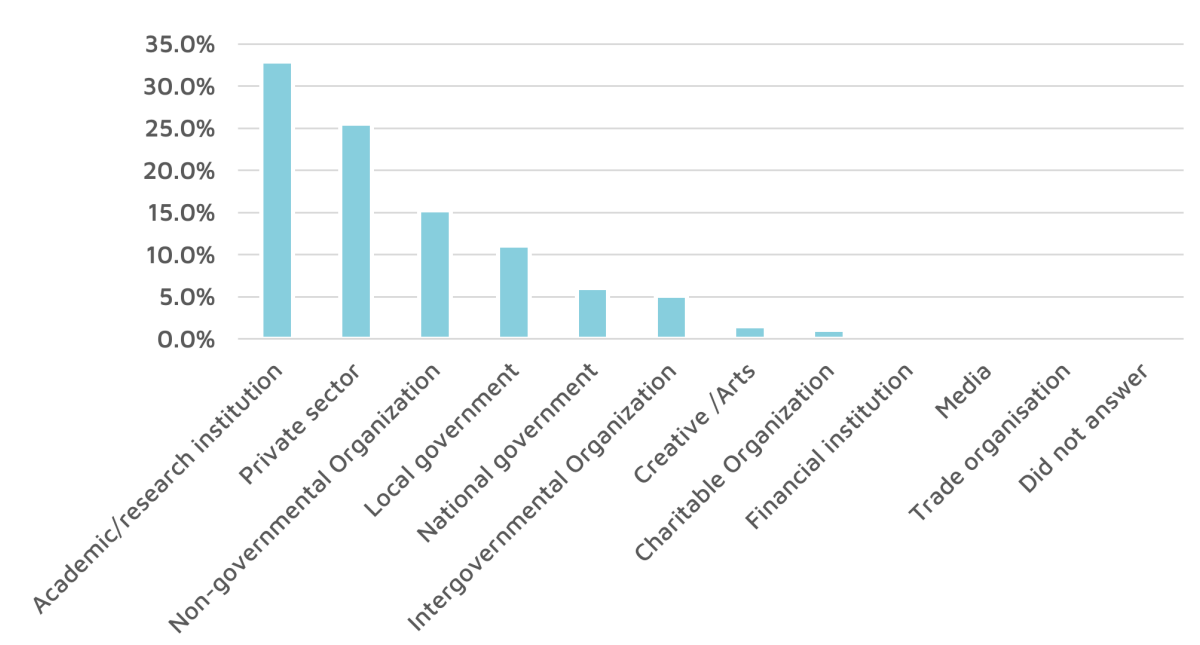


Figure 5.6 Percentage of registered participants by sector



Speakers

Figure 5.7 Number of speakers by country

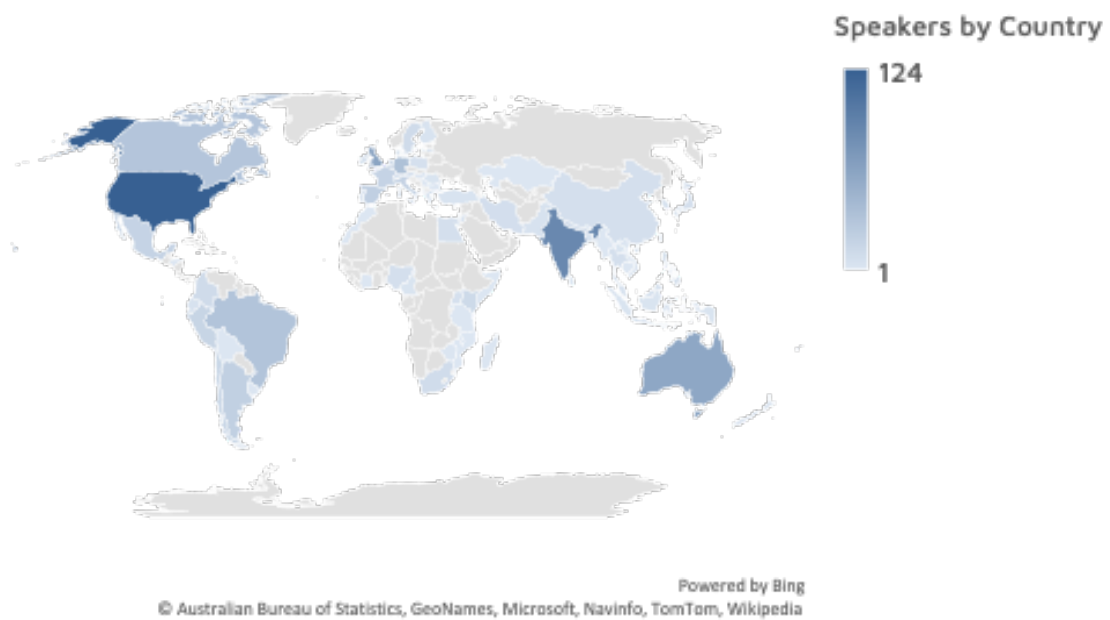


Figure 5.8 Percentage of speakers by gender

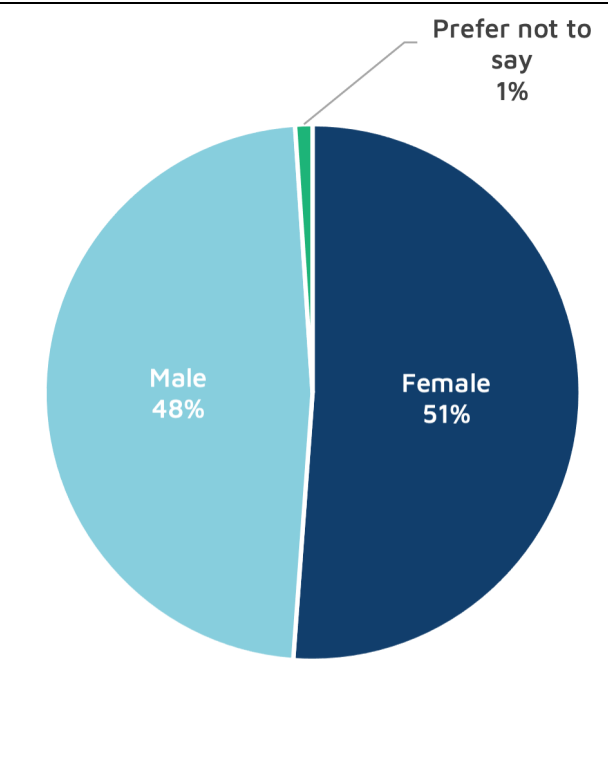
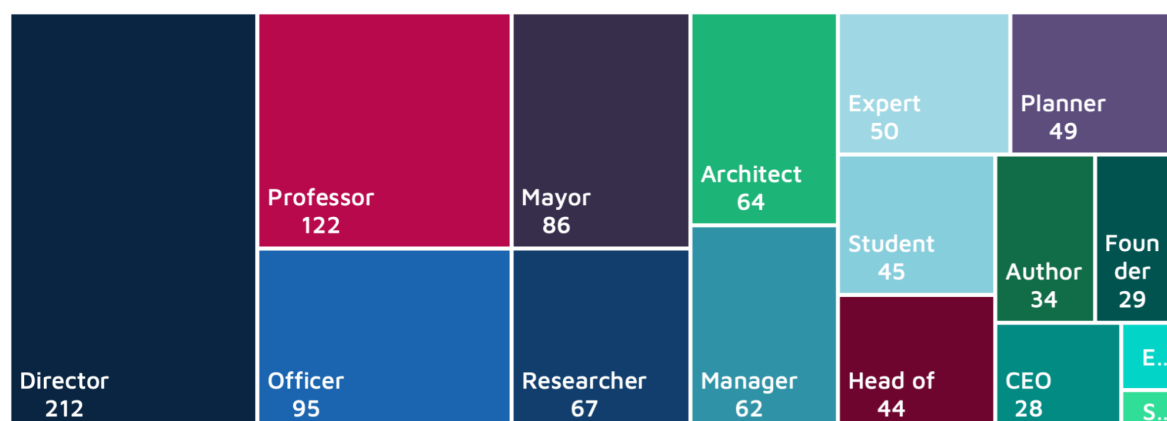


Figure 5.9 Number of speakers by occupation



Conference Outputs and outcomes

The Conference has three expected outcomes:

1. **Increased awareness of and commitment to the Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science.** The extremely broad reach of climate change and urban partners involved in the organisation and presentation of the conference, as well as the very large number of registrations, means that awareness of the issues contained within research and action agenda from the 2018 Cities and Climate Change Science conference has been increased.
2. **Concrete collaboration agreements between researchers, universities, practitioners, and city governments.** Assessment of this outcome is still taking place.
3. **Opportunities identified for funding commitments for collaborative research and innovation projects and programmes in cities.** Assessment of this outcome is still taking place.

The Conference outputs include:

1. Discussions and findings from the 2021 Innovate4Cities conference: Findings from Innovate4Cities 2021 and Update to the Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science
2. A document capturing key messages on climate change science and urban issues to inform and feed into COP26
3. Augmented key messages from the student writing team
4. Conference proceedings document, to be published by UN-Habitat in the second half of 2022
5. Report to the IPCC

Findings from Innovate4Cities 2021 and Update to the Global Research and Action Agenda

The key output of the conference is an insights document from the conference discussions, which includes revisions and updates to the GRAA produced after the Cities and Climate Change Science conference in 2018, formally called Findings from Innovate4Cities and Update to the Global Research and Action Agenda. The team working on this document was led by two independent

consultants (Brenna Walsh and Julie Greenwalt), who were tasked with tracking all conference sessions and developing the update to the research agenda from session inputs. Session rapporteurs watched each session and responded to a questionnaire tailored to collect information for this update. Three sessions were held for rapporteurs, Science and Innovation Steering Committee, Partner Network Organising Committee and the Global Covenant of Mayors' R+I TWG members to meet with the writing team leads to review emerging themes during the conference, and three workshops were held with Science and Innovation Steering Committee, Partner Network Organising Committee and the Global Covenant of Mayors' R+I TWG members in the week after the conference to capture key messages as well. The first section of the document reviews the shift from a priority of increasing ambition in cities to bridging the implementation gap which was highlighted during the conference. The second section reviews new research gaps identified during Innovate4Cities 2021, and reviews progress on those identified during the Cities and Climate Change Science conference in 2018. A third section was also added which highlights regionally specific gaps and issues which can be addressed as the scientific, urban policy and practice communities continue to work together.

The full Innovate4Cities Findings and update to GRAA document is found in annex B.

Student writing team Innovate4Cities conference report

A group of 32 students that came from 17 different countries were recruited by the University of Melbourne to write a conference student synthesis document. They worked together to produce a conference report that synthesizes key messages from the conference from their perspective as participants and viewers. This report is organized by GRAA theme. They also produced a student-led COP26 report, drawing key messages from the conference that fed into some higher-level messages.

The main themes found in the report were Justice and Equity and Systems Approach, specifically the ecosystems approach. The key findings included downscaling data to better understand climate impacts at the local level; the importance of co-producing knowledge so that local and indigenous knowledge is incorporated into climate planning in building the capacity of small and intermediary cities; increasing collaboration horizontally and vertically; including indigenous people in local communities as well as disciplines, sectors, and levels of government; sharing data to enhance the capacity between cities, as well as between urban actors locally and globally; the need for better communication on the co-benefits of climate action, particularly as a means to increase climate finance; and taking a more inclusive and intersectional approach to policy design with a specific focus on environmental justice.

Refer to the annex G where the full report can be found.

Post-event dissemination

COP26, Glasgow, UK

Key messages to COP26

The key messages from Innovate4Cities that were taken to COP26 were devised by the writing leads using inputs from the Science and Innovation Steering Committee, Partner Network Organising Committee and the Global Covenant of Mayors' R+I TWG. The messages were organized by the target audience, (National Governments, City Leaders/City Government, Private Sector/Business/Finance communities, Research and Scientific community and Civil Society/Activists) rather than by theme, to make the messages more targeted. The messages were also classified by the GRAA theme and its corresponding COP26 goal. The messages were disseminated at different

sessions where UN-Habitat or the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy participated (see table 6.1)

The full list of key messages can be found in Annex H.

UN-Habitat and Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy COP26 and Innovate4Cities high-level engagements

Table 6.1 Events where UN-Habitat and Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy engaged in relation to the Innovate4Cities conference

Date	Event title	Recording	Partners/ Speakers
03 Nov	Finance flowing to Accelerate Climate Action, Innovation and Partnership	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFn_YeG2nzw	UNH: Bernhard Barth Innovate4Cities Partner Network Organising Committee Member: Augustin Maria
09 Nov	Cities, Climate Change Science and Innovation: Outcomes from the Innovate4Cities Conference	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikx4VdKNgv4	Innovate4Cities Science and Innovation Steering Committee Members: Maryke van Staden and Joanna Masic Innovate4Cities Executive Management and Decision Group Representatives from Mexico national government and metropolitan municipality of Lima
09 Nov	UN-Habitat: Cities at the crossroads – The UN System helping cities to accelerate climate	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Clv_i_1U72E	Lead organization: UN-Habitat Supporting organizations: UNDP, UNDRR, UNCDF, UNU, UNEP
10 Nov	Climate Change and Innovation in Cities	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRHwJuyV5CU	UNH: Bernhard Barth

In addition to dissemination which occurred at COP26, the key messages from Innovate4Cities were also presented during the *World Cities Day Roundtable* on 31 October 2021, hosted by UN Habitat.

Next steps and maintaining momentum

The Innovate4Cities conference successfully brought together a diverse group of urban climate change practitioners and researchers and reinvigorated a community of practise that jointly revisited

the research and action gaps identified in 2018. Nevertheless, there is always a risk such a conference does not yield the longer-term benefits aspired to at the outset of its organisation. To maintain the momentum of the innovative cities and climate change science agenda the following next steps are envisaged:

- UN-Habitat is working to institutionalise a conference and knowledge secretariat as part of the founding of a new physical presence in Montreal, Canada.
- The Global Covenant of Mayors Research and Innovation Technical Working Group will support the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Secretariat to update the practitioner-focused Innovate4Cities City Research Agenda.
- The pre-conference substantive review of the research and action gaps that remain or have surfaced since the 2018 conference did not take place due to time and financial capacity constraints. In 2022 the co-hosts will work with conference partners to identify mechanisms for a more formal review of the original GRAA and the subsequent insights captured from the Innovate4Cities conference, with the aim of synthesising and generating new knowledge and practitioner support in critical areas. This may take the form, for example, of a special journal or practitioner-focused summaries or guides

Recommendations for the consideration of the IPCC

Recommendations to IPCC

The conference Executive Management Team and Science and Innovation Steering Committee have come together to provide the following set of recommendations from the Innovate4Cities 2021 conference to the Panel.

- That the topics raised during the Innovate4Cities 2021 conference be considered during the scoping of the Special Report on Cities during the AR7 cycle, including topics where significant research is emerging including how informality, justice and equity and history and cultural heritage can play important roles in climate resilient development and where there are significant gaps in knowledge such on implementation and finance.
- That the Panel explore, with UN-Habitat and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy further ways to increase IPCC outreach opportunities in the global urban community.
- That the Special Report on Cities in the AR7 cycle be led by all three Working Groups (in the same way as SR1.5 and SRCCL were).
- That consideration be given to suitably qualified and experienced urban practitioners in the nomination and selection of authors for the Special Report on Cities, in recognition of the importance of practical knowledge in contributing to climate resilient development.

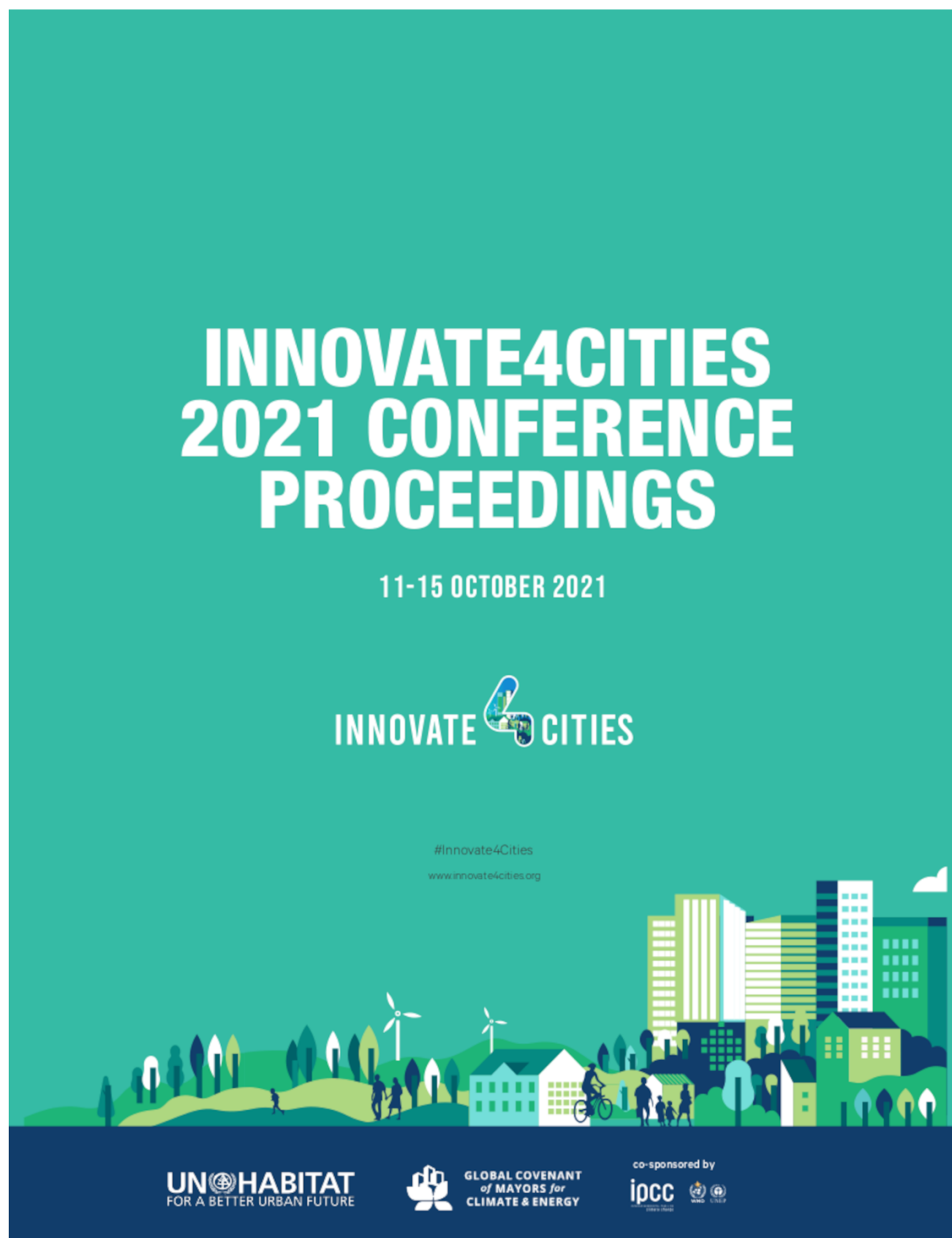
Concluding Remarks

Conference co-organisers The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and the United Nations Human Settlement Programme were pleased with the quality of presentations and discussions at the Innovate4Cities 2021 conference, held 11-15th October 2021, co-sponsored by the IPCC. Following the conference, UN-Habitat in particular has recognized the importance of resulting research outputs which may contribute to the assessment to be undertaken for the upcoming Special Report on Cities in the IPCC's seventh assessment cycle. UN-Habitat, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy will continue to bring urban actors and stakeholders together to build evidence based urban climate change knowledge, and would be open to opportunities to support joint outreach events with the IPCC that encourage an increase in the peer reviewed literature on the issues highlighted during the Innovate4Cities 2021 conference.

Annex A. Innovate4Cities Reports

Innovate4Cities Conference Proceedings

This report includes an Annex 3: Full list of participants/registrants.

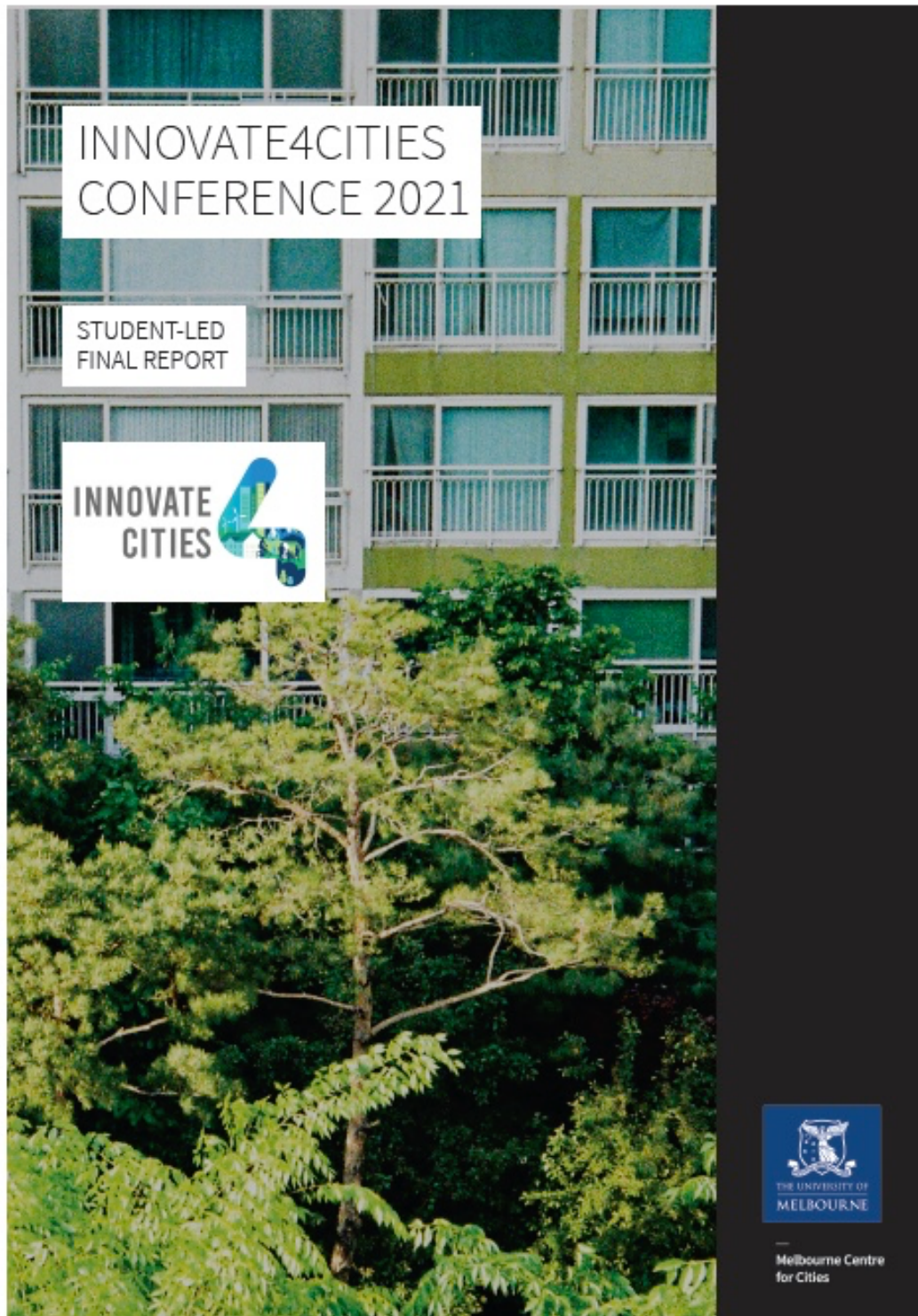


<https://unhabitat.org/innovate4cities-2021-conference-proceedings>



1. https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/05/findings_from_innovate4cities_2021_and_update_to_the_global_research_and_action_agenda_1.pdf
2. <https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Discussion-and-Findings-Innovate4Cities-2021.pdf>
3. <https://doi.org/10.26188/62795d16f3bab>

Innovate4Cities Conference 2021: Student-Led Final Report



https://melbourne.figshare.com/articles/online_resource/Innovate4Cities_Conference_2021_Student-Led_Final_Report/17209202

DOI:[10.26188/17209202](https://doi.org/10.26188/17209202)

Annex B. Provisional Conference Financial Report

The conference was supported by a combination of monetary and in-kind contributions. The breakdown of the conference budget, and other support costs can be seen below.

Table C.1. Innovate4Cities 2021 Conference Expenditure overview

Conference management and personnel costs	In USD
Event Consultant	80,750
Project Lead coordinator	24,000
Project consultants, pre- during and post conference	67,000
UN-Habitat personnel, in kind (approx.)	85,000
Global Covenant of Mayors in kind (approx.)	70,000
Student writing team support	20,000
Workshop costs/travel costs	
Pre-post conference travel/workshop and promotion of the GRAA	15,000
Event Management Company / online platform (EU)	40,000
Interpretation	50,000
Publications	
Pre and post conference publications	10,934 USD
Total Operational Expenditure	462,684
Programme support costs	18,886 USD
Total Expenditure	481,570

Financial, in kind and co-funding were broken down as can be seen in tables 2, 3 and 4 below, which resulted in conference funding of a total of 274,160 USD.

Table C.2. Monetary contributions to Innovate4Cities 2021 conference

	USD
European Climate Foundation / Global Covenant of Mayors	149,160
Resilience First	15,000
Total monetary contribution	164,160

Table C.3. In kind contributions to Innovate4Cities 2021 conference

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (conference interpretation)	50,000
Melbourne Center for Cities (student writing support team)	20,000
UN-Habitat Personnel	85,000
GCoM Personnel	70,000

Table C.4. Co-Funding for Innovate4Cities 2021 conference

Event Management Company (Evey Technologies) contract, European Commission, Urban LEDS project	40,000
Personnel from projects showcasing work at I4C	52,410

Table C.5. Total Income and Expenditure for Innovate4Cities 2021 conference

Total Expenditure (C.1)	481,570
Total Income (C2+C3+C4)	481,570

Annex C. List of Financial and In-kind Supporters

Organisation	Description of the organisation	Amount provided
European Climate Foundation	The European Climate Foundation is dedicated to responding to the global climate crisis by creating a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions society. We harness the power of effective philanthropy to support the climate community in shaping public debate and forging bold solutions. Together with hundreds of partner organisations we are at the forefront of a global movement to ensure a liveable planet for future generations.	149,160 USD
Resilience Shift	Resilience First is a not-for-profit membership organisation, funded and led by businesses across industry sectors, with a mission to advance resilience best practices for mutual benefit and that of society.	15,000 USD
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung	Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) is a German political foundation, committed to fostering democracy, democratic processes, and institutions at the national and international level. KAS is implementing projects in more than 120 countries and has 16 offices in sub-Saharan Africa. KAS has more than 60 years of experience in international cooperation. Activities around the thematic areas of sustainable urban development and climate change adaptation and mitigation in Sub-Saharan Africa are implemented by KAS via its Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change, based in Nairobi, Kenya. Its objective is to strengthen the political and social framework for climate-friendly sustainable development as well as foster regional and international cooperation on energy security and on climate adaptation and mitigation plans in the region. KAS works in accordance with its Christian values and puts the self-determination of the individual at the centre of its work. KAS is largely financed by funds from the German federal level.	50,000 USD (In Kind)
Melbourne Centre for Cities	The Melbourne Centre for Cities, University of Melbourne, focuses on the role of cities in major societal challenges, how city leadership can address them, and the information needed to do so in a connected but also disrupted and unequal time. The Centre works globally, connecting urban researchers and key stakeholders in cities and city leadership.	20,000 USD (In Kind)
European Commission (Urban-LEDS project)	During 2012 – 2015 under the Urban-LEDS I project, ICLEI and UN-Habitat supported eight model cities in Brazil, India, Indonesia and South Africa to develop comprehensive Urban Low Emission Development Strategies and action plans using ICLEI's GreenClimateCities (GCC) process methodology. In 2017, a second phase of the project was launched (Urban-LEDS II). This new phase addresses integrated low emission and resilient development in more than 60 cities in 8 countries: Brazil, India, Indonesia and South Africa (from Phase I) and countries added in Phase II: Bangladesh, Colombia, Lao PDR and Rwanda. In addition to these countries, 16 European cities act as source cities and support peer-to-peer exchange and cooperation.	40,000 USD

	In order to show-case the achievements of Urban LEDS at Innovate4Cities	
UN-Habitat	Staff and personnel time dedicated to I4C	85,000 USD (In kind)
Global Covenant of Mayors	Staff and personnel time dedicated to I4C	70,000 USD (In kind)
Project Personnel from UN-Habitat projects, other than the above, contributing directly to I4C – i.e. using I4C as platform for showcasing innovations	Staff and personnel time using I4C as platform for project deliverables (i.e. the online platform provided) and directly contributing to the management and facilitation of the conference.	52,410 USD (in kind)

Annex D. List of Regional Curators

Table F.1. List of regional curators and associated institutions, divided by 4 regional curator teams

Region	Logo	Organisation	Curator
Oceania and Southeast Asia		Melbourne Climate Futures, University of Melbourne	Professor Jacqueline Peel Professor Kathryn Bowen Ms Rebekkah Markey-Towler
		Connected Cities Lab, University of Melbourne	Ms Amelia Leavesley Ms Ariana Dickey
		Melbourne School of Design, University of Melbourne	Dr Judy Bush
		Melbourne Sustainability Society Institute, University of Melbourne	Professor Sarah Bell Associate Professor Janet Stanley
		Swinburne University of Technology	Professor Niki Frantzeskaki
		City of Darebin	Kristie Dunn
		City of Yarra	Michael Oke
		Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) and Climate Emergency Australia	David Meiklejohn
		EAROPH Australia and EAROPH Climate Change Subcommittee	Dr Christina Ting Dr Jane Stanley
European Union and Western Europe, Middle East and West Asia, Africa		Asian School of the Environment (ASE) and Earth Observatory of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	Assistant Professor Perrine Hamel Research Associate Devansh Jain
		Glasgow Caledonian University, UK	Dr Nusrath Maharoof Professor Rohinton Emmanuel John Lieber Rose Cawood
		Glasgow City Council	Gillian Dick James Murray
		University College Dublin	Professor Gerald Mills
		Sustrans UK	Dr. Lee Muir
		NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	Martin Johnston

		CEMVO Scotland	Cornell Hanxomphou
		Interfaith Glasgow	Lynnda Wardle
		erz Studio	Murray McKellar
		Glasgow community Energy/Get Glasgow Moving	Ellie Harrison, artist & activist
		ICLEI Europe	Dr Daniela Rizzi
		Wetopia	Joke Quintens
		Madrid City Council	Nicolas Gharbi
		Instituto Mutante	Amanda Masha
		Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	Sara Romero
		Disaster Management and Ethics Research Group, Faculty of Pharmacy, Rhodes University, Mskhanda South Africa	Dr. Roman Tandlich
			Peter Jacobus Brazer
East Asia, South Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia			Joseph Okputu
			Remy Mulamba
		School of Architecture, MITADT University, Pune, India	Dhanashri Mirajkar
			Dr. Ashwini Pethe
			Dr. Neeti Trivedi
Latin America, the			Mukta Deshpande
			Harshad Raisonni
			Pranay Tode
		Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture	Namrata Dhamanka
			Dr. Sujata Karve
			Nidhi Dixit
			Prajakta Kulkarni
		Sustainability Initiatives	Shivali Waichal
			Dr. Poorva Keskar
			Anagha Paranjape-Purohit
Latin America, the			Amol Umbarje
		Universidad de Chile	Pamela Smith Guerra

Caribbean and North America		Organización Adapt Chile	Teresita Alcantará
		Municipalidad de Renca	Alejandra Millán
		Municipalidad de Peñalolén	Caroll Owen
		Vicepresidencia de Desarrollo Urbano Sostenible y Cambio Climático	Mercociudades
		Municipio Esteban Echeverría	
		Prefeitura de São Leopoldo	
		Asociación de Universidades Grupo Montevideo (AUGM)	
		Municipio de Canelones	
		Metropolitan Municipality of Lima	Lorena Montellanos O'Diana
		Scientific University of the South	Luis Pachas - Information and Environmental Governance Specialist, Anderson Huayna - Head of Air Quality and Environmental Evaluations Division Gonzalo Flores - Dean of Environmental Sciences Maria Jesus Alfaro
		Peruvian Youth Against Climate Change	Elizabeth Corzo Jara Carla Rojas Jesus Villaca
		California Polytechnic State University	Michael R. Boswell
		University of San Francisco	Billy Riggs
		City of San Luis Obispo, CA	Chris Read
		City of Oakland, CA	Daniel Hamilton

		Urban Climate Nexus	Dr. Jairo Garcia
		City of Atlanta	Shelby Buso
		Georgia Institute of Technology	Dr. Kim Cobb
		Southeast Climate & Energy Network	Alexander Easdal
		Partnership for Southern Equity	Chandra Farley
		CDP	William Hsu Laura Parry
		C40 Cities	Pamela Jouven
		World Business Council for Sustainable Development	Roland Hunizker
		Department of Sustainability, Cuyahoga County	Director Mike Foley
		Cleveland State University	Research Associate Mark Henning