

For the report to Commission Session.

Over 50 mayors attended the Day of Cities from over 33 countries of the UNECE region, a number of them delivered presentations ¹together with expertsⁱ from municipalities and the academia. The programme of the event is available at :

https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/Meetings/2019/04_8_Day_of_Cities/Final_programme_DoC_ENG.pdf

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- Mr. Erion Veliaj, Mayor of Tirana, Albania
 - Mr. Christian Dupessay, Mayor of Annemasse, France
 - Mr. Eldar Azizov, Mayor of Baku, Azerbaijan
 - Mr. Mikalai Yakubowski, Deputy Mayor of Brest, Belarus
 - Mr. Abdulah Skaka, Mayor of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Ms. Ruska Boyadzhieva, Deputy Mayor of Burgas, Bulgaria
 - Mr. Anatolii Matsiulin,, Head of the Council of Deputies of Chaussy, Belarus
 - Mr. Davor Nadji, Vice Mayor of Sveta Nedelja, Croatia
 - Mr. Constantinos Yiorkadjis, Mayor of Nicosia, Cyprus
 - Mr. Aleksii Janttti, Deputy Mayor of Tampere, Finland
 - Ms. Maia Bitadze, Deputy Mayor of Tbilisi, Georgia
 - Mr. Ashok-Alexander Sridharan, Mayor of Bonn, Germany
 - Mr. Laszlo Domonyi, Mayor of Kiskoros, Hungary
 - Ms. Isabel Riboldi on behalf of city of Milan, Italy
 - Ms. Liliana Mazzi, on behalf of city of Torino, Italy
 - Ms. Ilaria Caprioglio, Mayor of Savona, Italy
 - Mr. Andris Ravnis, Mayor of Jelgava, Latvia
 - Mr. Max Zammit, Mayor of Ta'Xblek, Malta
 - Mr. Ivan Vukovic, Mayor of Podgorica, Montenegro
 - Ms. Hanna Marcussen, Vice Mayor of Oslo, Norway
 - Ms. Eva Vinje Aurdal, Mayor of Alesund, Norway
 - Ms. Joana Balsemao, Deputy Mayor of Cascais, Portugal
 - Mr. Konstantin Georgievski, Mayor of Ohrid, Republic of North Macedonia
 - Mr. Ulfat Mustafin, Mayor of Ufa, Russia
 - Ms. Doina Feher, Deputy Mayor of Satu Mare, Romania
 - Mr. Tomaso Rossini, Captain of the Castle, San Marino
 - Ms. Lucia Stasselova, Deputy Mayor of Bratislava, Slovakia
 - Mr. Bojan Srot, Mayor of Celje, Slovenia
 - Mr. Xulio Ferreiro, Mayor of A Coruña, Spain
 - Mr. Peter Danielsson, Mayor of Helsingborg, Sweden
 - Mr. Sami Kaanan, Mayor of Geneva, Switzerland
 - Mr. Martijn Vroom, Mayor of Krimpen, the Netherlands
 - Ms. Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council, United Kingdom
 - Mr. Mykola Povoroznyk, First Deputy Mayor of Kyiv, Ukraine
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Report of Roundtable 1 of Day of Cities

Ms. Elena Szolgayova, Slovakia, Chair of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, reported on the discussions of roundtable one of the Day of Cities, focused on: **Improving the Quality of Life of People**. Mayors in the roundtable concurred that the engagement of local authorities is critical for achieving the SDGs and a shift in focus and level of implementation from national to local will result in tangible improvements in the lives of residents, enhancing community resilience, and improving life chance and opportunities of people. In this regard, tools for better cooperation are needed between residents and the government, and between the government, the private sector, academia and the media including through a better use of digital technologies. It was a common opinion that, if mayors are to achieve resilient, low-emission, circular, nature-based equal and healthy cities, then more opportunities should be offered by the international community like the Day of Cities and the support of UNECE to the work of local authorities should be enhanced to facilitate the exchange of experiences and discuss solutions to address the main challenges to achieve SDGs in urban areas.

For instance, mayors have a central role in preparing cities to reduce emissions and make urban environments carbon neutral and have to take action despite often limited budgets. Mayors are already effectively implementing climate solutions and increasing cities resiliency to disasters. In this regard, mayors concurred that reducing the number of cars is imperative as is increasing green spaces and green infrastructure, adding more pedestrian areas, promoting public transport and shared mobility and enhancing urban forestry.

The importance of introducing safe and inclusive solutions for food security and reduce food waste as well as increasing the share of organic food was also highlighted. Waste management as well the use of sustainable local materials including wood for construction and banning the use of plastics is a priority, including by engaging local skills and knowledge, improving the quality of construction, focusing on the building skin, making insulation more effective and recovering energy.

Increasing public spaces was considered key in enhancing the quality of cities and the interaction amongst citizens and their quality of life, together with affordable housing. In this regard, a shift to new housing management solutions are needed, such as, locally-based housing associations, a more accessible housing market, the use of incentives for affordable housing, increasing the amount of affordable housing through more rental properties and lowering of taxes for low-income residents. In this regard, it was noted the central role of the UN Geneva Charter for Sustainable Housing adopted by UNECE and the related Charter Centers, as its implementation at the local level could make a difference in the region to address the challenge of lack of affordable sustainable housing.

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1. Mr. Eduard Lysenko, Head of the Department of Information Technology of Moscow, Minister of the Moscow Government
 2. Mr. Richard Yancey, Executive Director, Building Energy Exchange, NYC
 3. Mr. Spiro Pollalis, Professor of Design, Technology and Management at Harvard Design School, Director, the Zofnass Program for the Sustainability of Infrastructure
 4. Mr. Sean Pander, Green Project Manager of the City of Vancouver

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5. Mr. Brian Evens, City Urbanist of Glasgow
 6. Mr. Julio Andrade Ruiz, City Council of Malaga