

# DAY OF CITIES

8 APRIL 2019 | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA



A smart sustainable city is an innovative city that uses ICTs and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic, social, environmental as well as cultural aspects.

- **Mayors from Cities in the UNECE region**
- **Knowledge sharing via two roundtables on creating smart sustainable cities of the future**
- **Exhibition/Fair showcasing success stories, tools & plans to create smart sustainable cities**
- **Developing ideas and recommendations on how to better engage with UNECE towards smart sustainable cities**

## BACKGROUND

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will hold its 68th session under the theme “Smart sustainable cities: Drivers for Sustainable Development” on 9 – 10 April 2019 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. To inform the intergovernmental discussions of the 56 UNECE member States, the Commission is preceded by a **Day of Cities** that brings together **Mayors and Deputy Mayors** for an exchange of views and knowledge sharing of good practices and successful planning strategies. In two roundtables, Mayors and Deputy Mayors will discuss approaches on how to create smart sustainable cities, focusing on ways to improve the quality of life of people and on improving efficiency of urban operations, services and competitiveness.

The Day of Cities also provides an opportunity to learn more about UNECE instruments that support sustainable practices and ways to monitor progress on the path towards creating a smart sustainable city.

An exhibition and information fair invites participants to showcase their success stories, and present useful tools that help to embrace smart and sustainable practices.

**8 April, Room XVIII, Palais Des Nations**

**10:00-11:00      Opening speeches**

- **Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE**
- **Mr. Jean Todt, UN Special Envoy for Road Safety**
- **Mr. Sami Kanaan, the Mayor of Geneva**
- **Mr. Nikhil Seth, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director, UNITAR**

**11:00–13:00      Roundtable 1: Improving the Quality of Life of People**

**Moderator: Mr. Cedric Van Styvendael, President, Housing Europe**

- Affordable, decent and healthy housing and basic services for different groups and changing populations
- Increasing urban resilience to natural and man-made disasters and mitigating/adapting to climate change and carbon-neutral cities
- Smart tools to promote cultural heritage
- Sustainable use of land and green areas and public spaces
- Smart city tools to improve participation and governance

**15:00-18:00      Roundtable 2: Improving efficiency of Urban Operations, Services and Competitiveness**

**Moderator: Ms. Alice Charles, Project Lead on Cities, World Economic Forum**

- Smart transport, urban mobility, and smart tools for road safety
- Smart technologies to improve urban services
- Technology and infrastructure for smart sustainable cities
- Tools for sharing economy and circularity (e.g. waste)
- Digital transition and e-governance

**8 and 9 April**

**Smart Sustainable Cities Exhibition and Information Fair**

During the Day of Cities and the Commission session, participants are invited to showcase to an international audience in the Palais des Nations their good practices; share innovative solutions towards smart and sustainable cities in the UNECE region; present their use of UNECE tools to help facilitate the transition towards smart sustainable cities.

The exhibition and information fair will encourage peer learning, cooperation among cities in the UNECE region and partnerships with international organizations, academia and the private sector.

**For most recent updates on the programme and participants, please visit <http://www.unece.org/housing/dayofcities.html>**