

## Transforming cities together: the role of national governments in local climate action

Thursday 23 May 2019 11am - 12.30pm

Cluster leads: The Coalition for Urban Transitions and the OECD  
International Conference on Climate Action (ICCA2019), Heidelberg, Germany

### Background

Protecting the planet by limiting global warming to 1.5°C requires urgent, transformative systems change according to the IPCC, including the transformation of urban systems. This transformation also represents an enormous opportunity to develop climate resilient towns and cities that are more economically productive, socially inclusive, cleaner, healthier and safer for all. Strong action is needed at all levels of government - national, federal/state, and local/municipal – as well as active collaboration between different tiers of government, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders.

Drawing on major new work from the Coalition for Urban Transitions' forthcoming global report as well as the OECD's latest analytical work on national urban policies, and best practice examples from around the world, this interactive session will explore the unique and critical role of national governments in shaping and supporting low-carbon urban development, including through facilitating active collaboration and implementing enabling policies to support sub-national climate action.

### Agenda

<b>11:00 - 11:05</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
	<p><b>Cluster Leads</b>  <i>Nick Godfrey</i>, Director, Coalition for Urban Transitions (CUT)  <i>Oscar Huerta Melchor</i>, Policy Advisor, Urban Governance, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)</p>
<b>11:05 - 11:30</b>	<b>High-level Panel Session</b>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Shipra Narang Suri, Ph.D., Coordinator, Urban Planning and Design Branch, UN-Habitat  <b>Panel Speakers</b>  <i>Tobias Brenner</i>, Policy Officer Unit for National Climate Initiative, BMU  <i>Diana Esmeralda Quiroz Benitez</i>, DDG, SEDATU (TBC)  <i>Sibylle Schüssler</i>, Mayor for Planning, Building, Environment and Culture, City of Pforzheim (TBC) -</p> <p>Panel discussion sharing experiences of successful collaborative climate action from national, regional and local government perspective.</p>
<b>11:30 - 12:10</b>	<b>Roundtable Discussions: Priority Areas for National Government Action</b>
	<p><b>Table 1:</b> National strategies for cities  <b>Table 2:</b> Coordinating and enabling local action  <b>Table 3:</b> Finance for sustainable urban infrastructure  <b>Table 4:</b> Fostering an improved multilateral system (including just transition and knowledge exchange)</p>
<b>12:10 - 12:30</b>	<b>Wrap-up of session</b>
	Presentation of the outcomes of the roundtable and concluding remarks

## About the Interactive Roundtable discussions

A number of expert participants will be present at each table to share diverse experiences and expertise in relation to the thematic areas under discussion. The discussion at each table will be guided by the following questions:

- What are the key things national governments should do to tackle climate change and secure better economic and social outcomes?
- Which countries are doing this well in collaboration/coordination with other levels of government, and what does this look like?

The tables will also include a short background note to aid the discussion. The notes will draw on the work of the OECD and the Coalition for Urban Transitions, including from the forthcoming Coalition for Urban Transitions' global report to be published in September 2019. The notes will also feature examples of specific projects from the expert participants.

Through this discussion, the hope is to share and identify key lessons, insight, and best-practice examples of how national governments can support and enable local climate action. Rapporteurs provided will take notes to feed back on the discussion, which will be used to feedback into the Heidelberg Outcome Document, the main outcome document that will come out of the ICCA2019 Conference.

## About the Cluster Leads:

**The Coalition for Urban Transitions** is a major global initiative to support national governments to accelerate economic development and tackle dangerous climate change by transforming cities. It is a major collaboration between over 35 research institutes, intergovernmental organizations, investors, infrastructure providers, strategic advisory companies, civil society, NGOs and city networks. *Our work is driven by a commitment to support national governments to end extreme poverty and deliver on their 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and to keep our planet climate safe in line with the historic 1.5 degree Paris Climate Agreement.* The Coalition is a special initiative of the New Climate Economy and is jointly hosted and managed by the World Resources Institute Ross Center for Sustainable Cities and the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group.

**The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** is made up of 36 member countries from North and South America to Europe and Asia Pacific which includes many of the world's most advanced countries and emerging economies. Its mission is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social-well-being of people around the world. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. It works with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change; it measures productivity and global flows of trade and investment; it analyses and compares data to predict future trends; and it sets international standards on a wide range of policy areas, from agriculture and tax to the safety of chemicals. The OECD has been at the forefront of research and analysis on urban development over the last 30 years, with extensive thematic work on topics such as regional governance and green growth; statistical databases at the regional and metropolitan levels; and reviews of national urban policies in both OECD and non-OECD countries. It also co-leads with UN-Habitat and Cities Alliance the National Urban Policy Programme, a joint initiative to support the global development and implementation of NUPs.