



Opening Plenary Session

During the opening plenary session on the first day, a keynote speaker will introduce the theme and provide an overview of the key urban issues in the Asian region. These issues will subsequently be addressed by a high-level panel and discussed by Forum participants focusing on strategies to overcome obstacles and transform Asian cities into 'cities of opportunity.' This transformation aims to catalyze sustainable development that is both inclusive and environmentally conscious. The opening session will witness several regional leaders highlighting and deliberate on their vision and policy directions in the coming decades for enhanced ambition and accelerated climate actions in Asian cities.

Forum Theme

The UrbanShift Forums will provide a platform for participants to exchange insights on addressing challenges, showcasing successful practices, and investigating scalable strategies. Additionally, participants will explore avenues for support from the UrbanShift project, including knowledge and capacity building as well as financial and private sector engagement opportunities. Moreover, cities from the same region will be invited to share their experiences with UrbanShift cities, with a special focus on those recognized as regional leaders, GEF-6 cities, and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Thematic Focus: The Asia Forum will concentrate on the theme of 'Financing Climate Actions in Cities.'

The Forum will encompass multiple events and activities which will rest on three pillars:

- (a) Advocacy and climate action,
- (b) Knowledge sharing and capacity building, and
- (c) Finance and Private Sector Engagement.

Translation with Regional Focus

The forum is designed as a regional event, with its primary audience consisting of representatives from all the project countries and cities in the Asian region. As a result, the opening plenary aims to offer simultaneous translations in commonly spoken regional languages, including English, Mandarin, and Bahasa Indonesia.

Date and Location:

The plenary session will be conducted on 25 September, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi.

Plenary Outline

Time	Speaker
Technical Session 1 - Panel Discussion on Opportunities & Challenges Related to Urbanization in Asian Region Region- 10:00 AM- 11:00 AM (60 mins) Session Moderated by: Mr. Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI & Executive Director, ICLEI SAS	
10:00- 10:05 AM	Welcome Address, Mr. Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI & Executive Director, ICLEI SAS
10:05- 10:10 AM	Representative from Indian City (TBC)
10:10- 10:15 AM	Representative from Indian City (TBC)
10:15- 10:25 AM	Speaker 1 – Mr. Qiang Liu, Deputy General Director- China Centre for Urban Development (CCUD)
10:25- 10:35 AM	Speaker 2 – Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) Indonesia
10:35- 10:45 AM	Speaker 3- Ms. Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu (TBC)
10:45- 11:00 AM	Open Discussion (5 mins of initial remarks from the moderator and 10 mins each for speaker to present. Remaining 15 mins for open discussion/Q&A)
11:00- 11:30 AM	Tea/ Coffee Break
Special Inaugural Session- 11:30 AM- 12:30 AM (60 mins) Session Moderated by: Mr. Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI & Executive Director, ICLEI SA	
11:30- 11:35 AM	Welcome Address – Mr. Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI & Executive Director, ICLEI SA
11:35- 11:40 AM	Lamp Lighting ceremony by the Chief Guest
11:40- 11:45 AM	Context Setting- Ms. Maryke van Staden, Director of Business Development & Carbonn Climate Centre at ICLEI (TBC)

11:45 AM- 12:05 PM	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Atul Bagai, Country Head, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) India Office • Senior Representative from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) • Mr. Alope Barnwal, Coordinator- Sustainable Cities Program, Global Environment Facility (GEF) • Mr. Madhav Pai, Chief Executive Officer, World Resources Institute (WRI), India (TBC) • Ms. Andrea Fernandez, Managing Director of Climate Finance, Knowledge and Partnerships, C40 Cities
12:05- 12:10 PM	Special Address Mr. Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (TBC)
12:10- 12:25 PM	Inaugural Address by Chief Guest – Honorable Minister, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India
12:25- 12:30 PM	Vote of Thanks – Mr. Hitesh Vaidya, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)
Group Photo	
Technical Session II- Showcasing GEF 7 – UrbanShift Country Projects- 12:30- 1:30 PM (60 mins) Session moderated by – Ms. Mia Callenberg, Junior Professional Officer, Global Environment Facility (GEF) (TBC)	
10 mins	Opening Remarks –Providing an overview of the GEF 7 Country projects
25 mins (8 mins presentation by each speaker)	Showcasing GEF 7 UrbanShift Country Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Efrian Muharrom, Environmental Specialist, World Bank, Indonesia • Mr. Sudhir Sharma, Regional Director, United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) • Speaker 3 – Senior Representative from Asian Development Bank (ADB)
5 mins	Open Discussion
20 mins	Launch of UrbanShift City Academy online modules