



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITIES AND SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY UNITE TO PLAN AN AMBITIOUS NEW CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA.

Global Mayors Summit lays the groundwork for science based, action-oriented policies at the city level to combat climate change.

EDMONTON, 5 March 2018 – Ahead of today’s start of the CitiesIPCC Cities & Climate Change Science Conference, the “Change for Climate” Global Mayors Summit brought together policymakers, scientists and city networks on Sunday, March 4, to **create a critical new dialogue between these vital groups of climate change stakeholders**. Though cities and researchers work diligently to address their individual climate concerns and priorities, rarely have they had the mechanism to align their activities. Given the speed of climate change and the necessity of a collective knowledge base, these groups must now work together to advance innovation for quicker and more ambitious local climate action.

The Summit, hosted by the City of Edmonton, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), convened **mayors from Canada, Ecuador, United States and India, key members from the science community and the world’s major city networks C40, ICLEI and UCLG to discuss the critical role cities play in addressing climate change**. The Summit **initiated a new platform that will raise the bar on climate action** in cities worldwide and serve as a catalyst for further city- and climate-focused dialogues between city practitioners and scientists at events.

These important dialogues will continue throughout 2018 at other major cities and climate events. The process will also contribute to the 2018 Talanoa Dialogues under the Paris Agreement in which cities and regions announced their commitment to advance national climate plans through effective multilevel governance.

Cities contain more than half of the world’s population and consume more than two-thirds of the world’s energy. Without the involvement of cities, no true progress can be made in the fight against climate change. The vital two-way flow of information created at the Summit enables cities to shape the climate change research agenda, **ensuring that research considers the unique needs of cities and ultimately results in more informed local actions and policies**. Conversation focused on identifying the most urgent knowledge gaps that cities need to bridge to accelerate local climate action and exploring strategies to address them in partnership with the research community. The emphasis of the discussion was on governance, finance, adaptation and resilience, as well as the connection of climate research to quality of life and economic prosperity in cities.

The importance of **sound research and city data** played a major role in the discussion. Data insights are increasingly informing cities' climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, and it's vital that local decision makers and researchers have opportunities to continue engaging each other to further refine and advance their joint goals.

Quotes:

Don Iveson, Mayor of Edmonton: We clearly heard that cities are willing to commit to a new kind of partnership with the scientific community - a research and innovation agenda that will drive our investment decisions and the policy changes necessary to affect a real response to climate risk. When cities and science work closely together, powerful change is possible.

William Peduto, Mayor of Pittsburgh: This is a historic week not just for Edmonton but for the world. We must make data available at the city level and apply it to drive innovation and technology. Data does not only provide insights on how and why climate change is happening but also has the potential to tell us what can be done about it. Scientists and city decision makers must work closely together to create these new models of governance.

William Solecki, Professor and Founding Director, Emeritus, CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities: Cities are the places where climate research gets translated into climate action, strategies and policies. The scientific community welcomes this opportunity for a closer dialogue between cities and researchers to better inform our research agenda. The more we work together, the smarter and more targeted the knowledge we generate will be.

Amanda Eichel, Executive Director, GCoM: The cities that will see the most successful climate action will be those that place an emphasis on science- and data-based management approaches. But this can only be done if the data that underpin climate strategies are relevant, coherent and applicable at the city level. We're honored to be a part of this joint effort with our partners, global cities and the scientific community to rethink what is needed to support cities-focused climate research and how it can be made relevant to support ambitious climate action.

—ENDS—

Note to editors

About the City of Edmonton

Nestled on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River, Edmonton is home to nearly one million people from all walks of life including Indigenous people and new Canadians. Our city's strength is founded in this diversity and the varied languages and traditions that create our cultural fabric. Home to six post-secondary institutions, humming research parks and creative start-up organizations, Edmonton is an international destination for advanced technologies, healthcare and green energy. Edmontonians enjoy a strong connection with nature and work together to adapt to the reality of climate change and create environmental sustainability and resilience for future generations.

About the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

FCM is the national voice for municipalities in Canada with 2,000 members representing over 90% of the Canadian population. Through programs and advocacy, FCM works to help cities and communities take action on climate change. The FCM-ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection network includes 350 municipalities that have made political commitments to take action on climate.

About the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy formally brings together the Compact of Mayors and the EU Covenant of Mayors, the world’s two primary initiatives assisting cities and local governments in their transition to a low-carbon and climate resilient economy, and helping demonstrate their global impact. Led by UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change, Michael R. Bloomberg, and European Commission Vice President, Maroš Šefčovič, in partnership with local, regional and global city networks, the Global Covenant has more than 7,500 city signatories across 6 continents and 119 countries, representing over 680 million people or nearly 10% of the global population. Learn more at: www.globalcovenantofmayors.org.

Contacts

Cheryl Oxford

City of Edmonton

cheryl.oxford@edmonton.ca

+1 780 289 7762

Stefan Denig

Global Covenant of Mayors

sdenig@globalcovenantofmayors.org

+32 473 632825