



**Prosperity, People, and Planet in the Cities:  
A Special Symposium of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and the UN  
Sustainable Development Solutions Network on Cities and the Sustainable  
Development Agenda**

In September 2015 the world's governments will agree upon a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goals revolve around three themes: empowering **people**, eradicating poverty and protecting human dignity; shared **prosperity** and decent, fair jobs for all; protecting the **planet** and tackling climate change. These 15-year goals will help guide the public's understanding of complex sustainable development challenges, inspire public and private action, promote integrated thinking, and foster accountability. SDG 11 will call for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements.

Urbanization will be a defining trend over the next several decades. Today, 50% of the world's 7 billion people live in cities, and, by 2050, this is expected to rise to around 70%. Cities are currently home to extreme deprivation and environmental degradation with around one billion people living in slums. At the same time, roughly 75% of global economic activity is urban, and as the urban population grows, so will the urban share of global GDP and investments.

This special symposium will bring together local government leaders and other urban development practitioners to consider how cities can drive the implementation of the new sustainable development agenda and forge a roadmap for their realization. Mayors and other participants will consider the challenges of social inclusion, economic development and environmental preservation including cities' carbon commitments. Furthermore they will reflect upon the governance arrangements and financial architecture that will empower cities to accelerate the SDG implementation process.

Taking place just 2 months before Heads of State and Government gather in New York to approve the SDGs and 4 months before the climate negotiations in Paris, this event will provide a crucial opportunity for city leaders to start to consider clear, quantifiable commitments which demonstrate their dedication to a fairer, more sustainable world.

**Agenda:**

Date & Time: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015, 9am – 5pm

Venue: The Pontifical Academy of Sciences, The Vatican, Rome

**9.00am: Welcome** - Bishop Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academies of Sciences and Social Sciences

**9.30am: Framing** – ‘Cities and the SDGs’ – Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of SDSN

**9.45am: Special Addresses**

- ‘Rome as the Eternal City’ - Ignazio Marino, Mayor of Rome
- ‘OneNYC: A plan for Sustainable Development’ - Bill De Blasio, Mayor of NYC

10.15am: Coffee break

**10.30am: Climate, deep decarbonisation & zero-emission cities**, chaired by Professor Lawrence Tubiana, Special Representative to the French Government on the 2015 Climate Conference

- Jerry Brown, Governor of California
- Pak Won-soon, Mayor of Seoul & Chair of ICLEI
- Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris

**12.00am: The challenges of social inclusion**, chaired by Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN Habitat

- Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace
- Eduardo Paes, Mayor of Rio & Chair of C40
- Parks Tau, Mayor of Johannesburg

13.00: Lunch

**14.00: Economic development**, chaired by George Papandreou, former Prime Minister of Greece

- The Honorable Leung Chun-ying, Chief Executive of Hong Kong
- Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul & President of UCLG

15.15: Coffee

**15.30: Governance & financing**, chaired by Vuk Jeremic, former President of the UN General Assembly (Davos-Style Panel)

- Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, President of Caritas International
- Robert Doyle, Mayor of Melbourne
- Anne Stausboll, CEO, CalPERS
- Barbara Kux, Member of Board of Directors of Total and Henkel

17.00: Close