As the global Covid-19 pandemic surges on, those in urban governance face daunting challenges. Cities and metropolises around the globe should jointly build a closer community with a shared future. We must face the new challenges posed by the pandemic through mutual assistance, to reduce the effects of the pandemic, and achieve full economic and social recovery as soon as possible.

From November 8th to 13th, 2021, the City of Guangzhou, the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), the World Association of Major Metropolises (Metropolis) and the United Cites and Local Governments (UCLG) will be co-hosting the hybrid XIII Metropolis World Congress, Global Mayors’ Forum, and the 5th cycle of Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation. These events will help global cities improve their governance innovation, crisis response capacity, and promote cooperation and exchanges of experience among cities that will help us defeat the pandemic.

With the theme of Moving Forward in Partnership and Modernizing Global Urban Governance, these events will focus on a slogan that reflects the call of our times, Metropolises and cities in transformation: rethinking our future together. This year’s events will be attended by world-renowned city leaders, heads of major international organizations, representatives of top multinational companies, and experts in urban innovation. The events will include information on urban planning and development, provide novel solutions to urban governance, and explore the philosophy of future developments from the following aspects: public health, new infrastructure, poverty alleviation, climate change, how to build a resilient city, and urban renewal.
November 11
Plenary Session of Global Mayors’ Forum

Part I. Opening Remarks
- Video Message from Chinese State leader
- Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat
- Governor of Guangdong Province
- Mr. Wen Guohui, President of Metropolis and Mayor of Guangzhou
- Ambassador Lin Songtian, President of CPAFCC
- Mr. Mohamed Boudra, President of UCLG and Mayor of Al Hoceima

Part II. Theme Forum: Moving Forward in Partnership and Modernizing Global Urban Governance
Speakers
1. Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director General of UNFAO
2. Mr. Li Yong, Director General of UNIDO
3. Professor Zhong Nanshan, Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering, Recipient of Medal of the Republic, Professor at Guangzhou University of Medical Studies
4. Mr. Michael Müller, Governing Mayor of Berlin and Co-president of Metropolis
5. Mr. Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles
6. Mr. Bill de Blasio, Mayor of New York
7. Mr. Sergey Sobyanin, Mayor of Moscow
8. Mr. Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol
9. Ms. Claudia López Hernández, Superior Mayor of Bogotá
10. Ms. Soham El Wardini, Mayor of Dakar
11. Mr. Li Mingyuan, Mayor of Xi’an and Co-president of UCLG

* Guest list subject to final confirmation of attendance
Program

*NOTE: The program uses Beijing Time (GMT+8).

8 November, Monday

20:00-20:30 Opening Session of the 13th Metropolis World Congress
20:30-22:00 Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting (Closed-door)
20:30-22:30 Seminar on Learning from Urban Innovation 1

9 November, Tuesday

18:30-20:00 Seminar on Learning from Urban Innovation 2
20:00-21:00 Metropolis Joint Session with UCLG on Territorial and Urban Systems
21:00-22:30 Metropolis Policy Debate: Novel Solutions That Can Transform Metropolitan Spaces in the Long Term
22:30-24:00 Seminar on Learning from Urban Innovation 3

10 November, Wednesday

14:00-17:00 Side Event 1: Annual Conference of Alliance of Guangzhou International Sister-City Universities (GISU)
18:30-20:00 Asian Metropolitan Report Launch (Asia in the Metropolitan Era: Trends and Projections)
20:00-21:30 Seminar on Learning from Urban Innovation 4
21:30-23:00 Guangzhou Award Jury Meeting (Closed-door)
21:30-23:00 Metropolis Pilot Project Learning Webinar
11 November, Thursday

Daytime

On-site Guests Arrival in Guangzhou

18:00-19:30

Welcome Reception (Off-line) and Launching of Urban Innovation Exhibition

20:00-22:00

Plenary Session of Global Mayors’ Forum

20:00-21:30

Guangzhou Award Jury Meeting (Closed-door)

21:30-22:30

Metropolis Joint Session with Partner Organizations

12 November, Friday

09:30-11:30

Sub Forum 1: Modernising Urban Governance with New Technologies and New Infrastructures

09:00-12:00

Sub Forum 2: Urban Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity Conservation

09:30-11:30

Sub Forum 3: Healthy Cities: Opportunities and Challenges

09:00-11:00

Side Event 2: Guangzhou - Los Angeles - Auckland Tripartite Economic Alliance Seminar

15:30-17:30

Sub Forum 4: Building Diverse, Inclusive and Resilient Urban Governance System

15:30-17:30

Sub Forum 5: Metropolis’ Role in Fighting Poverty and Supporting Less Developed Regions

15:30-17:30

Sub Forum 6: Sustainable Development Goals and Urban Governance

18:30-19:30

Welcome Banquet (Off-line)

20:00-21:30

Guangzhou Award Ceremony & Closing Ceremony

13 November, Saturday

Morning

City Tour (Off-line)

Afternoon

Off-line guests depart from Guangzhou