Context: As stated in the comprehensive 14th Five-year Plan, formed in the fifth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), we should carry out a thorough sustainable development strategy, build a better coordination mechanism and system of ecological civilisation, and promote the green shift of economic and social development in all aspects, to achieve a modernisation progress featuring the harmonious coexistence of human beings and nature. In his statement at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, General Secretary Xi Jinping also noted that, countries should foster a new concept for innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, seize the historic opportunities presented by the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, promote the “green recovery” of world economy in the post-Covid-19 era, and forge a strong synergy for sustainable development. The United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and urban governance are closely interlinked. In 2020, against the backdrop of the pandemic, Guangzhou and global cities such as New York and Milan, in response to the Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR), submitted to the UN their respective Voluntary Local Reviews on local implementation of the SDGs. This sub-forum, with focus on relevant urban practices and experience in implementing SDGs, will invite global cities and experts in related fields for discussion.
**Agenda and speakers**

**Keynote Speeches (10 minutes each)**
1. Leader(s) from Chengdu, Sichuan (Representing Park City Initiative)
2. Ms. Ada Colau, President of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona; Metropolis Co-president (online)
3. Mr. Alireza Zakani, Mayor of Tehran; Metropolis Regional Vice President (online)
4. Mr. Zhang Yueguo, Secretary of CPC Party Leadership Group, President of Guangzhou Academy of Social Sciences

**Panel discussion**
1. Dr. Huang Dingxi, Secretary General of Guangzhou Urban Planning Association
2. Mr. Ajay Suri, Former Regional Manager - Asia of Cities Alliances
3. Dr. Barbara Samuels, Executive Director of the Global Clearinghouse for Development Finance
4. 3-4 Experts from research institutes in Guangzhou and major think-tanks in China
5. Others to be confirmed

For more details about the session, please contact info@gmfguangzhou.com