



## **INTERNATIONAL MINISTERS AND MAYORS DISCUSS “INNOVATE4CITIES – A GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION ACCELERATOR” IN MALMÖ**

- High-level summit marks first time mayors are invited to climate and energy discussions at Mission Innovation Ministerial
- Innovate4cities – a Global Climate Action Accelerator - will accelerate climate innovation and reinforce the importance of cities’ needs in national research agendas

**Malmö, Sweden, 23 May 2018 – The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM)**, an international coalition of city leaders committed to raising the global ambition for climate action, and the City of Malmö hosted today a first of its kind roundtable with mayors, researchers and business representatives to galvanize cities-focused climate science, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mission Innovation Ministerial taking place in Malmö, Sweden 22-23 May 2018, back to back with the 9th Clean Energy Ministerial in Copenhagen, Denmark.

On the same day, mayors have been invited for the first time to join sessions at the Mission Innovation Ministerial, which gathers energy ministers and high-level representatives from the business and research community, including Global Covenant of Mayors’ Co-Chair, the European Commission Vice President Maroš Šefčovič, with the goal to bring clean energy innovation to our citizens, communities and cities.

The Innovate4Cities initiative is a global climate action accelerator and will define specific cities’ research and innovation needs, exploring ways to incorporate these priorities into national research agendas. GCoM cities from around the world have begun a movement with businesses, scientists, research institutions to co-develop priorities that will complement the IPCC research agenda on the science of cities and climate change. The recently announced [Edmonton Declaration](#) will galvanize the agenda developed through Innovate4Cities. This bold call-to-action from cities of all sizes to the academic and technology innovation communities to seriously consider the role of scientific research, technology research & development and data in building ambitious climate action plans, was launched in March 2018 and will be taken forward to the ICLEI World Congress in Montreal next month.

Governments have been committing significant resources in support of climate science for the past 30 years, but rarely have these efforts focused specifically on the scale of local governments, where much of the action must take place. Therefore, Innovate4Cities focuses on some of the most critical areas to drive climate action in cities, including frontier-research on clean energy and low-carbon urban infrastructure, e.g. smart grids, access to affordable green energy, low carbon heating and cooling of buildings, e-mobility and integrated public transport systems, as well as adaptation responses such as resilient infrastructure and early warning systems.



This new multilevel initiative will strive to mobilize resources and knowledge generation on cities and climate change to support local level action to implement the Paris Agreement.

#### QUOTES:

**Maroš Šefčovič, Co-Chair of the Global Covenant of Mayors, Vice President of the European**

**Commission:** Cities are experimenting with innovative solutions. It is in cities that most of the technological innovations and nature based solutions will be deployed to increase resilience and improve the well-being of citizens, that charging points for urban electric vehicles will be rolled out, that decentralised renewable energy production will take off and smart buildings in energy positive neighbourhoods will be constructed. This research and innovation agenda will create a pathway to channel existing funding commitments around research and innovation and develop a new research pipeline that will mobilize resources and knowledge generation for cities.

**Gregor Robertson, Global Covenant of Mayors Board Member, Mayor of Vancouver, Canada:** The global movement to urgently and aggressively tackle climate change requires action by all stakeholders, big and small, private and public – including local and national governments, researchers, innovators and businesses. Cities like Vancouver are on the front lines of the climate crisis, building communities that are more prosperous, sustainable and resilient. Global Covenant of Mayor cities look forward to continued collaboration with all climate partners to ensure cities receive the innovation, technology and data we need to eliminate our climate pollution.

**Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh, Mayor of Malmö, Sweden:** I'm proud that Malmö is the host city when the world gathers to discuss climate and energy solutions. In Malmö we have set a goal of running on 100% renewable energy by 2030 and to achieve this, we have partnered up and collaborate with the business sector, academia, the non-governmental sector as well as other actors on both a local, regional, national, European, and global level. In conclusion, there are so many benefits to these types of cross-cutting collaborations. And the truth is, if we are to achieve our environmental and sustainability goals, everyone needs to be involved.

**Mduduzi Mhlongo, Mayor of uMhlatuze, South Africa:** Cities in South Africa and in many other rapidly urbanizing countries are growing at a tremendous pace, and a lot of the infrastructure that will exist in the future remains to be built. Furthermore, there is a legacy of historic planning practices that still exist, which exclude the disadvantaged majority of our populace and ultimately are considered unsustainable. Countries, cities, researchers and the private sector must work together to develop future-proof urban planning and implementation to make urban communities more liveable, prosperous and healthy places to live.

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## Note to editors

### **About the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy**

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is the largest global coalition of cities and local governments voluntarily committed to actively combatting climate change and transitioning to a low-carbon and climate resilient economy. Led by UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Climate Action, Michael R. Bloomberg, and European Commission Vice President, Maroš Šefčovič, in partnership with local, regional and global city networks, the Global Covenant has thousands of city signatories across 6 continents and more than 120 countries, representing over 700 million people or nearly 10% of the global population. By 2030, Global Covenant cities and local governments could collectively reduce 1.3 billion tons of CO2 emissions per year from business-as-usual – equal to the emissions of 276 million cars taken off the road. Learn more at: [www.globalcovenantofmayors.org](http://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org)

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