



Urban 20

A City Diplomacy Initiative, led by Buenos Aires and Paris, convened by C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

What is it?

Urban 20 (U20) is a new space for cities to engage in the G20. It seeks to establish a forum in which cities develop collective messages that enhance the G20 debates on global issues and their socio-economic ramifications. U20 aims to coordinate a joint position and series of deliverables between the mayors of major G20 cities and other global urban centers to inform and enrich the discussions of national leaders at the 2018 G20 Summit, to be held in Buenos Aires on November 30 and December 1. By making the voice of the Mayors heard in the G20, U20 will raise the profile of urban issues in the G20 agenda and will culminate in an inaugural U20 Mayors Summit in Buenos Aires in October 2018. This will be the initial step of a long-term process for cities to contribute to the G20, in the spirit of the G20 engagement groups. U20 is convened by C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group in collaboration with UCLG, under the leadership of the Mayors of Buenos Aires and Paris and the support of partners.

Why create it?

The world today is more urban than at any time ever before. In 2010, for the first time in history, the urban population surpassed the rural population, and by 2050 it is estimated that two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities. Transformations generated by urbanization have the potential to boost well-being, resource efficiency and economic growth. However, harnessing these opportunities will be challenging unless cities play a constructive role in the debate. As an inclusive solution to pressing global issues, U20 will work to enhance the role of cities in responding to the issues of our time, such as climate change, the future of work and social integration and inclusion by creating carbon neutral, more inclusive, resilient and prosperous societies. Since diplomacy is no longer created nor executed at a single level of government, U20 seeks to link diverse efforts under a common framework. A dialogue forum for local governments to contribute to the global agenda shaped by the G20 is therefore both necessary and opportune.

Who is taking part?

Major C40 member cities located in G20 countries that are important economic or population hubs have been invited to join the U20 group of Core Cities. Each Core City will be represented in the process by the Mayor and a City Sherpa, ideally the Head of International Affairs or top city diplomat. Other cities considered to be important global actors will also be invited to join as Observer Cities (represented by their Mayor). To support its work, U20 has also invited identified organizations to be U20 partners.

What are the next steps?

We propose a series of meetings and discussions, both face to face and virtual, from which would emerge three key documents: a Joint Statement, an Action Plan, and a Communiqué. These documents will serve as the basis for the inaugural U20 summit in October 2018 and subsequent meetings, and will be drafted in line with international best practices and summit diplomacy theory.

- The **Joint Statement** sets forth the shared aspirations and goals of signatories; it reflects the basic principles that shape U20. Signatories will commit to working towards these principles. This statement was discussed during the first U20 Sherpa meeting, that was held in Paris on January 29-30, 2018. It will be officially launched in April to coincide with G20 working group sessions.
- The **Action Plan** will serve as a guide for how to achieve the objectives of U20 in 2018/19. It will build on the shared aspirations and goals set out in the Joint Statement, and lay out next steps forward for the development of the 2018 U20 activities and the concept of long-term engagement of cities in the G20 process. The Action Plan will set out a series of actions to be taken to achieve set objectives, to be discussed during the second U20 Sherpa meeting this June, and will be adopted and launched at the inaugural U20 Summit to be held in Buenos Aires on 29-30 October 2018.
- The **Communiqué** will succinctly present U20 mayors' common platform, calling on G20 nations to engage with this position and jointly pursue action. The Communiqué will be the final political outcome document of U20 2018, and will be adopted by the U20 Mayors during their Summit in Buenos Aires jointly with the launch of the Action Plan.