



# Resilient Cities

The annual global forum on urban resilience and adaptation

**Background information and partnership opportunities**





Annually

- Over 400 participants
- from more than 50 countries
- 3 days with over 40 sessions

## What is Resilient Cities?

Resilient Cities is the annual global platform for urban resilience and climate change adaptation. It is convened by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and hosted by the City of Bonn. Resilient Cities was launched in 2010 to forge partnerships and dialogues that matter, with lasting impacts for cities. The active participation of leading cities, experts, and organizations who share their knowledge and experiences during rich discussions in congress sessions and corridors year after year have made this goal a reality.



## Special features of Resilient Cities

### A legacy of leadership

Resilient Cities is organized by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, which has been globally supporting cities in climate change adaptation and resilience building since 2002. The forum is supported by a global partnership of over 40 organizations highly engaged at the city level in this area, a Program Committee of renowned experts and pioneer cities, and committed high level patrons and Mayors actively involved in congress strategy.

### Diversity and high quality audience

With a community of practitioners including local government experts and leaders, researchers, students, academics, businesses, international organizations, and NGOs, the Resilient Cities global forum leads by example. It offers a multi-disciplinary approach to stakeholder cooperation, capacity building, and knowledge sharing from experts around the world.

### Interaction beyond networking and idea generation

The Resilient Cities forum is the place where partnerships are formed and strengthened, results are showcased, challenges are addressed, and opportunities identified. After several editions, it is clear the community around the Resilient Cities forum is one of the most active in the field of urban resilience and climate change adaptation. The result is a global hub of expert participants and speakers leading in cutting edge science, policy, plans, and actions.

“We are aiming for a future where we can reconcile the protection of the environment with the needs of people.”

Patricia Espinosa  
Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework  
Convention on Climate Change



„Since the first edition in 2010, the Resilient Cities congress has provided a valuable platform for urban leaders, expert researchers, and implementation partners.... [Cities] are the beta-space of integration and holism, and Resilient Cities is where this beta-space usually starts.“

Ashok-Alexander Sridharan  
Mayor, City of Bonn, Germany; ICLEI First Vice President and  
Special Messenger to UNFCCC and carbonn Climate Registry



# Congress program

## General Program

The Resilient Cities series aims to cover all aspects of resilience. Through presentations, workshops, panels, posters, and interactive discussions, over 200 leading experts every year present on established and emerging practices, with ideas for cities in all phases of planning and implementation. Parallel sessions focus on topics such as finance, multi-stakeholder collaboration, planning and policy-making, and ecosystem-based adaptation. Specific aspects are highlighted in thematic forums.

## Thematic Forums

Select aspects of adaptation and resilience are featured during full or half day thematic forums which may include plenaries, workshops, case study presentations, and special side events, exhibitions, and receptions. Previous forums include:

### **Financing Urban Resilience**

This forum has focused on how local governments, donors, investors, and intermediaries are reimagining traditional models to direct financial resources toward urban resilience building. The forum connects participants from public and private sector organizations such as AFD, HR&A, the World Bank, the GEF and from cities in the Global North and South.

### **Resilient Urban Food Systems Forums**

These forums have gathered a diverse group of local governments and interdisciplinary actors to discuss the implementation of resilient city-region food systems. The forums have included partner-led workshops, city case studies, and targeted sessions for Mayors. During special breaks, participants connected with innovators like sponsor Plantagon International AB.

### **Resilient Building and Construction Forum**

These forums focused on buildings at risk, environmental impact considerations, and green and resilient building design and construction. Forum partners have included the US Green Building Council on behalf of the World Green Building Council and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

### **Resilient Urban Logistics Forum**

Organized in cooperation with Deutsche Post DHL, this full day forum focused on solutions for resilient urban logistics and supply chains. Participants were engaged at a special exhibition and in dedicated sessions consisting of an opening panel, interactive workshop, case study presentations with local governments, Siemens, SAP, and DHL, and a closing discussion.

### **Inclusive and Resilient Urban Development Forum**

Organized in cooperation with Cities Alliance, this forum focused on how cities can work with the urban poor, including those living in informal settlements and working in the informal sector, to increase citywide resilience.

### **Insurance Industry and Cities Summit**

Convened by PSI and ICLEI with support from Munich Re this first ever summit on insurance industry and city collaboration focused on how the insurance industry and institutional investors can work together with cities in shaping a resilient and sustainable urban future.

## Reality Check Workshops and City Case Studies

Resilient Cities provides a unique opportunity for local governments to showcase their work on adaptation and resilience. 'Cities in Focus' sessions show how different cities approach similar aspects of adaptation. Participants also engage with cities and project stakeholders in interactive workshops on adaptation practice. These include the congress' signature Reality Check Workshops, which focus on resilience action in a specific city. Cities featured in Reality Check Workshops have included Dhaka, Durban, Miami, Quito, Ho Chi Minh City, Lagos, London, Semarang, Sorsogon, Copenhagen, La Paz (Mexico), Vancouver, Dar es Salaam, Ancona, Bologna, Santiago de Chile, Tshwane, Pemba, Quelimane, Can Tho, Da Nang, Bangkok, Pakkret, and Accra.

# Partnership opportunities

## Lead a forum

Thematic forums are special program elements of each Resilient Cities conference. Forums provide key partners the opportunity to hold panel discussions, presentations, workshops, and debates on topics of importance to their field of expertise. We can assist in ensuring that essential topics for resilient cities are covered and that your forum is well received by the audience. Forums are an outstanding opportunity to network and gain exposure to leading concepts, thoughts, and experts on the topic of city resilience.

## Host a side event

Side events are a great way for your organization to be involved in Resilient Cities. Coinciding your event with the congress helps you reach a wider audience and extend the dialogue on urban resilience. Side events have included a Plantagon International AB and ICLEI “Urban Agriculture Strategy Meeting,” CCFLA event “Next steps to support the Marrakesh Roadmap for Action”, “Catalyzing climate resilient action in human settlements through knowledge” organized by UNFCCC, and UN Environment’s “Food for Thought” - Imagining Sustainable Lifestyles.



## Sponsor a session

Reach experts, practitioners, and city officials during a dedicated one and a half hour session at Resilient Cities. Sponsor a workshop, training, panel discussion, or presentation session on a congress theme related to your organization. Previous sponsored sessions included “Measuring urban resilience infrastructure,” sponsored by Siemens and a workshop on “Adaptation and mitigation in the Rhine river basin in North-Rhine Westphalia,” sponsored by the German state of NRW.

## Showcase your work as an exhibitor

Resilient Cities offers a unique opportunity for cities, organizations, businesses, and academic institutions to present projects at the congress exhibition area and interact directly with a wide array of experts from various geographical and professional horizons. You may launch your initiatives and publications either at the exhibition stand or on stage during a coffee break. Previous congress exhibitors included: Deutsche Post DHL, ARUP, German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), UN-Habitat, the European Investment Bank and Esri.

# More of Resilient Cities

## Resilience Resource Point

The Resilient Cities website offers more than 100 studies, reports, handbooks, and books covering topics such as urban resilience planning, adaptation policy development, resilient development, costs and finance, risk reduction, food systems, and resilience methodologies and tools.

More than **100** publications

## Monthly updates and social media

Monthly newsletter updates from Resilient Cities provide the latest project news and information on ICLEI's adaptation and resilience work. Newsbits are also shared on [www.iclei.org/resilient-cities](http://www.iclei.org/resilient-cities) and via Twitter and our partner networks.

Over **6,500** subscribers

More than **15,000** followers

## Webinar series

ICLEI hosts an annual series of webinars on urban resilience and adaptation. The webinars feature expert speakers and local government representatives who build on conversations initiated at Resilient Cities. The webinars provide an opportunity for congress attendees and others to stay connected and up to date on urban resilience.

**20** webinar sessions

Over **700** participants

## Congress outcomes

Key outcomes of the Resilient Cities congress are summarized in an annual Resilient Cities Report distributed to participants and partners. More in-depth information is available in the congress proceedings, a collection of papers by congress speakers. The proceedings since 2010 contain over 140 articles by leading experts in the field of urban adaptation and resilience. Lastly, congress presentations are available on the Resilient Cities website.

Over **140** articles in **2** books and online

Over **1,000** presentations



## Patrons of the Resilient Cities Congress Series have

- **Patricia Espinosa**, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- **Helen Clark**, Administrator, United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- **Joan Clos**, UN Under Secretary General and Executive Director, United Nations Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
- **Robert Glasser** (2016-2017) & **Margareta Wahlström** (Former) Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
- **Christiana Figueres**, (Former) Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- **Thomas Silberhorn**, Parliamentary State Secretary to the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development
- **Dirk Niebel**, (Former) German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development
- **Peter Altmaier**, (Former) German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety
- **Norbert Röttgen**, (Former) German Federal Minister for Environment, Nature and Conservation and Nuclear Safety
- **Ashok-Alexander Sridharan**, Mayor, City of Bonn, Germany; ICLEI First Vice President and Special Messenger to UNFCCC and carbonn Climate Registry
- **James Nxumalo**, (Former) Mayor, eThekweni Municipality/Durban, South Africa; (Former) ICLEI Vice President and Resilient Cities portfolio holder

## Resilient Cities series partnership

### Previous sponsors:



### Previous supporting partners:



### Key Solution partners 2012:



### Silver sponsor 2011:



### Media partners:



### Endorsing partners (current and previous):

