



4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)

Seville, Spain | 30 June – 3 July 2025

Accelerating sustainable urban development through local action and global partnerships

AGENDA

Version: 24/06/2025

Co-organizers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability 2. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) 3. FMDV - Global Fund For Cities Development 4. Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) 5. City Climate Finance Gap Fund (represented by GIZ and EIB) 6. Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA) (represented by CPI) 7. C40 Cities Finance Facility (CFF)/CIVIC (represented by GIZ) 8. Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA)/CIVIC (represented by ICLEI Africa and GIZ)
Date & Time	Thursday, 3 July 2025, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm (confirmed)
Unique ID	1984860
Location	Side Event Room 19, Conference and Exhibition Centre of Sevilla, Spain - FIBES
Format	In-person facilitated panel discussion showcasing real-life case studies and lessons learned
Theme	International development cooperation
Language	English



Agenda Proposal - Panel + Lightning Talks

Duration	Session & Speakers
5'	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION Natalia Salazar - Head of Innovative Finance, ICLEI
10'	SETTING THE SCENE: FROM PARTNERSHIPS TO PIPELINES: UNLOCKING SUBNATIONAL FINANCE THROUGH COLLABORATION Natalia Salazar - Head of Innovative Finance, ICLEI Richard Amor - Director of Partnerships, EIB
30'	PANEL - UNLOCKING SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FOR CITIES: STRENGTHENING THE ECOSYSTEM OF CITY NETWORKS, PPFs, AND DEVELOPMENT BANKS <p>How can collaboration between city networks, project preparation facilities, and public development banks help overcome key barriers and strengthen the capacities of subnational governments – particularly in Africa – to access sustainable, climate-aligned, and development finance?</p> <p>Moderator: Kristiina Yang, Manager, CCFLA</p> <p>Panelists: Kristian Lempa - Head of Division Global Policy, Governance, Cities - GIZ (C40 CFF/CIVIC) Natalia Salazar - Head of Innovative Finance, ICLEI Gulnara Roll – Head of Cities Unit, UNEP (TBC) EBRD Representative (TBC)</p> <p>Format: Two rounds of questions for all panelists + Q&A (2 questions, 5 min)</p>
5'	INTRODUCTION TO THE PUBLICATION “EMPOWERING CITIES AND FINANCING CLIMATE RESILIENT FUTURES”, CO-AUTHORED BY ICLEI, GCOM, AND THE GAP FUND Johanna Granados - City Resilience and Climate Finance Advisor, GCoM/Gap Fund



Local Governments
for Sustainability



City Climate
Finance Gap Fund

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



GLOBAL COVENANT
of MAYORS for
CLIMATE & ENERGY



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



FMDV



Covenant of Mayors
in Sub-Saharan Africa

CoM SSA is co-funded by:



C40 CITIES
FINANCE
FACILITY

CITIES CLIMATE
FINANCE
LEADERSHIP
ALLIANCE



35'

SPOTLIGHT STORIES: COLLABORATION IN ACTION IN AFRICA

This lightning talks session will spotlight examples from across Africa where collaboration between cities, project preparation facilities (PPFs), financiers, and city networks has helped unlock sustainable finance. Through a series of fast-paced presentations, speakers will share concrete cases and emerging models that demonstrate how coordinated efforts are turning local climate ambitions into bankable projects and financed solutions.

Moderator:

Carlos de Freitas - Executive Director, FMDV

Presenters

Johanna Granados Alcala - City Resilience and Climate Finance Senior Advisor, GCoM/Gap Fund

Eglantine Marcelin - Project Manager, City Climate Finance Gap Fund

Philippe Akoa - CEO, FEICOM - Cameroon

Augustin Tamba - Mayor, Yaoundé 7, Cameroon - President, CVUC (Communes et Villes Unies du Cameroun)

Raymond Njagi Kinyua - County Executive Member for Lands and Urban Development; Environment and Climate Change, Embu County

Format:

Short presentations (4-5 min each depending on number of speakers), with Q&A at the end

5'

CLOSING REFLECTIONS AND WAY FORWARD

Natalia Salazar - Head of Innovative Finance, ICLEI

List of confirmed speakers

N°	Full name	Position	Organization
1	Natalia Salazar	Head, Innovative Finance	ICLEI
2	Richard Amor	Director of Partnerships	European Investment Bank (EIB)/Gap Fund
3	Kristiina Yang	Manager	CPI /CCFLA
4	Kristian Lempa	Head of Division Global Policy, Governance, Cities	CFF / CoM SSA under the CIVIC platform
5	Gulnara Roll (TBC)	Head of Cities Unit	UNEP
6	Carlos de Freitas	Executive Director	FMDV
7	Johanna Granados	City Resilience and Climate Finance Advisor	GCoM
8	Eglantine Marcelin	Project Manager, City Climate Finance Gap Fund	GIZ
8	Philippe Akoa	CEO	FEICOM - Cameroon



10	Raymond Njagi Kinyua	<i>County Executive Member for Lands & Urban Development; Environment & Climate Change - Embu County</i>	Embu County Government Office
12	Augustin Tamba	<i>Mayor</i>	<i>Yaoundé 7, Cameroon - President, CVUC (Communes et Villes Unies du Cameroun)</i>

Background and rationale for the event

Despite well-established recognition of the key role cities and regions play in achieving global development and sustainability goals, subnational governments continue to face persistent challenges in accessing the finance needed to implement their often ambitious development plans. The resulting urban financing gap threatens progress on inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development, particularly in cities and regions in the Global South.

City networks such as ICLEI, GCoM, FMDV, initiatives such as C40 Cities Finance Facility, City Climate Finance Gap Fund, Covenant of Mayors Sub Saharan Africa, and multi-stakeholder alliances such as Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA) have worked alongside national and subnational actors to tackle these challenges, aiming to enhance the flow of urban finance that delivers lasting impact for communities in both established and growing cities and regions. In close collaboration with project preparation facilities (PPFs) such as the Gap Fund and the Cities Finance Facility (CFF) these actors have contributed to bridging the gap between local needs and access to finance, building pipelines of robust, high-impact projects that reflect local priorities while meeting investor requirements.

This side event at the *4th International Conference on Financing for Development* will explore how collaboration between local and regional governments networks and PPFs can accelerate sustainable finance for urban development. Featuring expert panel discussions, case study presentations, and interactive Q&A sessions, the event will showcase real-world examples of projects – from Sub-Saharan Africa to Latin America – that have progressed thanks to this cooperation. These examples will provide valuable insights into how national governments and international actors can support and upscale this approach.

The event will offer concrete recommendations and best practices on how organisations and initiatives working across tiers of government, between different sector players, and especially bridging divides between the public and private sector, have been able to increase access to urban finance. Our session





responds directly to key priorities in the FfD4 agenda, including scaling innovative financial mechanisms and building partnerships that advance the reform of global financial architecture through locally grounded solutions.

Objectives and Expected Outcomes

1. **Showcase collaborative models between city networks and project preparation facilities (PPFs)** that help advance and scale sustainable, inclusive urban projects aligned with both local priorities and investor requirements.
2. **Explore key challenges in project preparation** at the local level, emphasizing the need for technical expertise, outreach capacity, and enabling national and sub-national policy and partnership frameworks to address the financing gap.
3. **Advance discussions on the global financial architecture reform**, emphasizing the central role of city networks and PPFs in supporting national governments in the achievement of developmental goals that must be implemented at the local level.
4. **Present practical case studies** from the Global South, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, to illustrate how collaboration between PPFs and city networks has increased the investment readiness and implementation of on-the-ground projects that contribute to meeting development and climate resilience goals at the local level, and how these models can be scaled and replicated.
5. **Launch the publication** “Empowering Cities and Financing Climate Resilient Urban Futures: Insights from the Gap Fund’s partnerships with GCoM and ICLEI”, showcasing how ICLEI and GCoM are accelerating the implementation of the Gap Fund.

Participants will leave the session with:

- A clearer understanding of how city networks and PPFs are already working together to accelerate access to finance for urban development, and how this collaboration and lessons learned to date can lead to further scaling of the urban and local contribution to national and international development and climate resilience goals.
- Insights into replicable models and best practices that can be adapted and scaled in other regions.
- A strengthened perspective on the need to embed local-level solutions in global financial frameworks to achieve more inclusive and effective outcomes.

