

Cities Stockholm+50 High Level Forum



Cities Stockholm+50 High Level Forum, 1-2 June 2022

Background

Considering that cities account for around two thirds of global energy consumption and global CO2 emissions, debate on the role of cities in combating climate change has generally focused on cities' territorial carbon footprint and energy use. But the tendency to define cities by their administrative borders is increasingly giving way to a systemic approach that also includes transboundary supply chains. After all, virtually all of the food, water, energy and construction materials consumed in cities are produced outside of their administrative boundaries. This reliance on external actors will only increase in the years to come, considering that around 60% of the urban areas required to accommodate the earth's population by 2050 have yet to be built. In Stockholm alone, tens of thousands of new homes will be constructed until 2030.

While consumption-based emissions are generally not under the direct control of cities, mayors do have significant tools at their disposal. With green public procurement just the most obvious one. Research shows that dense cities with a variety of easily accessible grocery stores not only tend to reduce traffic emissions, but also have a significant impact on the amount of packaging waste their citizens produce. Which underlines the important link between urban planning and urban consumption, and provides further support to the transformation potential of concepts like the '15-minute city'. Seen through this lens, the reinvigoration of urban centres in response to covid becomes less about restoring urban retail than about reinventing it.

But to create a framework that incentivizes decarbonisation across supply chains and safeguards the well-being of future generations, concerted efforts are needed at all levels of government and industry. On the business side, multinational companies have a particularly important role to play given their access to both penalty- and reward-based levers to influence supplier behaviours. A new global framework of Corporate Determined



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Contributions, as proposed by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development at COP26 in Glasgow, could make a real difference in this context. As could increasing rates of digitalisation and technological innovations, not least for supply chain transparency. With debates over the establishment of an international climate club - with common standards and a uniform carbon border adjustment mechanism - set to play an important role at the G7 summit in Germany in June 2022, real momentum may finally be building.

Against this backdrop, the Cities Stockholm+50 High Level Forum will take place at strategically important moment in time:

- one day ahead of the international UN conference ‘Stockholm+50 – A healthy planet for the prosperity of all’, which aims to accelerate the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Agreement and post-2020 global Biodiversity Framework.
- three weeks ahead of the G7 summit in Germany.
- half a year removed from COP26 in Glasgow.
- on the 50th anniversary of the first-ever global environmental conference, the 1972 ‘UN Conference on the Human Environment’ in Stockholm.

Expected outcomes

Gathering some of the world’s most influential city, business and thought leaders, the Cities Stockholm+50 High Level Forum will provide a unique opportunity to:

- place cities squarely at the centre of the emerging debate on consumption-based emissions.
- strengthen collaboration among mayors and global business leaders, sending a clear market signal that cities are ready to change the way we consume.
- build on the outcomes of COP26 and increase pressure on national governments to move from pledges to actions, specifically on greening global supply chains.
- get updated on the latest science and knowledge.

Practical details

For any questions and enquiries on the content of the programme, please contact David Preuss (International policy advisor, City executive office, City of Stockholm) at david.preuss@stockholm.se or +46 76 12 29 603.

The City of Stockholm has reserved hotel rooms for participants and accompanying delegations in close proximity to Stockholm City Hall, the main conference venue. To go ahead with a hotel booking, please contact support at information@onemotion.se or +46 76 391 21 68.

Lunch and dinner, as well as transportation to and from study visit sites will be provided.