

High Level Forum on “Inspiring Smart Cities and Urban Services”

1 September 2016

ITU Headquarters

Rue de Varembe 2, Geneva, Switzerland

Background:

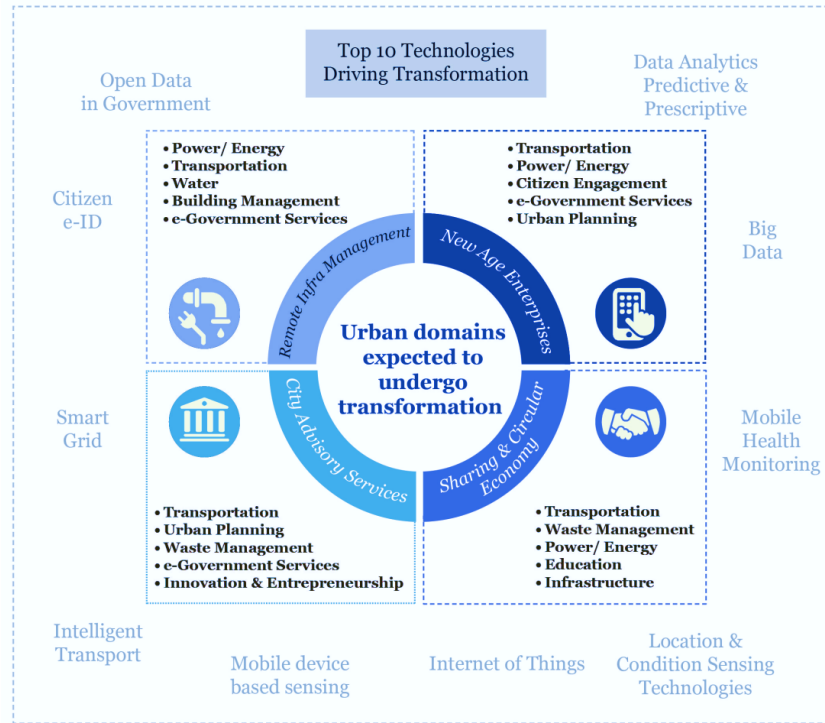
The world is experiencing an unprecedented transition from predominantly rural to chiefly urban living. In 1950, 33% of the world’s population lived in cities; today, the proportion has already exceeded 50% and is set to increase to 66% by 2050, adding 2.5 billion people to the global urban population.

Cities are increasingly encountering complex urban problems resulting from accelerated migration, unprecedented demographic change, extreme weather events, economic booms and busts, and shifting lifestyle and consumer preferences. These trends challenge the way cities deliver urban infrastructure and services, yet the convergence of the digital and physical dimensions offers cities solutions. As a result, cities are adopting new business models and availing of smart technological solutions to transform and move to new virtual and networked solutions to enhance their livability, sustainability, efficiency, productivity and delivery of urban infrastructure and services.

Within the domain of utilizing ICTs for facilitating urban operations, ITU and UNECE have developed an international definition for smart sustainable cities:

“A smart sustainable city is an innovative city that uses information and communication technologies (ICTs) and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic, social, environmental as well as cultural aspects”.

Source: ITU-UNECE



Source: World Economic Forum: *Inspiring Future Cities & Urban Services* Report: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Urban-Services.pdf April 2015, page 18

The World Economic Forum, ITU and UNECE are co-hosting a one day high level forum focused on discussing how city utilities, transport and the built and natural environment are and will continue to be affected by the adoption of new business models and smart technological solutions.

This high level forum will be held as part of the efforts conducted by the [United for Smart Sustainable Cities \(U4SSC\)](#) Initiative.

We will convene key public and private sector stakeholders in the city value chain: national and city government, leaders of industry, academia and civil society. We invite you to join us and be part of the conversation.

For more information on the event, please contact:

Domenica Carriero
 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
 Email: domenica.carriero@unece.org
 Tel: +41 (0) 22 917 16 72
 Website: www.unece.org

Cristina Bueti
 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
 Email: cristina.bueti@itu.int
 Tel: +41 (0) 22 730 6301
 Website: www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/ssc

Alice Charles
 World Economic Forum (WEF)
 Email: Alice.Charles@weforum.org
 Tel: +41 (0)22 869 3667
 Website: www.weforum.org