

# Call to Action for Humanity: Shaping the Future of Cities in the Age of AI and Citiverse

## UN Virtual Worlds Day



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# From Commitment to Responsible, Inclusive, Real-World Impact

## WHY THIS MOMENT MATTERS

**Local and regional governments are at the forefront of shaping an inclusive urban future.**

A powerful technological convergence is already reshaping economies and societies: artificial intelligence, spatial intelligence and digital twins, advanced simulation, and immersive systems are combining to form what we can describe as the AI-enabled citiverse. And yet, this convergence will deliver on its promise only where meaningful connectivity and equitable digital infrastructure are accessible to all. To build truly people-centred cities and communities, innovation must be guided not as an end in itself, but rather as a means to deliver tangible public good, improving quality of life, reducing inequalities, enhancing nature-based solutions, and ensuring that no person and no place is left behind.

This convergence enables leaders not only to anticipate risks, test decisions before they are implemented and act with greater confidence, responsibly, inclusively, and at scale, but also to prepare and empower inhabitants for this emerging socio-physical-digital future, thereby fostering their active participation and co-creation, and ensuring that the benefits of innovation are shared widely.

The next 3-5 years will be decisive, shaping who leads global innovation in these domains, who attracts investment and talent, and who defines the standards that others will follow. Ensuring that all countries, including low- and middle-income economies, have a meaningful voice in shaping those standards is not optional: it is what makes this agenda truly global. Including all relevant stakeholders, especially local and regional governments, in policymaking from the beginning is key for implementable outcomes. This reflects a shared responsibility to ensure that the benefits of this global transformation are extended to all economies in a fair, inclusive and equitable manner.

Those who act now will shape the future.

Those who wait will adapt to it.

## A GLOBAL CALL TO RESPONSIBLE, INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP

This Call to Action turns global commitments into shared priorities for implementation. It aims to deliver tangible, inclusive and measurable impact on the ground, thereby strengthening economic competitiveness and social advancement, building trust at scale, and ensuring that transformation benefits **all rights-holders** including those in situations of vulnerability, **as well as women, and the children and youth**, who will live with its consequences the longest.

## FIVE PRIORITIES FOR RESPONSIBLE, INCLUSIVE ACTION

### 1 DELIVER GLOBAL COMMITMENTS LOCALLY

**Priority: Make local and regional governments the engine of responsible delivery.**

- › **Governments:** Align national priorities with inclusive local and regional implementation.
- › **Local and regional leaders:** Deploy AI-enabled services that improve lives responsibly and leave no one behind.
- › **Industry:** Build open, scalable, interoperable solutions.
- › **UN system:** Ensure ambition translates into implementation, driving measurable outcomes, strengthening inclusion and accessibility, and demonstrating tangible local impact.

### 2 BUILD TRUSTED, PEOPLE-CENTRED AI

**Priority: Make trust, responsibility, accountability and inclusion the foundation of adoption. Integrate human knowledge and disaggregated data in AI models.**

- › Ensure transparency, accountability and meaningful public participation.
- › Prevent bias and unintended harm by design, not as an afterthought.
- › Follow an all-inclusive approach, engaging youth as co-creators, not just end-users.
- › Establish robust safety guardrails and ethical oversight mechanisms to support safe, transparent, and human-centric AI deployment.

*Without trust, innovation stalls. With trust - and responsibility - it scales equitably.*

### 3 USE DATA AND SIMULATION TO MAKE SMARTER AND INCLUSIVE DECISIONS

**Priority: Move from reactive to predictive, inclusive and evidence-based governance.**

- › Use digital twins - among other tools - for planning, resilience and infrastructure for all communities.
- › Strengthen national and subnational statistical capacities as a prerequisite for data-driven policy-making and decision-making.
- › Integrate data for real-time, evidence-based insight.
- › Reduce risk, cost and uncertainty through forecasting, scenario planning and foresight before crises emerge.
- › Promote trusted, secure, and responsible data governance, with strong cybersecurity protections.

4 UNLOCK RESPONSIBLE, INCLUSIVE, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GROWTH

**Priority: Ensure all regions - not just a few - benefit from the AI era.**

- › Support start-ups, SMEs and local ecosystems across all geographies.
- › Invest in skills, especially for youth and underserved communities.
- › Support local value creation and inclusive social advancement.

*Avoid a two-speed world. Build shared, responsible and sustainable prosperity.*

5 SCALE THROUGH GLOBAL COLLABORATION AND ADOPT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

**Priority: Scale trusted systems across borders and sectors through collaboration and international standards.**

- › Advance inclusive international standards setting that reflect the perspectives of all regions and stakeholders.
- › Promote interoperability and open systems at all levels of government.
- › Align efforts across national, regional and local governments, industry, research and academia, civil society, youth and the UN.
- › Encourage active participation in the Global Initiative on AI and Virtual Worlds - Discovering the Civerse.

*Standards shape markets. Responsible collaboration shapes the future for all.*

## A DEFINING, INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY







We are entering a new era: AI systems interacting with the physical world, infrastructure becoming intelligent, and decisions informed by real-time data. This is the foundation of inclusive communities that are more efficient, resilient and responsive to all inhabitants. But outcomes are not automatic: they depend on responsible and inclusive leadership.

## CALL TO ACTION

We call on national, regional and local governments, industry, research and academia, civil society, youth and the UN to accelerate the responsible, interoperable, and inclusive development and deployment of AI, spatial intelligence, and the civerse.

**Launch a new initiative on AI for cities and communities: generative · agentic · physical · spatial**

Participants call for the establishment of a new initiative to advance AI systems operating responsibly in real-world urban, peri-urban and rural environments; spatial intelligence and digital infrastructure accessible to all; and scalable, interoperable solutions for inclusive communities worldwide. **All stakeholders are invited to participate.**

| MOBILIZING ALL STAKEHOLDERS  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  <b>Local &amp; regional governments</b><br>Lead as responsible innovation testbeds and join the multistakeholder discussions on policymaking and standard setting. Position your community on the global map of AI-enabled transformation. |  <b>National governments</b><br>Enable scale through inclusive policy and investment. Integrate this Call to Action into national strategies and create enabling environments for local and regional governments to deliver.  |  <b>Industry</b><br>Move beyond pilots. Co-develop responsible, interoperable solutions with cities that can scale across regions.   |
|  <b>Research and academia</b><br>Provide independent, evidence-based insights. Advance inclusive methodologies and evaluation frameworks for AI in communities.   |  <b>UN System</b><br>Align efforts and turn ambition into implementation, delivering measurable, inclusive outcomes and deployable solutions for cities. Elevate this Call to Action at UNGA, WUF13, ITU PP-26, AI for Good Global Summit, HLPF, UN Forum of Mayors and other key fora. |  <b>Civil society and youth</b><br>Shape solutions, co-create responsible innovation, and hold systems accountable, ensuring that the future reflects the needs and aspirations of the current and next generations. |

On 11-12 May 2026, the world aligned in one direction:  
**AI and spatial intelligence in the service of people, cities and the planet.**  
 It is about:

| Leadership   | Competitiveness | Trust | Responsibility | Better lives for all |
|--|-----------------|-------|----------------|----------------------|
| The opportunity is real. The tools are ready. The window is open.<br><b>Act today - responsibly and inclusively - to shape tomorrow.</b> |                 |       |                |                      |

The 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Virtual Worlds Day, co-organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) together with ITCILO, FAO, UNDP, UNECA, UNECE, UNECLAC, UN Guatemala, UN-Habitat, UNICC, UNICEF, the UN Innovation Network, UNJSPF, UNRISD, UN Tourism, UNU-EGOV, the UN Futures Lab, the World Bank Group, WIPO, and WMO, in partnership with the Global Cities Hub, took place on 11-12 May 2026, at ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Its outcomes will contribute to the implementation of the Global Digital Compact and the WSIS+20 process, the two key multilateral frameworks through which Member States are advancing safe, inclusive and open digital futures for all.

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