Citiverse Initiative

Global Initiative on AI and Virtual Worlds - Discovering the Citiverse

City Leader's Field Guide: Preparing for the AI-enabled citiverse

The Practical Readiness Assessment for Mayors, Ministers, and Senior City Decision-Makers

Foreword

This publication was developed within the framework of the Global Initiative on AI and Virtual Worlds – *Discovering the Citiverse*, which is a global multistakeholder platform launched by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC), and Digital Dubai, and supported by more than 70 international partners.

The Initiative advances the development of the AI-enabled citiverse, where artificial intelligence, spatial intelligence, digital twins, and immersive systems converge to deliver real-world impact. It aims to ensure that this transformation is inclusive, trusted, and interoperable, and that it serves people, cities and communities.

By connecting cities, governments, industry, academia, and the UN system, the Initiative supports the transition from vision to implementation – empowering leaders to harness these technologies to improve quality of life, strengthen resilience, and drive sustainable and inclusive development.

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Disclaimers

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of their respective organizations, Executive Committee members or Steering Committee members of the Initiative. The findings presented in this report are based on a comprehensive review of existing literature and voluntary written contributions submitted by a diverse range of stakeholders.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

5G	Fifth Generation Mobile Network
AI	Artificial Intelligence
API	Application Programming Interface
CIO	Chief Information Officer
DPIA	Data Protection Impact Assessment
EDIC	European Digital Infrastructure Consortium
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation (EU)
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IoT	Internet of Things
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
MIMs	Minimal Interoperability Mechanisms
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OASC	Open & Agile Smart Cities
PoC	Proof of Concept
ROI	Return on Investment
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SROI	Social Return on Investment
WAPPP	World Association of PPP Units & Professionals
WCAG	Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

Executive summary

This Field Guide is a practical readiness tool designed to help city leaders assess whether the essential foundations are in place to begin preparing for the AI-enabled citiverse. Rather than presenting a theoretical vision, it offers a structured and action-oriented approach to help decision-makers identify strengths, surface critical gaps, and prioritise the next steps needed to move from ambition to implementation. Through a rapid Pulse Check, a deeper Essential 20 Assessment, and a 90-Day Action Plan, the guide supports cities in building the governance, policy, data, financing, and partnership conditions required for responsible, human-centric, and interoperable digital transformation.

Who should use this report?

- mayors & deputy mayors;
- national regulatory authorities;
- ministers;
- chief digital officers;
- city planners & CIOs; and
- all cities & regions.

How can this report help?

This report:

- Provides a simple way to assess current readiness for the AI-enabled citiverse;
- Helps identify critical policy, governance, data, and investment gaps before implementation;
- Supports evidence-based decision-making through a structured self-assessment framework;
- Enables cities to prioritise realistic, near-term actions instead of pursuing technology without foundations;
- Offers a common language for aligning political leaders, technical teams, and external partners; and
- Helps cities move from vision to action through a clear 90-day planning approach.

1 How to use this field guide

Three steps. No consultant required. Any city, any size, any budget.

This guide helps city leaders assess their readiness to build the AI-enabled citiverse, which is the convergence of artificial intelligence, spatial computing, digital twins and immersive environments into a sovereign, human-centric urban intelligence platform. It is a standalone readiness tool. Any city, regardless of size, budget, or technical maturity can use it.

Table 1: Steps of the Field Guide

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3
Pulse Check	**Essential 20 Assessment**	**90-Day Action Plan**
~20 minutes	2–4 hours	Half-day workshop
• Answer 12 Yes/No questions	• Score 20 indicators (0–4)	• Set 90-day priorities
• Find your starting Tier (0–5)	• Document evidence for each	• Assign owners and budgets
• Identify your strategic focus	• Identify critical gaps	• Schedule your first review

Key principles before you begin:

- You do not need to score perfectly. A single indicator that improves one citizen's service is a success.
- This is a management tool, not a compliance test. Use it to make better decisions, not to generate reports.
- Start with your city's biggest pain point, find the indicator that addresses it and begin there.
- An honest score of 1 is more valuable than an optimistic score of 3.

Gather at least three people: your digital lead, a finance representative, and a community or communications officer. This is your assessment team.

2 The vision: The AI-enabled citiverse

A governance transformation for impactful civic outcomes achieving real public value. Not a technology project.

The AI-enabled citiverse is the convergence of artificial intelligence, digital twins, spatial computing and immersive environments into a coherent, sovereign urban intelligence platform designed to serve human potential, not replace it[1]. It is not a future scenario. It is an emerging reality. Cities that treat it as speculative will find themselves governing systems already shaped by others.

Table 2: The Four Core Building Blocks

Virtual Worlds & Immersive Environments	**AI Reasoning & Autonomy**
Translate complex urban data into participatory spatial experiences. Allow planners, citizens, and policymakers to 'step inside' future developments enabling co-design and seamless cross-departmental collaboration.	Transform static urban grids into cognitive networks that anticipate and adapt in real time. From optimizing energy distribution during peak loads to rerouting emergency services, cities that sense and respond.
Digital Twins & Systems Intelligence	**Robust Data Foundations & AI Sovereignty**
Simulate the ripple effects of a single policy change across the entire urban ecosystem before committing public funds. Risk-free policy experimentation, real-time infrastructure modelling.	Federated, secure infrastructure that keeps data sovereignty with the city, not with vendors. The foundation on which all other capabilities rest.

The minimum viable AI-enabled citiverse. Before a city can meaningfully build, four foundations must be in place. These are non-negotiable prerequisites.

- Vision: A formally endorsed strategy with at least one use case.
- Governance: Legal review + ethical and AI governance principles formally adopted.
- Data Foundation: A funded plan for data collection, storage, and city sovereignty.
- Coalition: Named champions in the mayor's office and at least two departments.

Why act now? We are in a brief, critical opportunity window. AI capabilities and spatial computing are advancing exponentially. The rules of the new digital urban economy are being written today by cities that act, not by cities that wait.

- Cities that delay risk technological dependency, brain drain and loss of economic competitiveness
- Cities that act early define their own governance, data sovereignty, and ethical frameworks on their own terms
- Cities that wait will inherit standards set by private actors without their values or their citizens' interests.

The question is not whether the AI-enabled citiverse will emerge. It already is emerging. The question is: **will your city lead, or will it follow?**

3 Step 1: The pulse check: 12 Questions

Identify your tier in approximately 20 minutes.

Gather at least three people: your digital lead, a finance representative, and a community or communications officer. Answer each question with an honest Yes or No. A "No" is not a failure, it is your next priority.

Table 3: 12 Domains for Step 1

#	Domain	Question	Answer
1	**Vision**	Does your city have a formally endorsed policy or strategy for the AI-enabled citiverse, digital twins, or AI-powered virtual services, linked to your existing strategic plan?	☐ YES ☐ NO
2	**Barriers**	Has your city evaluated its organizational culture and readiness for AI-enabled citiverse digital transformation and identified who will champion and who may resist?	☐ YES ☐ NO
3	**Use Cases**	Has your city identified at least one high-priority urban problem the AI-enabled citiverse will specifically address with a concrete use case and a line of sight to economic opportunity or citizen benefit?	☐ YES ☐ NO
4	**Governance**	Are your legal and regulatory compliance risks for digital transformation regularly reviewed and are existing laws that could block or delay deployment identified?	☐ YES ☐ NO
5	**AI Governance**	Does your city have formal principles or policies governing the use of AI covering transparency, accountability, explainability, human oversight, and bias prevention in public services?	☐ YES ☐ NO
6	**Technology**	Does your city have digital twin systems or a live, data-connected virtual representation of city infrastructure currently implemented or actively piloted?	☐ YES ☐ NO
7	**Privacy**	Are robust citizen-centred privacy, consent, and data sovereignty mechanisms integrated into your digital services with clear opt-in/opt-out mechanisms for citizens?	☐ YES ☐ NO
8	**Security**	Does your city maintain a regularly updated risk register covering safety, privacy, operational, financial, and reputational risks for all digital initiatives?	☐ YES ☐ NO
9	**Inclusion**	Are inclusive design principles applied to ensure digital and physical accessibility for all citizens, especially people with disabilities and those with limited digital literacy?	☐ YES ☐ NO
10	**Finance**	Has a multi-year budget been identified covering not just the initial build, but the long-term maintenance, operation, and continuous improvement of the system?	☐ YES ☐ NO
11	**Partners**	Are all key stakeholders identified, academia, private sector, NGOs, communities and are structured engagement strategies in place for each?	☐ YES ☐ NO

Table 3: 12 Domains for Step 1 (continued)

#	Domain	Question	Answer
12	**Impact**	Are social, economic, and environmental impacts of your digital initiatives regularly assessed and is there a mechanism to measure whether technology is narrowing or widening inequality?	☐ YES ☐ NO

Table 4: Count Your Yes Answers -> Find Your Tier

Score	Tier	Stage	Your immediate priority
0–3	0	The Coalition	Build relationships. Find your champions and those who will resist. Write a one-paragraph "why this matters" statement for your city. No document is more valuable than this.
4–5	1	The Why	Formalize your vision. Draft a one-page statement of intent and identify three high-value use cases that match your city's most urgent civic challenges.
6–7	2	The How	Clear your path. Audit legal barriers, governance gaps, and AI governance readiness. Secure seed funding for a 90-day pilot.
8–9	3	The Pilot	Build and launch. Deploy core infrastructure, train your team, and run a minimal viable prototype for one use case.
10–11	4	The Scale	Harden and grow. Formalize security, trust, AI governance safeguards, and adoption campaigns for city-wide rollout.
12	5	The Legacy	Measure and sustain. Audit universal access, publish impact and equity data, and share your model globally with peer cities.

My city's Tier: _____
My city's Stage: _____
Date assessed: _____

4 Step 2: The essential 20 assessment

Score your city's core readiness across 20 indicators.

For each indicator, select the score (0–4) that most accurately reflects your city's current state. Be honest – overscoring creates a false baseline. Document the evidence that justifies your score.

Table 5: Scoring Scale for Step 2

Score	Level	What it means
0	Absent/Ad hoc	Non-existent or entirely reactive. No plans in place. High implementation risk.
1	Aware/Exploring	Recognized as needed. Early discussions underway. No formal commitment yet.
2	Defining/Developing	Formal processes being created, a draft under review, a pilot under design. Moderate risk.
3	Implemented/Operational	Formally established, funded, and in active use. Solid foundation. Low risk.
4	Optimized/Embedded	Advanced, measured, and continuously improved. Strategic advantage.

Table 6: Essential 20 – Self-Assessment Table

For each indicator: (1) select your score 0–4, (2) note the evidence, (3) note your 12-month target.

ID	Domain/Indicator	Assessment Prompt	Score 0–4	Evidence & Target
D1-1	Vision: Policy Statement	Does the city have a formally endorsed policy or strategy for the AI-enabled citiverse / AI-powered virtual services, linked to the city's overall strategic plan?		
D1-2	Vision: Smart City Integration	Is the AI-enabled citiverse strategy explicitly integrated with the city's existing Smart City, Digital Transformation, and urban development master plans?		
D2-1	Barriers: Skill Gap Analysis	Has the city mapped the technical and governance skills it currently lacks to build, maintain, and oversee an AI-enabled citiverse platform?		

(continued)

ID	Domain/Indicator	Assessment Prompt	Score 0–4	Evidence & Target
D2-2	Barriers: Change Management & Adoption	Has your city developed a structured change management and adoption plan that addresses organizational culture, internal resistance, staff training, and citizen engagement to support the transition to an AI-enabled citiverse?		
D3-1	Use Cases: Innovation Pipeline	Has the city identified a structured portfolio of high-priority urban problems that the AI-enabled citiverse will specifically address with named owners?		
D3-2	Use Cases: Evidence-Based Scaling	Is there a requirement for a successful proof of concept (PoC) before committing to a full-scale AI-enabled citiverse rollout?		
D4-1	Governance: Legal & Regulatory Review	Has a formal review identified existing laws (e.g., zoning, privacy, procurement) that might block or delay AI-enabled citiverse implementation?		
D4-2	Governance: Ethical Framework	Does the city have a set of ethical principles – transparency, fairness, accountability – governing the use of AI and virtual environments?		
D5	AI Governance	Does the city have formal policies governing AI transparency, accountability, explainability, and human oversight of autonomous urban systems aligned with the European Union AI Act[2], UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI[3], or equivalent national framework?		
D6-1	Technology: Data Management Plan	Is there a structured, funded plan for how data will be collected, cleaned, stored and secured to feed the AI-enabled citiverse platform?		
D6-2	Technology: Network Connectivity	Has the city audited its 5G/IMT-2020, fibre, or IoT coverage to ensure it can support high-bandwidth, low-latency virtual services?		

(continued)

ID	Domain/Indicator	Assessment Prompt	Score 0–4	Evidence & Target
D7-1	Privacy: Data Privacy Protocols	Are there documented protocols ensuring all AI-enabled citiverse data collection complies with national and local privacy laws (e.g., GDPR or equivalent)?		
D7-2	Privacy: Consent Management	Do citizens have a clear, easy-to-use mechanism to opt in or opt out of data collection within digital city services?		
D8-1	Security: Cybersecurity Strategy	Is there a cybersecurity strategy in place that specifically addresses threats unique to virtual worlds and digital twin environments?		
D9-1	Inclusion: Universal Design	Are AI-enabled citiverse services being designed following universal design principles to ensure usability for people of all abilities?		
D10-1	Finance: Budget Robustness	Has a multi-year budget been identified covering not just the initial build, but the long-term maintenance and operation of the system?		
D10-2	Finance: Investment Signal	Has the city identified which investments are "no-regret" (low-cost, high-impact, foundational) versus "conditional" (require prior readiness)? Is there a sequencing plan that matches investment to readiness tier?		
D11-1	Partners: Stakeholder Mapping	Has the city identified and aligned the needs of academia, the private sector, and NGOs for co-creation of the AI-enabled citiverse?		
D12-1	Impact: Performance Monitoring	Have baseline KPIs been established so the city can measure whether the AI-enabled citiverse is actually improving service delivery?		
D12-2	Impact: Social Impact Assessment	Is there a mechanism to assess whether the AI-enabled citiverse is narrowing or widening social and economic gaps within the city?		
TOTAL SCORE (maximum 80)		**Current: _____ / 80**	**Target (12 mo.): _____ / 80**	

Table 7: Essential 20: Interpreting Your Score.

Identifying critical gaps

- Any indicator scored 0 (Absent) is a showstopper. Address it before proceeding.
- Any domain with an average below 1.5 represents a significant implementation risk.

Indicators scored 3 or 4 are your strengths, leverage them to accelerate the initiative.

Score	What it signals	Recommended next action
0–20	Critical gaps. High implementation risk across most foundations.	Focus entirely on Vision (D1), Use Cases (D3), and Stakeholder Mapping (D12). Do not attempt technology deployment.
21–40	Foundation building underway. Significant risk remains in key areas.	Prioritise Governance (D4) including AI Governance (D4-3) and Finance (D10). Lock in a PoC requirement before any procurement.
41–60	Solid platform. Ready for a structured pilot in one domain.	Proceed with a 90-day pilot. Focus hardening on Security (D7), Privacy (D6), and AI Governance (D4-3).
61–80	Strong readiness. Scaling and impact measurement are the frontier.	Invest in Inclusion (D8), Impact metrics (D14), and Investment Signal review (D10-2). Seek peer-city benchmarking.

5 Evidence catalogue for the Essential 20 assessment

What counts as proof? Reference guide for scoring.

Use this catalogue when completing the Essential 20. For each indicator, cite the specific document, system, or process that justifies your score. If the evidence does not exist, that is a gap to address. This catalogue is grounded in the 14-domain AI-enabled citiverse Pre-Implementation Framework.

Table 8: Evidence Catalogue

Domain	Acceptable evidence types (cite document name, reference and date)
Vision & Strategy (D1)	Endorsed council strategy with AI-enabled citiverse/digital twin chapter; signed executive sponsorship charter; multi-year roadmap with budget allocation; council meeting minutes showing formal approval.
Barriers (D2)	Organizational readiness assessment or cultural change survey; stakeholder mapping identifying champions and resistors; skills inventory or gap analysis report; approved capacity-building plan with budget; updated job descriptions for AI-enabled citiverse roles; staff engagement survey on digital transformation; citizen engagement plan with targets; adoption campaign metrics; co-design session records; community briefing records; change management plan with timelines.
Use Cases (D3)	Project charter for a specific pilot; stage-gate innovation pipeline; proof-of-concept evaluation criteria; portfolio of prioritised urban problems with named owners and impact targets.
Governance (D4)	Legal gap analysis report; approved ethics principles for AI; data governance framework; updated procurement policies enabling agile contracting; ethics committee meeting minutes.
AI Governance (D5)	AI accountability policy document; human-in-the-loop protocols for autonomous urban systems; algorithmic transparency register; bias testing reports; alignment statement with EU AI Act, UNESCO Recommendation on the ethics of AI, or equivalent national framework.
Technology (D6)	Network audit report with 5G / fibre / IoT coverage data; digital twin system architecture; data lifecycle plan with assigned staff; API documentation; interoperability compliance certificates.
Privacy (D7)	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA); published privacy notice and consent workflow; data sharing agreement templates; Recommendation ITU-T X.805, ISO 27001 certification or equivalent; citizen consent dashboard screenshots.
Security (D8)	Integrated risk register with sign-off date; cybersecurity strategy specific to digital / virtual systems; incident response plan; red-team or tabletop exercise after-action report.
Inclusion (D9)	Inclusive design guidelines used in procurement; user testing reports with participants from diverse abilities; Universal Design checklist; WCAG compliance audit; accessibility committee engagement records.

Table 8: Evidence Catalogue (continued)

Domain	Acceptable evidence types (cite document name, reference and date)
Finance (D10)	Multi-year budget with contingency lines; ROI / SROI calculation model; internal audit report on project financial controls; investment sequencing plan identifying "no-regret" vs. "conditional" investments.
Partners (D11)	Stakeholder map with engagement strategies per group; signed MOUs or framework agreements with universities or NGOs; private sector co-development agreements; community outreach records.
Impact (D12)	Baseline KPI dashboard; social impact assessment methodology; disability-disaggregated data; peer-city benchmarking study; initiative review board minutes with outcome data; published equity and ROI reports.

6 Step 3: The 90-day action plan

Turn your assessment into your first concrete actions.

Complete this section immediately after scoring the Essential 20. Focus only on your current Tier. Do not plan for the next Tier until you have achieved the key objective of your current one.

Three questions before you begin:

- People: Who is the "bus driver," the named individual responsible for this initiative's momentum?
- Money: What is the smallest non-disruptive budget that would allow a 90-day pilot?
- Permission: Does the mayor or deputy mayor explicitly support a "sandbox" experiment?

Table 9: Priority Actions By Tier – Focus On Your Tier Only

Your Tier	Key objective before advancing	Practical first actions
Tier 0 (0–3)	Build a human coalition. Find your champions and identify who will resist.	Host informal conversations with 3 department heads. Map who will champion and who will block. Write a one-paragraph "why this matters" statement for your city.
Tier 1 (4–5)	Formalize your vision and define one concrete use case.	Draft a one-page statement of intent. List your top 5 urban problems and select one the AI-enabled citiverse could address. Identify one university or NGO as a first partner.
Tier 2 (6–7)	Clear regulatory and governance obstacles. Address AI governance baseline. Secure pilot funding.	Commission a legal gap analysis. Draft AI governance principles covering transparency and human oversight. Identify a small, reallocation-based budget for a 90-day pilot.
Tier 3 (8–9)	Launch a minimal viable prototype and train your core team.	Set up the simplest possible cloud-based infrastructure for your use case. Train the core team (5–10 people). Implement basic data privacy safeguards. Define one citizen-facing success metric.
Tier 4 (10–11)	Scale the pilot into a trusted city-wide service.	Harden your cybersecurity strategy. Develop citizen trust protocols. Conduct a full AI governance audit before wider rollout. Launch adoption incentives and a public communications plan.
Tier 5 (12)	Measure true impact. Ensure no citizen is left behind.	Commission an independent social impact assessment. Audit all services for universal accessibility. Publish your ROI and equity data publicly. Share your model with peer cities through the Global Initiative.

Table 10: Action Plan Template – Complete After Your Essential 20 Assessment

List your top 5 priority actions based on your lowest-scoring Essential 20 indicators. Name the owner, set a deadline, identify the budget required.

#	Indicator	Action required	Named owner	Deadline	Budget	Status
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

Table 11: Review Schedule

Review point	What to review	Go/No-Go decision criteria
30 Days	Progress on Action Plan items 1–5. Coalition status. Any blockers identified.	Are all five actions in motion? Has political commitment been confirmed in writing?
60 Days	Evidence collected for scored indicators. Pilot design confirmed.	Is the pilot design approved? Is the budget secured? Is the team in place?
90 Days	Pilot outcomes against the citizen success metric defined at launch.	Did the pilot deliver value? If yes –> plan to scale. If no –> analyse and adapt.
12 Months	Full re-assessment of the Essential 20. Score comparison vs baseline.	Has the total score improved? Are critical 0-scored indicators now at 2+?
30-day review date: _____ 60-day review date: _____ 90-day review date: _____		

7 Guiding principles

What every city leader should keep in mind.

- **Readiness over eagerness**. Your score is determined by your current, verified capabilities, not your future ambitions. An honest score of 1 is more valuable than an optimistic score of 3.
- **Human-centric by design**. Technology is a means, not an end in itself. Its purpose is to improve the well-being of all citizens. Embed inclusion from Day 1, not as a retrofit. The AI-enabled citiverse succeeds only when it serves human potential.
- **Local context defines the pathway**. This framework is neutral. Your city's unique needs, priorities, and capacities interpret the results and shape your roadmap. There is no single correct AI-enabled citiverse.
- **Evidence over opinion**. Every score requires cited evidence. This transforms a self-assessment into an auditable governance tool that attracts investment, builds trust, and enables independent verification.
- **Managed progression**. Build confidence by validating capabilities before advancing. A Tier 1 city that executes stage 1 faithfully will progress faster than a Tier 1 city that attempts stage 3 and fails.
- **The "Good Enough" Rule**. You do not need perfection. You need progress. If even one indicator helps you deliver a better service to a single citizen, you have succeeded.

A note on contextual equity for all city sizes:

- Advanced cities (Global North): Focus on interoperability, complex data ethics, AI governance maturity, and scaling legacy systems.
- Emerging cities (Global South): Prioritise leapfrog technologies, low-cost, high-impact solutions that bypass expensive legacy infrastructure.
- Small island states: Leverage virtual connectivity to overcome geographic isolation and build climate-resilience digital twins with minimal physical infrastructure.
- No city is penalised for lacking high-cost technology. The framework measures public value delivered, not IT budget size.

8 When to go beyond this guide

This Field Guide covers the Pulse Check, Essential 20, and 90-day pilot planning your entry into building the AI-enabled citiverse. Once your pilot is complete, deepen your investment using the resources of the Global Initiative on AI and Virtual Worlds – *Discovering the Citiverse*.

Table 12: Trigger and next step

Trigger	Next step
Pilot delivered value	Expand into the full city-wide AI-enabled citiverse architecture. Prioritise hardening security, driving adoption, and publishing impact data through the Global Initiative's SCALE pillar.
Pilot revealed blockers	Diagnose to which of the 14 governance domains the blocker belongs. Commission a targeted gap analysis using a full AI-enabled citiverse Pre-Implementation Framework.
Seeking external funding	Use the Evidence Catalogue and your Essential 20 scores as your readiness dossier for grant applications and investor briefings. A scored document is more credible than a narrative proposal.
Seeking peer-city benchmarking	Contact the Global Initiative on Virtual Worlds and AI (itu.int/metaverse/virtual-worlds) to connect with the 70+ partner network. Peer learning is available at all Tiers.
Ready for the full framework	Contribute and access the AI-enabled citiverse Pre-Implementation Framework. This is a comprehensive assessment tool for cities which is under development in the Global Initiative and will be made available to cities that have completed their first pilot cycle and are ready for rigorous institutional evaluation.

The window to shape this transformation is now and it is finite.

A clear starting point is essential:
Pulse Check -> Find your Tier -> Act within 90 days

AI-powered urban systems will define our economies and societies.

The defining question is who will lead and who will follow.

9 About the Global Initiative on AI and Virtual Worlds – *Discovering the Citiverse*

Launched by ITU, UNICC, and Digital Dubai, the Global Initiative on AI and Virtual Worlds – *Discovering the Citiverse* is a multistakeholder platform dedicated to shaping the next generation of AI-enabled citiverse.

A global coalition of more than 70 partners including cities, governments, UN agencies, standards bodies, industry, academia, and civil society, the Initiative is building the governance architecture of the AI-enabled citiverse.

The Initiative ensures that these technologies evolve in ways that are inclusive, interoperable, and human-centric, while contributing to the implementation of the Pact for the Future and its Global Digital Compact.

Serving as a neutral and action-oriented platform, it brings together public and private stakeholders to advance the responsible development and deployment of the AI-enabled citiverse. It provides blueprints, capacity-building resources, and a global peer network to support cities in moving from vision to scaled implementation.

The Initiative advances its mission through three strategic pillars, supported by dedicated tracks addressing key challenges and opportunities. This structure enables both high-level global guidance and practical implementation across cities worldwide.

For more information, please visit: https://www.itu.int/metaverse/virtual-worlds/.

Meet the Champions

Champions are entities that demonstrate leadership by providing financial contributions in support of the Initiative. This may include funding for events, challenges, research outputs, communication activities, trainings, travel grants, or other related efforts.

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

دبـــي الرقمية DIGITAL DUBAI

Meet the Founding Partners

Founding Partners are the organizations that launched the Initiative. They serve as the core convening entities and contribute to shaping its long-term vision. The Founding Partners are:

ITU

UNICC

دبـــي الرقمية DIGITAL DUBAI

Meet the Supporters

Supporters are organizations that have expressed endorsement of the Initiative and actively participate in its activities. This includes, but is not limited to, participation in tracks, contribution of use cases, co-organization of events, provision of expertise, or public advocacy of the Initiative.


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