



## Session Outcome Document

### Smart City Leaders Talk: Safe smart cities and climate frustration

GCH, WeGO, ITU

08.07.2025 14.00

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/282>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025** (5–8 bullet points highlighting achievements, emerging trends, challenges in 20 years, figures, success stories and opportunities for WSIS beyond 2025)

- The WSIS+20 process offers – among others – the possibility of harnessing emerging digital technologies for the localization of SDGs, especially local climate-resilient development, and addressing the global challenge of climate action and ICTs.
- The WSIS+20 High-Level Events is the very place for creating a platform for mayors and city leaders to brainstorm and discuss the contributions of smart city developments to overcome emerging urban challenges.
- Smart City Leaders Talk would be the adequate framework for forward-looking thematic discussion to share best practices on smart city development projects that incorporate both goals of achieving sustainable development and fulfilling the duty of safety and security for the inhabitants.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- Discussed the paradox of smart cities facing climate emergency. Enlightened opportunities Smart Cities bring to social, economic and environmental development and ways to overcome the limitations local leaders continue to face in disaster risk reduction.
- It elaborated on how the vision and expectations of the youth can be incorporated. Smart city development needs to co-develop smartness and impact in generational equity.
- Discussed the questions of people-centered, climate resilient smart city development and the necessary urban imagination for sustainable, connected and eco-friendly infrastructure.



**Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Action Plan for the WSIS+20 Review and Beyond** (2–5 bullet points presenting concrete actions and guidance to inform the WSIS+20 Review by UNGA and build the multistakeholder vision of WSIS beyond 2025)

- The WSIS process is multistakeholder in its nature and we recommend that the WSIS+20 review process puts even more emphasis on this aspect and institutionalizes the participation of LRGs.
- Promote the use of high-tech and low-tech to offer different solutions to different local needs.
- Address critical local data needs to enable smart city technology to advance socio-economic development.
- Involve local leaders through institutionalized engagement in policy-making at the global level.