

The liveable city: Agile, healthy, resilient

What is liveability? Though often cited by cities as a defining policy goal, definitions differ. This complicates the challenge of effectively investing in, designing, building and operating inclusive and liveable urban spaces.

Until the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the course of 21st century urbanisation seemed set. The world's metropolises, hubs of opportunity, entrepreneurialism and entertainment, were the engine rooms of the global economy; their people the wealth creators. Improved transport connectivity was driving greater agglomeration, as cities spilled out beyond their traditional limits and clustered into megacities. It was widely agreed that these developments, while not entirely unproblematic, were good for us. **Now, things seem less certain.**

Cities remain central to global economic growth but must prove that they have successfully adapted to emerging norms and expectations. Liveability must cease to be a buzzword, and become an indexed and quantifiable reality, objectively defined and emphatically demonstrated. It is a generational challenge.

A global community of senior leaders from the private, public, academic and not-for-profit sectors will convene at **WBEF Dubai 2022**. Their common aim will be the creation of **agile, healthy and resilient places** as the urban century unfolds.

Monday 24 January 2022

08:00 Registration and networking

09:00 Summit opening

09:10 Welcome to World Built Environment Forum Dubai 2022

09:20 Opening keynote address

Two years on from the COVID-19 outbreak, how are the public and private sectors performing against promises to build back better?

- Markets and geopolitics
- Urbanisation
- Digital transformation
- Natural environment

10:00 Keynote panel discussion: Sustainable urbanisation and the pandemic legacy

Expanding on topics covered during the opening keynote address

Ref SDGs:

- #8 – Decent work and economic growth
- #9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- #10 – Reduced inequalities
- #11 – Sustainable cities and communities
- #12 – Responsible consumption and production
- #13 – Climate action

11:00 Break for networking and refreshments

11:30

Agile cities stage

Session TBA

Healthy cities stage

The air we breathe: Combatting carbon emissions

What can be learned from the world's least polluted cities?

- Low-emissions policy: an overview of approaches
- Public health dividends in low emissions cities
- Green jobs for green cities

Ref SDGs:

- #3 – Good health and wellbeing
- #13 – Climate action
- #15 – Life on land

Resilient cities stage

Financing for a more ethical and sustainable built environment

How can investors and businesses navigate the universe of green, sustainable and ethical project finance frameworks?

- Regulatory interventions, standards and taxonomies
- Growth in the green and ethical finance market: boom or bubble?
- The “greenwashing” dilemma

Ref SDGs:

- #12 – Responsible consumption and production
- #13 – Climate action

12:30 Break for networking lunch

14:00

Agile Cities Stage

Places of work and workplaces

How are new work patterns changing workplaces and business districts?

- Reinventing Central Business districts
- New workplace arrangements: global and regional trends
- PropTech solutions for new normal working arrangements and safety assurance
- What is the future of the office as a real estate asset class?

Ref SDGs:

#8 – Decent work and economic growth
#11 – Sustainable cities and communities

Healthy Cities Stage

Session TBA

Resilient Cities Stage

Clean energy for all

Can the world complete the transition away from fossil fuels?

- Investment challenges and responsible funding frameworks
- Overcoming barriers to adoption of clean energy sources
- Land and real estate requirements for the clean energy revolution

Ref SDGs:

#7 – Affordable and clean energy
#9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure
#13 – Climate action

15:00

15 minutes for transition between stages

15:15

Agile Cities Stage

Reimagining retail

What is the future of retail districts and retail real estate?

- Does the retail crisis extend to the world's most famous shopping districts?
- Retail centres in smaller cities and towns
- What is the future of malls?
- New investment priorities: logistics and fulfilment centres

Ref SDGs:

#8 – Decent work and economic growth
#11 – Sustainable cities and communities

Healthy Cities Stage

Holistic, equitable approaches to water management

How can cities better manage the planet's most valuable resource?

- From flood defences to drought avoidance: climate adaptation and resilience plans
- Improving access to clean, drinkable and agricultural water
- Water re-use and waste prevention
- Marine life protection
- Responsible land reclamation works

Ref SDGs:

#6 – Clean water and sanitation
#14 – Life below water

Renovation, refurbishment and retrofit

Can the buildings of the past be proofed for the future?

- The climate imperative: why renovation matters
- Political support and private sector involvement
- Financial instruments and reporting frameworks
- Employment and job creation opportunities

Ref SDGs:

#8 – Decent work and economic growth

#13 – Climate action

16:15 Break for networking and refreshments

16:45 Experts in conversation: Beyond smart cities

How can artificial intelligence and machine learning be used to optimise urban performance?

- The Internet of Things as a source of public revenue
- Digital and built infrastructure investment: new orders of priority?
- Spatial computing and the future of urban planning
- Too much information: are we divided by data?

17:30 Chair's summary and close of Day 1

Tuesday 25 January 2022

08:00 Registration and networking

09:00 Welcome to WBEF Dubai 2022, Day 2

09:20 Day 2 keynote address
Topic TBA

10:00 Infrastructure 2022

How is infrastructure development driving growth across the G20 and beyond?

- Making the environmental case for infrastructure development
- Why can't we close the funding gap?
- New and emerging approaches to Public-Private Partnership

Ref SDGs:
#9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure
#12 – Responsible consumption and production

11:00 Break for networking and refreshments

11:30

Agile cities stage

Mobility as a Service and next-generation transport infrastructure

Has the COVID-19 pandemic made city leaders think again about public mass transit?

- Integrated, intelligent and accessible systems
- Decarbonising public transport networks
- Is the city clusters model still viable in the post-pandemic age?
- Developing transport hubs

Ref SDGs:
#9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure
#13 – Climate action

Healthy cities stage

Session TBA

Resilient cities stage

Towards the 15-minute city

How can we build better, more sustainable communities?

- Socially cohesive, inclusive and accessible urban design
- Improving access to shared, communal, green and open space
- Inclusive, community-led regeneration

Ref SDGs:
#10 – Reduced inequalities
#11 – Sustainable cities and communities
#15 – Life on land

12:30 Break for networking lunch

14:00

Agile Cities Stage

Harnessing blockchain for circular cities

Can immutable public ledgers be used to reduce waste in the built environment?

- How does the circular economy benefit businesses?
- Blockchain for supply chains
- Tokenisation and the democratisation of real estate investment

Ref SDGs:

#12 – Responsible consumption and production

#13 – Climate action

Healthy Cities Stage

Session TBA

Resilient Cities Stage

Session TBA

15:00

Break for networking and refreshments

15:30

Closing panel discussion

The liveable city: Agile, healthy, resilient

- Agile cities – smart versatility for an age of unpredictability
- Healthy cities – inclusive, green, active, accessible and pandemic-proofed urbanisation
- Resilient cities – shock absorbent, system-of-systems infrastructure

Ref SDGs:

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16:30

Handover to Singapore 2023

16:45

Chair's summary and summit close