

U20 Mayoral Summit Report Ahmedabad 7 -8, 2023



TERI Team at Urban 20 Mayoral Summit, Ahmedabad



TERI Team with Mayor of Visakhapatnam, Smt G Hari Venkata Kumari



About U20 Mayoral Summit

Urban 20 is a city diplomacy initiative that brings together cities from G20 member states under a common framework to discuss global economic, climate and development issues. The U20 initiative is permanently convened by C40 Cities and United Cities and Local Governments, under the leadership of a chair city that changes each year. Prior U20 cycles were chaired by Buenos Aires and Paris (2018), Tokyo (2019), Riyadh (2020), Rome and Milan (2021) as well as Jakarta and West Java (2022). The city of Ahmedabad chaired Urban 20 (U20) 2023, following a handover from Jakarta, the U20 2022 chair. Through the U20, cities from G20 member states engage with the G20 and commit to working together with national governments to move from intention to action and draft a roadmap for global change that will be driven together with cities, closing the gap between policy and practice at all levels of governance.

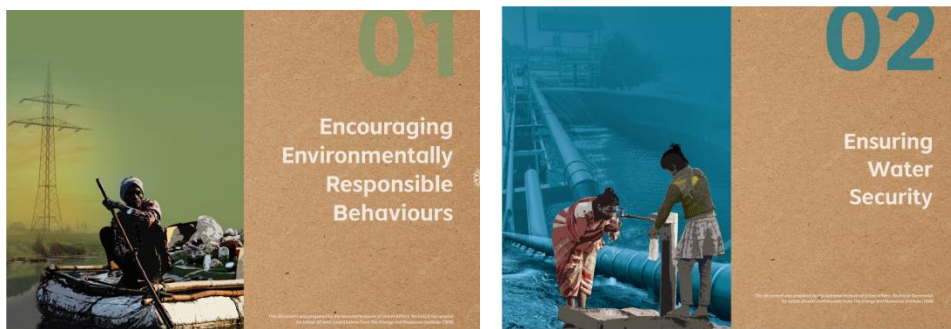
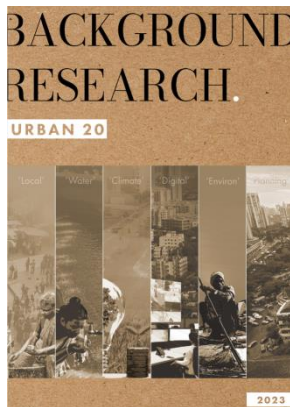
The summit brought together city mayors across the globe and representatives of national and international organisations to discuss and affirm the role of cities in propelling global development agendas by encouraging local-level policies and peer to peer cooperation. A range of deliberations and discussions were centered on various priority areas such as Reinventing Frameworks for Urban Governance, Catalyzing Digital Urban Futures, Encouraging Environmentally Responsible Behaviours, Ensuring Water Security, Accelerating Climate Finance, and Championing Local and Cultural Identities. These priorities are based on futuristic urban development of the cities.

TERI's Participation in U20 Mayoral Summit

TERI as a knowledge partner participated in the U20 Mayoral Summit held in Ahmedabad from July 7-8, 2023. The summit was attended by Ms Rhea Srivastava, Associate Fellow, Transport and Urban Governance Division; Ms Anushree Harde, Research Associate, Transport and Urban Governance Division; Ms Himanshi Sharma, Research Associate, Transport and Urban Governance Division, and Mr Emmanuel Neelgiri, Consultant, Transport and Urban Governance Division.

TERI experts contributed to developing background research papers on two of the areas of U20- 'Encouraging Environmentally Responsible Behaviours' and 'Ensuring Water Security', which laid foundation for meaningful discussions. The team also met with the Mayor of Visakhapatnam, Smt G Hari Venkata Kumari, to discuss ongoing efforts under the project- 'Transformative Climate Action using Participatory data driven decision making platforms (T-CAP)' in Visakhapatnam.

Background Research Papers:



To access: <https://www.u20india.org/Resources/StatusPaper>

Parallel Thematic Sessions | Day 1

7th July | 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Encouraging Environmentally Responsible Behaviours



Background

Achieving sustainable, equitable and resilient urban development requires concerted action and behavioural change across the entire urban ecosystem, ranging from governmental policies to industrial processes to choices made by businesses and individuals. This necessitates resources to empower cities to deepen their commitment towards environmental sustainability and ensure a just and equitable transition to net zero GHG emissions.

In this context, the session ‘Encouraging Environmentally Responsible Behaviours’, deliberated on strategies that can be adopted to nudge individual, industry, and government actions for localizing sustainability and driving the climate change agenda.

Catalysing Digital Urban futures



Background

Digitalisation and data can become an ‘equalising’ force globally by enhancing transparency and enabling evidence-based policies and programs, provided issues of privacy and security, unequal access, barriers to data sharing and lack of opportunities for innovation are addressed. Data is a vital public good underpinning public infrastructure, service delivery, growth and innovation, with an impact on policies for several priorities like new jobs, community safety, affordable housing, good health and sustainable development.

Against this backdrop, the session ‘Catalysing Digital Urban Futures’, focused on the strategies for mainstreaming digitalization and adapting technologies such as AI/ML, Big Data, Robotics etc., for improving governance and service delivery.

Parallel Thematic Sessions | Day 2

8th July | 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

Building Climate Responsive and Resilient Cities



Background

With increasing, environmental risks, it is crucial to prioritize sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, and resilient urban planning to safeguard communities from climate-related impacts.

From this perspective, the session ‘ Building Climate Responsive and Resilient Cities’, focused on sharing knowledge, practices and innovative solutions to build cities that can withstand and adapt to challenges of climate change, and ensure well-being of their inhabitants.

Accelerating Climate Finance



Background

Increased investment and direct access to sustainable financing is critical for cities to deliver their climate ambition. Orienting climate financing towards increasing investment needs in urban infrastructure, Nature-based Solutions and low-emissions technologies is a huge opportunity to build the readiness of cities for climate adaptation and reduce emissions.

In this regard, the session 'Accelerating Climate Finance', deliberated on the challenges and policy options for mainstreaming climate action in cities with a focus on improving access to climate finance to help cities deliver their climate ambitions.

Ensuring Water Security



Background

Freshwater scarcity and flood risks are major global crises. Increased ecological vulnerability of water resources is going to severely limit the potential of future development and result in public health issues and social conflicts. Water should be treated as a global common good and sustainable water management should be mainstreamed to ensure water security and flood resilience for future generations.

Within this framework, the session 'Ensuring water Security', focused on strategies required for addressing challenges related to water scarcity, flooding and pollution of natural water systems, through adoption of integrated urban water management, adoption of nature-based solutions, adoption of technologies to improve resilience, etc.

References:

1. https://www.g20.org/content/dam/gtwenty/gtwenty_new/document/Urban_20_Communique.pdf
2. <https://www.u20india.org/>
3. <https://www.urban20.org/u20summit/2023-ahmedabad/>



Networking and Potential Partnership in Future

The TERI team had productive discussions and engagement with national and international partners, sector experts at the U20 Mayoral Summit while also forming new collaborations. Multiple project ideas were explored and the foundation for prospective projects was also built. Below is the list of people the team met at the summit:

Dr. BR. Shirisha Yadav, Mayor of Tirupati- discussed TERI's ongoing T-CAP project in Visakhapatnam and similar future collaborations for the city of Tirupati.

Mr Rahul Sharma, Assistant Municipal Commissioner, AMC- discussed ongoing urban development initiatives at Visakhapatnam, and shared TERI's TCAP aspirations for Visakhapatnam.

Contact Details: +91 9712970866

Mr. Hitesh Vaidya, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) – discussed TERI's ongoing projects and collaborations with NIUA; also met with various other NIUA colleagues to discuss their ongoing work.

Contact Details: hvaidya@niua.org

Mr. Mahesh Rajasekar, Director, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) – discussed TERI's ongoing urban projects where he provided insightful inputs on our Urban Living Lab under the T-CAP project.

Contact Details: +91 9724871091 | rumahesh45@gmail.com

Ms. Vaishali Nandan, Project Lead, GIZ India – Bilateral meeting on Urban Act Project.

Contact Details: vaishali.nandan@giz.de

Prof. Chetan Vaidya, Senior Advisor , Kochi Smart City; Former director SPA Delhi- discussed on Urban initiatives planned at Visakhapatnam and also shared TERI's T-CAP project aspirations for Visakhapatnam.

Contact Details: vaidya.chetan@gmail.com

Ms. Rishika Das Roy, Urban Policy Lead, Oxford Policy Management Limited (OPML) – discussed TERI's partnership with OPML on previous projects and further collaboration on Urban Living Labs for the upcoming World Urban Forum (WUF).

Contact Details: rishika.dasroy@opml.co.uk

Mr. Apoorv Kulkarni, Head of Research; and Centre for Inclusive Mobility- discussed TERI's ongoing transport and urban projects and future collaborations on the same.

Contact Details: +91 9833423344 | apoorv.kulkarni@omifoundation.org | <https://omifoundation.org/>

Ms Ann Thomas, Associate, DASRA - discussed on ongoing Urban initiatives planned at Visakhapatnam.