

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA'S

SunMUN IV

City Limits, Global Stakes:
The Global Parliament of Mayors, 2026

Director Noelle Morey





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Conference Policies

Equity Statement

The SunMUN IV team is dedicated to creating and maintaining a safe, inclusive, and equitable environment for all delegates, staff members, and advisors. Through collaboration, open-mindedness, and diplomacy, the SunMUN IV Secretariat is committed to providing each and every participant with an equitable and positive experience.

For any questions, comments, or concerns regarding equity, please contact our Chief of Staff.

General Conduct Policies

The SunMUN IV team is dedicated to enforcing proper conduct throughout the conference weekend. This includes but is not limited to:

- Abiding by ALL hotel policies, including maintaining proper volume levels, respecting non-SunMUN IV hotel guests, use of illegal substances, underage drinking, etc.
- Being present at ALL committee sessions. If a delegate must miss a committee session, they must contact their head delegate and their committee director *immediately*.
- Delegates are expected to maintain respectful and equitable conduct towards all committee attendees and staff.

Sexual Misconduct Policy

The SunMUN IV team is dedicated to providing a safe environment for all delegates, staff members, and advisors free from discrimination on any grounds and from harassment during the conference including sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature which makes a person feel offended, humiliated and/or intimidated. Sexual harassment can involve one or more incidents and actions constituting harassment may be physical, verbal and non-verbal.

SunMUN IV will enforce a zero tolerance policy for any form of sexual harassment, and will treat all incidents seriously and promptly investigate all allegations of sexual harassment. Any and all acts of sexual harassment will not be tolerated and may result in delegate excusal from the conference, with no payment refund in addition to mandatory reporting of all occurrences. An anonymous sexual harassment reporting form will be provided at the conference.

Technology Policy

SunMUN IV embraces the use of technology, however, we ask that you only use technology in committee if and when *explicitly granted permission* by your director and/or chair(s).

Furthermore, the use of generative AI, including but not limited to Chat-GPT, Claude, Gemini, and Grok is expressly and explicitly forbidden in all committees. Directors reserve the right to utilize AI-detection technologies to uphold the integrity of SunMUN IV. Violators of this policy may be disqualified for a first offense.



Photo Policy

SunMUN IV staffers will be present at committee rooms, socials, and other SunMUN IV events in order to take photos and videos of the conference weekend. These photos will be used in SunMUN IV's closing ceremony, SunMUN IV's social media, and possibly promotional material for SunMUN IV and future iterations. For those wishing to “opt-out” of the use of their photos in promotional material only, please contact your head delegate.

Dress Code Policy

All delegates attending SunMUN IV are expected to attend committee sessions in Western Business Attire (WBA). WBA is required due to its role in creating a professional work environment conducive to debate and diplomacy. Examples of WBA are collared, button-down shirts, blouses, blazers, slacks or formal pants, pencil skirts, closed-toe professional shoes, and a tie or bowtie.

For all other inquiries

Please reach out to the SunMUN IV Secretariat:

Kayla Bello, *Secretary-General*

bello.kayla@ufl.edu

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Letter from the Secretary General

Dear Delegates, Faculty Advisors, and Friends,

On behalf of our Secretariat, it is my absolute pleasure to invite you to the fourth iteration of the University of Florida's collegiate Model United Nations conference: SunMUN IV. We are thrilled to welcome you back to Orlando — where diplomacy, creativity, and connection come to life.

My name is Kayla Bello, and I am honored to serve as this year's Secretary-General. After welcoming you last year as the USG of General Assembly, I am beyond excited to lead this next chapter of SunMUN. The joy I've found traveling the country, building lifelong friendships, and pushing myself in every committee room is what brought me to this role. I've grown not just as a delegate, but as a teammate, a friend, and a person—and I hope this conference helps every delegate do the same. This year is about building on all we've done before, while laying the groundwork for what SunMUN can become in the years ahead.

SunMUN IV will feature eight creative and challenging committees designed to meet a wide range of interests and delegate styles. Our General Assembly will explore the global implications of conflict on culture and the environment. Our Specialized Body, the Global Parliament of Mayors, gives delegates the chance to imagine how local power can drive global change. Our Crisis offerings span from an alternative timeline of political reform, to a festival-era Woodstock simulation, to a Pokémon-themed simulation unlike any other. We're also featuring a committee on the rise of K-pop, a historical dive into an alternate Congress of Vienna, and a creative, high-pressure Ad Hoc for those ready to take on the unknown.

We are proud to return to a beautiful hotel venue just steps from Disney Springs, solidifying our place as one of the most exciting and welcoming conferences in the Southeast. Whether you spend your night exploring downtown Orlando, joining in on in-hotel festivities, or walking through Disney Springs™ with new friends, we promise something for everyone.

But SunMUN is more than a location or committee list—it's a chance to grow. As someone who's competed in General Assembly for years, I know the pressure that comes with giving your all in a committee room. But I also know the joys that come with it: the chance to surprise yourself, to grow in ways you didn't expect, and to connect with others who willingly spend their weekends debating fictional scenarios, rewriting history, and building a better world — one resolution at a time. Whether this is your first conference or your twentieth, we hope SunMUN reminds you why you fell in love with Model UN in the first place.

Warmly,

Kayla Bello
Secretary-General, SunMUN IV



Committee Policies

Mayoral Representation

Instead of representing a nation, each delegate will represent the mayor of a city within a UN Member State. Keeping in mind that this committee is taking place in current time, research and debate content should reflect recent developments and events that pertain to both the delegate's individual jurisdiction and the GPM in general. The GPM publications webpage is a great resource for viewing these updates as they are released.

This mechanic emphasizes the local scope and accuracy in short term responses to crisis updates. Through representing municipalities, delegates can exercise more authority and jurisdiction over matters raised in these updates.

Crisis Updates

Each session, there will be one crisis update simulating the challenges faced by the world's cities. These updates will be based on the both conversations had in moderated and unmoderated debate and case studies & concepts seen in this background guide, allowing delegates to shape the committee experience within a predetermined structure. Through updates, delegates will be able to emulate the ever changing nature of local government and put their creative skills to use as done in the GPM.

In response to crisis updates, delegates will cooperate with other mayors to issue multilateral solutions through the following steps:

Q&A: After the update is announced, mayors will have three minutes to ask questions and formulate an initial response to the issue.

Initial Response Statements: ALL mayors must respond in a round robin to the crisis update. Given the small size of the committee, this will maximize speaking opportunities while maintaining equity.

Coalition Responses: Blocs should incorporate crisis management strategies into their resolutions, referred to as strategic plans. The expectations of strategic plans are detailed below.

Long-Term Strategic Plans & Press Releases

In line with traditional GA procedure, delegates will continuously work on a long-term strategic plan (i.e. resolution) alongside fellow mayors. Resolutions should, as generally



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seen in a traditional GA committee, incorporate regionally based strategies to address the various topics discussed throughout the course of debate.

Resolutions will be presented in a traditional author's panel style; however, each presented resolution will require a brief, one-page journalistic-style press release to be published to the United Nations (i.e. submitted to the dais). Each press release must incorporate the following items: 1) the names of the contributing mayors, 2) the key issues covered in the strategic plan, and 3) highlights of the most unique, stand-out solutions put forth within the strategic plan. Press releases should help to distinguish each strategic plan from another, as they will be used to synthesize the parliament-wide action undertaken in response to the issues at hand in an end-of-committee recap.



Letter from the Director

Dearest delegates,

My name is Noelle Morey (she/her/hers) and I am a fourth-year Environmental Science student at the University of Florida with minors in Communication Studies and Agricultural & Natural Resource Law. I currently have the pleasure of serving as the President of UF Model UN, and it is my absolute honor to serve all of you as your director for City Limits, Global Stakes: The Global Parliament of Mayors, 2026. This committee was born from a respect for local governments' role in changing the lives of the world's citizens; I was first introduced to the Global Parliament of Mayors in my sophomore year of high school, as I was preparing for a UN Habitat committee. It was through that committee experience that I realized the true importance of local representation. After partaking in 8 years of Model UN, I am so excited to bring this new committee to life alongside all of you!

While I have a particular passion for environmentalism, this committee will not be limited to just that; you will all have the opportunity to shape the future of the globe's cities and the way the Global Parliament of Mayors influences United Nations proceedings across all areas of international affairs. Through a blend of traditional General Assembly procedure and intermittent crisis updates influenced by mayoral intel, this committee will simulate the dynamic nature of urban governance. I have no doubt that you are all up to the challenge! As a specialized General Assembly-style committee, there will be no position paper required prior to or at SunMUN IV. It is expected, however, that you will conduct ample research into your position, regional approaches, and relevant UN/GPM reports to best prepare for fruitful debate. As such, performance in this committee will be weighed based on the following factors: accuracy of mayoral representation, efficacy of responses to crisis updates, collaboration with fellow delegates in a constructive and positive manner, and quality of speeches/writing. I expect each of you to prioritize the factors of kindness, diplomacy, and creativity in and out of each session during our time together. Throughout the preparation process, please lean on your resources and field any questions to our amazing SunMUN team at sunmun.fl@gmail.com. Each year, I look forward to the amazing weekend we experience at SunMUN, and I am confident that this will be the best one yet! See you all soon!

Best,

NOELLE MOREY

Director, City Limits, Global Stakes: Global Parliament of Mayors, 2026



Committee Introduction

The beginnings of the Global Parliament of Mayors can be attributed to three planning sessions across 2013 and 2014, at which mayors and public officials came together to realize the inclusions of the 2013 publication titled “If Mayors Ruled the World.” In this publication, Dr. Benjamin Barber, a globally recognized political theorist, highlighted the crucial role of cities and their leaders in navigating the world’s most pressing issues. Since the initial momentum generated by Dr. Barber’s publication, the Global Parliament of Mayors has expanded to be an official UN partner and an entity that uplifts local leaders and governments across the world. Given that only mayors or cities can apply for membership to the GPM, representation is strictly local; at the GPM’s annual face-to-face General Meeting, mayors partake in networking, decision-making, and the exchange of information and practical solutions to implement among member cities.

Based in The Hague, in the Netherlands, the GPM’s General Meeting has a strategic geopolitical position to complement the UN agencies and institutions that are also located in this city. Given the historic ties that exist between this city and the UN, the GPM has maintained the attention of the United Nations over the last ten years.

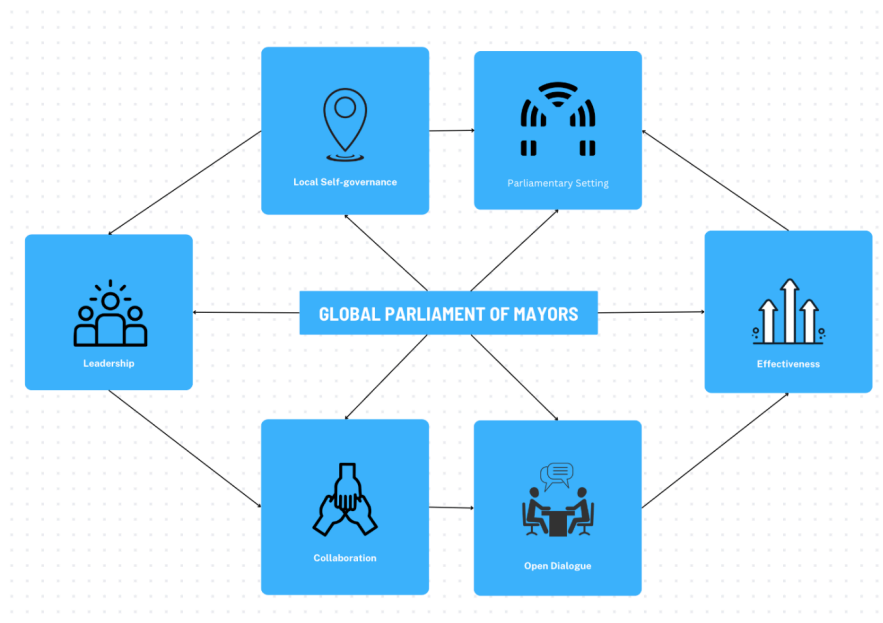


Fig. 1. Core values of the GPM.

Cities contribute over 80% of the world’s gross domestic product, solidifying their prominence in the global economy. With an estimated 70% of the world’s population projected to be residing in cities by 2050, there is no question that urban centers will



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continue to play a forward-facing role in international relations and the daily lives of global citizens. The world's 'city-zens' contribute to a unique culture among urban regions that distinguish them – beyond just geographical and infrastructural lines – from their rural counterparts. Understanding how sociocultural factors set the urban world apart from the rest of the globe, and the growing portion of the global population that call cities home, the GPM's already important role is becoming increasingly crucial.

In June 2025, the Global Parliament of Mayors and affiliate organizations convened in Braga, Portugal for their annual summit. Centered around the discussion of democracy and the role of cities in advancing politics, economics, and societal composition, the summit served as a way for GPM members and other stakeholders in city development to advance the position of the world's cities. This summit was a demonstration of the institutional legitimacy of the GPM and a defining factor in current and future visions for the organization. Through this summit, the GPM was able to show how cities are at the forefront of modernizing democracy, development, cultural exchange, and resilience in the face of a growing global population. The following guide covers a few crucial aspects of mayoral responsibilities and considerations, as these topics are at the heart of local governance and the evolving definition of a global city.



Microclimate Change

Urban Climate Profile

With continued attention being drawn to global climate change, mayors are facing a smaller-scaled challenge within their own city limits. Microclimates are the localized climatic patterns within a small area in which the surrounding regional climate is altered by the following factors:

Impermeable Surfaces: In highly urbanized areas, the majority of land area is covered by paved surfaces (sidewalks, roads, parking lots, etc.). Combined with the land area covered by buildings, the lack of permeable surfaces in cities increases the amount of heat absorbed within a condensed area.

Transportation Infrastructure: Transportation emissions on a global scale make up approximately 23% of carbon dioxide emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels. This number is predicted to increase as developing nations continue to urbanize, as the demand for transportation of people and resources increases.

Population Density: Residences, businesses, and other institutions in small areas contribute to the condensed structure found in cities. City-zens use the same amount of resources as populations in suburban and rural areas; however, the smaller areas in which they are being used and emissions are being generated lead to a more consolidated output of greenhouse gases.

The aforementioned factors all contribute to microclimate change, primarily through what is known as the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect, a phenomenon in which urbanized areas experience noticeably higher temperatures than surrounding areas. In urban areas, daytime temperatures are between 1 and 7 degrees Fahrenheit higher than outlying areas. With cities being responsible for approximately 60% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, the contributing representatives of the GPM must

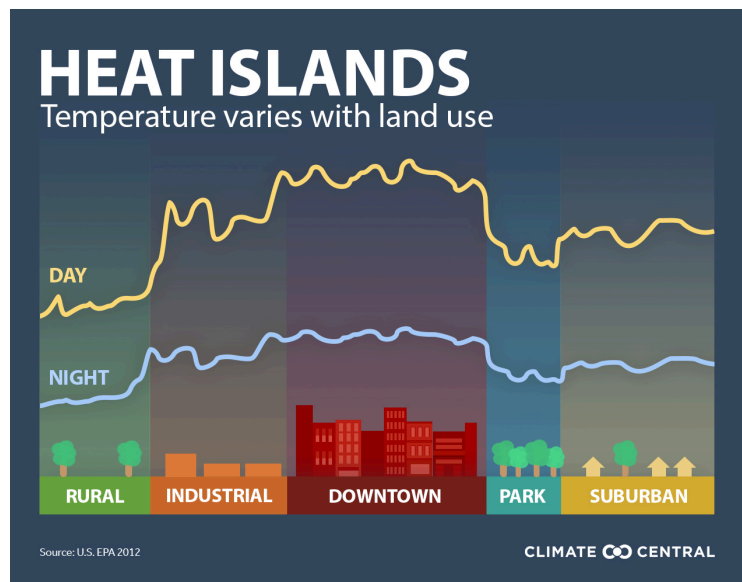


Fig. 2. Visualization of UHI effect across land uses.



highlight action plans and management strategies to navigate the urban world's contribution to this pressing matter.

Planning & Management Responses

City leaders must navigate the impact of microclimate change as it pertains to environmental degradation, institutional stability, and human health and well-being. The GPM has coordinated forums to discuss these matters, but implementation measures must be further considered as the issue of climate change continues to close in.

In July of 2021, the GPM published a call-to-action that signified the important role of mayors in mobilizing local solutions to climate change – particularly climate displacement. Through partnerships with the International Organization for Migration and UN Habitat, the GPM was able to unite mayors, local governments, and international organizations to show support for the leaders who are facing these challenges head on. While this call to action was important in legitimizing the role of mayors in microclimate change management and generating a toolkit for mayors, it was relatively narrow in its coverage of the impact of microclimate change as its focus was limited to climate-forced displacement.

At the urban planning level, there are several actionable changes that can be undertaken to mitigate the UHI effect and its exacerbation of microclimate change. Through several studies it has been found that the integration of vegetation and greenspaces can help decrease the UHI effect in urban areas by increasing permeable surfaces and decreasing the level of heat absorption in a given area.

Questions to Consider

With these challenges in mind, consider these questions from the perspective of mayors and local leaders who must make decisions that will impact city-zens:

1. What role should mayors play in implementing & enforcing local environmental regulations when national policies are insufficient?
2. How can urban greenspaces be distributed to support both social and environmental needs?
3. How can mayors incentivize citizen engagement in environmental reform?

Industrial Productivity

Since Britain's Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries, urbanization has been a well-known indicator of the development of industry, economic productivity, and perceived prosperity among communities. Today, countries continue to develop in a



multitude of ways which are reflected in the industrialization of cities and the evolution of productivity among city-zens.

Tourism

The tourism industry contributes to 8% of the world's carbon output. As the global community becomes increasingly interconnected through advancements in communication and transportation infrastructure, especially in urban areas, the tourism industry plays a vital role in social and economic interactions among cities.

The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) acknowledges the role of urban tourism in supporting the economic prosperity of cities, as it contributes to the progress of the New Urban Agenda. In partnership with UN Habitat, UNWTO hosted an expert group meeting for the advancement of sustainable urban tourism in March of 2024. The final report from this group meeting identified several key challenges of urban tourism that should be addressed by both local leaders and city-zens alike:

Integrating Culture: Cultural cognizance in urban planning, as well as the development of tourism infrastructure and affiliated institutions, is recognized as a vital step in maximizing the benefits of urban tourism. A city's culture is often a driving force behind tourism

Considering Pollution: The well-being of ecosystems and the natural environment within cities influences the willingness of tourists to invest in visiting. Maintaining a healthy natural landscape and reducing pollution is a necessary step in keeping

Reducing Friction: Local governments and other planning institutions should consider how tourists can appreciate cities without interfering with the citizens who reside within them.

Employment

In addition to being home to the majority of the world's population, cities are also hubs of employment for suburban and rural communities. On a global scale, growth in the service industry can be tied to urbanization; however, the composition of employment differs between cities in developed and developing countries. In cities of the developed world, employment is mainly distributed among the commercial, financial, and health & leisure sectors with factors such as high-skilled labor and increased technological capacity leading to this composition. In developing areas, employment within cities is



primarily concentrated in the services sector, but is still associated with relatively low levels of productivity.

As the rate of urbanization continues to increase, the portion of the population engaged in agricultural employment is projected to decrease. Shifts away from agriculture are cause for concern in terms of food security and overall productivity, raising the question of how to best navigate supporting both industry and the well-being of human populations.

Questions to Consider

Apply these global concepts and trends to your city by considering the following questions:

1. How can local policies support workforce evolution while maintaining economic stability?
2. Is tourism a feasible industry for your city? If so, how should it be balanced among the dynamic needs of the city?
3. What sectors are most important to citizens' livelihoods?

Institutional Capacity & Governance

'Institutional capacity' in the context of the urban world can be defined as the ability of cities to achieve socioeconomic goals through areas such as governance structure, community systems, financial planning, and other human resources. The GPM is directly entwined with cities' institutional capacity, as local leaders are the driving force behind legitimizing policies that reflect the needs and goals of city-zens. By emphasizing institutional capacity, the world's mayors create resilient, sustainable cities that support a high quality of life for all inhabitants and visitors.

Community systems within cities provide platforms for civic participation and engagement on the part of citizens, which enhances the mayoral capacity to enact policies and projects that reflect the voices of local constituents. Blending this platform with transparent and inclusive governance provides a sense of community and trust within cities that can help lay the foundation for future economic, social, and industrial development. A challenge faced by the GPM, however, is that as a body itself, there may be gaps in the legitimate ability to generate global policy. Instead, actions are localized, where mayors' governmental capacity is more solidly grounded in the laws that govern particular urban regions. Mayors should carefully consider this balance between being a locally-acting organization and a global forum for collaboration and widespread change.



Habitat III Policy Paper 4: Urban Governance, Capacity and Institutional Development

In the 2016 convention of UN Habitat, Policy Paper 4 was published on the topics of institutional capacity and its role in development of local governance. This publication, specifically the following key discussion points, should be considered from the perspective of local leaders.

Multi-level Governance: In many nations, local governments must cooperate with numerous levels of authority, both vertically and horizontally. Mayors should have a comprehensive understanding of the nation's approach to local governance and the ways in which cities fit into national policy agendas.

Capacity-building: City governments must allocate resources such that social institutions, human resources, and technology can be developed realistically and to the benefit of all citizens. Within capacity-building lies urban planning - mayors should assess their role in selecting personnel, delegating tasks, and highlighting the needs of their constituents.

Equity & Adaptation: As urban areas continue to grow and the number of people residing in cities increases, mayors should understand the need for public feedback and equitable expansion of programs and services. Empowering marginalized communities, providing platforms for citizen participation, and re-scaling programs as needed are all strategies that can and should be considered by local leaders.

Policy Paper 4 is directly connected to the 2030 Agenda, a framework that, as an official UN partner, the GPM should be aligned with. By using Sustainable Development Goals as a means of guiding institutional capacity building and governance, members of the GPM can further solidify this partnership and empower local communities.

The Role of Sister Cities

In line with the participatory and collaborative nature of the GPM, the role of information sharing between sister cities should be acknowledged as a tool for capacity building and governance. Acting as bridges for local governments to obtain new connections and tools for urban governance, sister cities can assist in the aforementioned components outlined by Policy Paper 4. Exchanging personnel and developments, streamlining processes through cooperation, and encouraging cultural exchange are just a few of the many benefits that come from sister city partnerships.



Sister cities can also help bolster industrial productivity through substantive trade connections, an additional opportunity that could be of utility to local governments. For mayors hoping to maintain or form sister city partnerships, it should be noted that these relationships should complement national policies for both cities in order for long-term connections to be formed.

Questions to Consider

Use these guiding questions to direct policy decisions regarding institutional capacity & governance within and beyond each represented city:

1. What role does the GPM play in strengthening local institutions?
2. How can local governments implement transparency and promote public trust in governance processes?
3. How do weak institutions impact cities' abilities to manage crises or implement long-term plans?

Digitization of Cities

The rise in technological advancements and population growth not only leads to globalization but also the widespread digitization of cities. The use of artificial intelligence and other technologies to manage various parts of urban life (i.e. traffic patterns, supply chains, educational institutions, etc.) has been on a steady rise as these technologies continue to develop.

As seen in the graphic, smart city technologies support sustainable development, public relationships and quality of life, security, and overall efficiency. Digitization of cities allows for all aforementioned sub-topics to be approached with cutting edge technology and adaptive systems that can assist mayors in their day-to-day function.

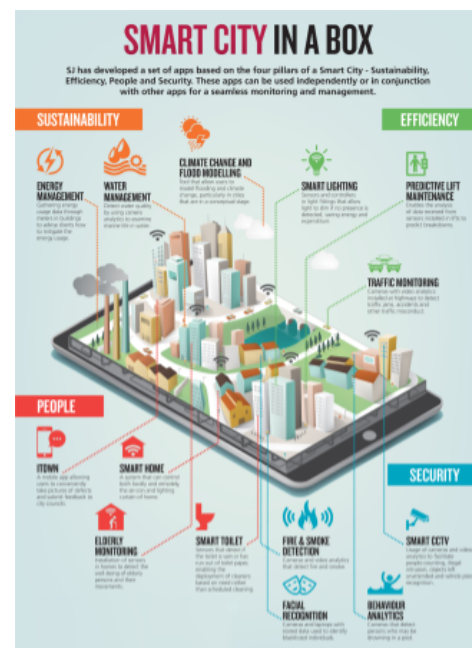


Fig. 3. Surbana Jurong infographic of an ideal smart city.

The consideration of this particular sub-topic varies greatly from city to city, and should thus be viewed in not only the context of each city's current use of technology, but the vision for future uses. Due to the subjectivity of this topic as a result of socioeconomic



and cultural differences among cities, there will be different approaches and levels of implementation of technology.

Questions to Consider

Consider the following questions for an open-ended discussion on digitization of cities on a large scale:

1. How are smart technologies being utilized in your city, if at all? Do you think these uses should be continued or adjusted?
2. What are some ethical considerations for the use of technology within cities? How can these be addressed while maintaining efficiency?
3. In what ways can/should technology be used to enhance civic engagement? What are barriers to and benefits of this within your city in particular?
4. How can autonomy and accountability be balanced in regards to wide-scale digital technologies?
5. Given disparities in technological access, how can mayoral cooperation help to level the playing field? How can sister cities be incorporated into this aspect of digitization?



List of Positions

Sourced from <https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/gpm-mayors/>

1. Marie Angele Meyanga - Afanloum, Cameroon
2. Yousef Al-Shawarbeh - Amman, Jordan
3. Rohey Malick Lowe - Banjul, Gambia
4. Albano Carige - Beira, Mozambique
5. Alec von Graffenried - Bern, Switzerland
6. Giuseppe Monteleone - Carini, Italy
7. Ion Ceban - Chisinau, Moldova
8. Cyril Xaba - Durban, South Africa
9. Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr - Freetown, Sierra Leone
10. Mathias De Clercq - Ghent, Belgium
11. Alban Hyseni - Gjilan, Kosovo
12. Eckart Wurzner - Heidelberg, Germany
13. Brian Kaboyo - Hoima, Uganda
14. Olga Ditsie - Jwaneng, Botswana
15. Marcin Krupa - Katowice, Poland
16. Abigail Marshall Katung - Leeds, United Kingdom
17. John Charuk Siafa - Monrovia, Liberia
18. Michael Delafosse - Montpellier, France
19. Oscar Escobar - Palmira, Colombia
20. Fatiha El Moudni - Rabat, Morocco
21. Carola Schouten - Rotterdam, the Netherlands
22. Alix Desulme - North Miami, FL, USA
23. Danela Arsovska - Skopje, North Macedonia
24. Jose Manuel Ribeiro - Valongo, Portugal
25. Baikuntha Nath Neupane - Vyas, Nepal



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