

Concept note 2024

Leading the Just Transition



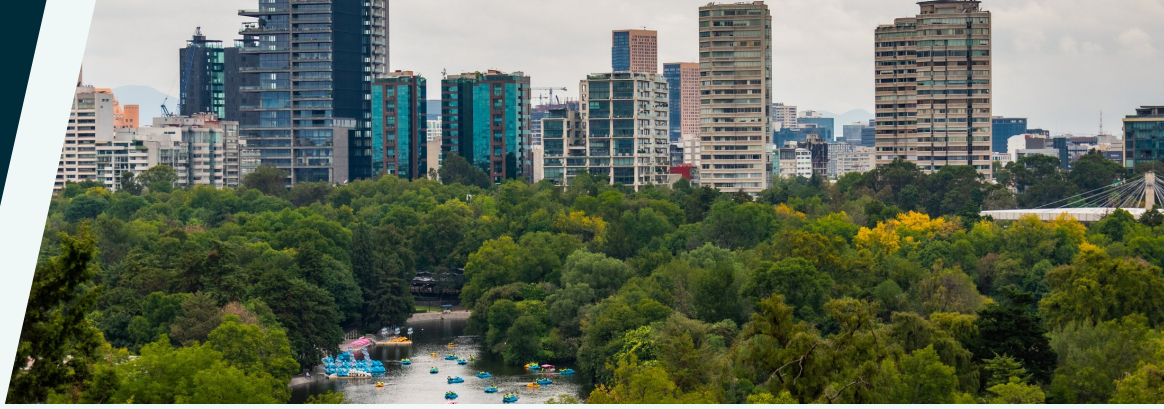
The 2024 theme for World Metropolitan Day, "Leading the Just Transition," underscores the crucial role metropolises play in addressing the climate crisis and advocates for transformative action.

Halfway to 2030, the global community is far from achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Metropolises, while being significant emitters, also bear the brunt of climate change's impact. Though these hubs of innovation champion ambitious green initiatives, mitigating their environmental footprint requires acknowledging the unequal effects of shifting towards low-carbon development for communities and individuals.

City governments have the potential to steer metropolises towards a future where economic prosperity, environmental stewardship and social well-being are mutually reinforcing. This vision, embodied in the concept of a just transition, strives for carbon neutrality and inclusive prosperity while ensuring no one is left behind. To limit global warming to 1.5°C, metropolises must unite in revamping local economic systems and embracing resilience on an unprecedented scale. This, however, must be done through a lens of fairness to avoid backlash or exacerbating existing socio-economic inequalities.

The journey towards a net-zero economy must protect livelihoods and maximize job creation aligned with climate action. Localized economic development strategies and urban renewal initiatives are crucial in this paradigm shift. These strategies should be designed and implemented with active participation from all levels of government and all strata of society.

Success requires genuine engagement with diverse stakeholders, especially historically marginalized communities. By prioritizing inclusivity and diversity in decision-making processes, metropolises can ensure an equitable distribution of the benefits from the efforts to decarbonise and green their economies. This includes ensuring equitable access to green jobs and a fair distribution of (or compensation for) the impacts on communities as we move away from fossil fuels. Furthermore, a just transition must guarantee access to clean and affordable energy and mobility for low-income households.



In essence, a just transition represents a departure from traditional, fragmented approaches, embracing a holistic understanding of territorial development. By prioritizing well-being and fairness, metropolises can become not only resilient and sustainable, but also vibrant and equitable societies. Regularly monitoring the environmental effectiveness, societal outcomes, and inclusivity of decision-making processes is crucial for ensuring the efficacy of the transition to low-carbon and environmentally sustainable economies and societies.

Building on the momentum of the Summit of the Future, [World Metropolitan Day 2024](#) poses a crucial question: how can metropolitan governance deliver a just transition, meeting present needs and securing our future? This day is not simply a celebration, but a powerful call to action.

About World Metropolitan Day

[World Metropolitan Day](#) is held every year on 14 October, commemorating the adoption of the Montreal Declaration on Metropolitan Areas. Since 2018, Metropolis and UN-Habitat have co-hosted this day to promote a better urban future. World Metropolitan Day brings together mayors and metropolitan leaders globally, fostering collaboration and sharing of innovative solutions to the biggest challenges facing metropolitan areas.

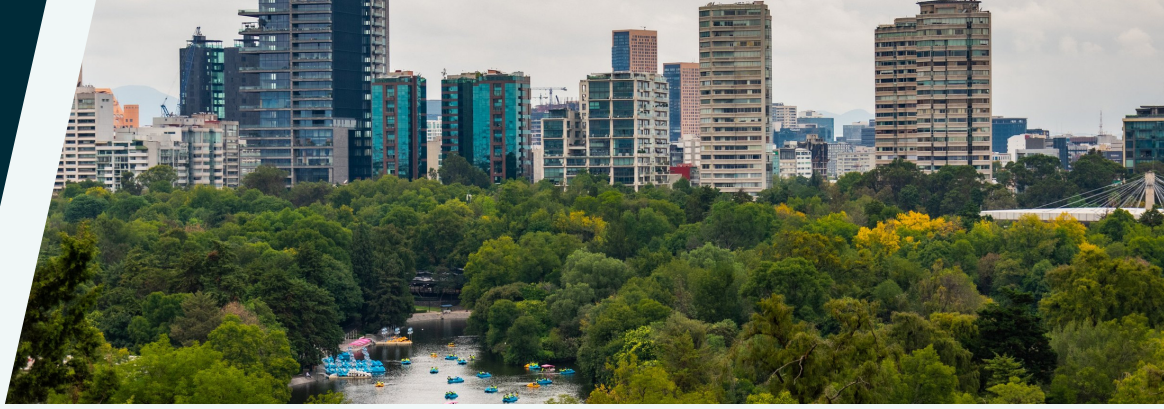
Who can participate in World Metropolitan Day?

World Metropolitan Day welcomes everyone passionate about territorial development and creating a better future for cities. Whether you're a local leader, part of an international organization, or simply a person that cares about their city, your participation is valued.

How can you get involved?

There are many ways to celebrate World Metropolitan Day and make your voice heard. You can:

- **Spark open dialogues:** Bringing together diverse voices – from community leaders to innovators – to brainstorm solutions and chart a collective course.
- **Make a commitment:** approve or enact a plan, policy, programme, regulation or project that contributes to achieving more caring metropolises.



- **Mobilize resources:** Committing to investing in the infrastructure, services and social programmes that will pave the way for a just and sustainable future.
- **Showcase success stories:** Learning from metropolises that are leading the way, sharing their experiences and inspiring others to follow suit.
- **Make some noise** using the hashtag #WorldMetropolitanDay on social media!

Submit your contribution to World Metropolitan Day by writing to us at communication@metropolis.org.