

World
Cities
Day

31 October 2025

BETTER CITY, BETTER LIFE

People-centred smart cities

— Bogotá, Colombia —

30-31 OCTOBER 2025

Ágora Bogotá Convention Center
Bogotá - Colombia



DRAFT
PROGRAMME
Global Observance of World Cities Day 2025

As at 8 October 2025



Location Principal room ÁGORA

07:45 – 08:15

REGISTRATION

08:15 – 09:00

OPENING

PANELLISTS

- **Carlos Fernando Galán**, Mayor of Bogotá.
- **Elkin Velásquez**, Regional Director ROLAC, UN Habitat.
- **National Government Representative (TBC).**

09:00 – 09:30

PLENARY TALK #1:

Habitat and Inclusion

Designing Cities for Living

PANELLISTS

Craig Dykers (Director of Snøhetta, Norway/USA)
International expert in sustainability and housing

09:30 – 10:30

PANEL:

Habitat and Inclusion

Financing Affordable Housing: Challenges and Experiences from Local to Global

Keynote Speaker: **Vanessa Velasco**,
Secretary of Housing of Bogota

Moderator: **Emil Rodríguez Garabot**, Director
of Habitat and Sustainable Mobility, CAF

PANELLISTS

- **Claudia Magalhaes**, Expert in Housing Policy and Housing Finance (TBC).
- **Anya Brickmann**, Chief Executive Officer, Affordable Housing Institute.
- **Juan C. Fernández**, Director of Caja Vivienda Popular (CVP) in Bogotá.
- **Theresa Williamson**, Director, Catalytic Communities.
- **Guillermo Herrera**, President of Camacol, Colombia.

10:30 – 11:00

PLENARY TALK #2:

Smart Governance and Participation

Urban Revitalization and Governance

PANELLISTS

Peter Bishop (Policymaker, United Kingdom)
International expert in Urban Governance and Revitalisation

11:00 – 12:00

PANEL:

Smart Governance and Participation

Urban Revitalization: A Commitment to Managing and Driving Transformation in the City

Keynote Speaker: **Carlos Salazar**, Housing and Urban Development Specialist, IDB.

Moderator: **Carlos Salazar**, Housing and Urban Development Specialist, IDB

PANELLISTS

- **Hélène Chartier**, Director of Urban Planning, C40.
- **Álvaro García Resta**, former Secretary of Urban Development of the City of Buenos Aires.
- **Vanessa Velasco**, Secretary of Habitat, Bogotá.
- **Elena Tudela**, Co-founder, Urban Resilience Office (ORU).
- **Eric Mayoraz**, Swiss Ambassador to Colombia.
- **Mayer Mizrachi**, Mayor of Panama City.

12:00 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 14:30

PLENARY TALK #3:

Resilience and Sustainability

Green and Blue Cities

Location Principal room ÁGORA

PANELLISTS

Jeremy Seigel, BIG Architects, USA

14:30 – 15:30

TALK #3:

Resilience and Sustainability

Liveable Cities: Facilitating Access to Public Goods and Services

Keynote Speaker: Zoe Elena Trohanis, Global Lead, Risk and Disaster, World Bank

Moderator: Zoe Elena Trohanis, Global Lead, Risk and Disaster, World Bank (TBC). Development Specialist, IDB

PANELLISTS

- **David Michaud**, Water Practice Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean, World Bank.
- **Diego Molano**, Chief Executive Officer, ETB.
- **Natasha Avendaño**, Manager of the Bogotá Water and Sewerage Company
- **Hugo Kerguelén García**, Mayor of Montería.

15:30 – 15:40

CLOSING REMARKS

15:00 – 17:00

SIDE EVENT:

Smart Territories:

Comprehensive Management in the Digital Age (WB, Land Registry)

Location Cámara de Comercio Salitre (Room 3)

Keynote speaker: Sally Murray, World Bank

Moderator: Ivonne Moreno, Senior Land Administration Specialist, World Bank

PANELLISTS

- **Olga Lucía López**, Director of the Bogotá District Land Registry Special Administrative Unit
- **Fernando Renoir Baca**, Head of the Coordination Unit with Federal Entities of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit.
- **Mauricio Salazar**, Mayor of Pereira
- **Axcel de León**, Director of the Cadastral Information Registry (RIC) of Guatemala

15:00 – 17:00

SIDE EVENT:

Child-centred mobility (SDM)

Location ÁGORA, 2nd Floor

Moderator: TBC

PANELLISTS

- **Claudia Díaz**, District Secretary for Mobility.
- **Úrsula Ablanque**, Secretary for Planning
- **Orlando Molano**, Director of IDU
- **María Fernanda Ortiz**, Manager of TransMilenio
- **Leonidas Narváez**, Manager of Empresa Metro de Bogotá S.A.

15:00 – 17:30

SIDE EVENT:

Investments that Breathe: Financing

Location Botanical Garden

Keynote speaker 1: Adriana Soto, District Secretary for the Environment

Keynote speaker 2: Ana María Cadena, District Secretary of Finance

15:00 – 17:30

SIDE EVENT:

Nature in the Cities of the Future (SDA + SDH)

Moderator: Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean · CAF (TBC)

PANELLISTS

- **George Hodgson**, British Ambassador to Colombia
- **Randall Hooker**, Global Green Growth Institute, Sustainable Finance Officer Latam
- **Laura Milena Roa Zeidán**, President of the National Savings Fund
- **Hervé Dubreuil**, Deputy Director of Sustainable Cities, French Development Agency
- **Representative of a Spanish city** - Guest of the Spanish Cities Consortium (possibly Madrid)

15:00 – 17:30

SIDE EVENT:

Smart Cities, People at the Centre:

Narratives for Urban Digital Transformation (SG, CTIC)

Location Cámara de Comercio Salitre (Room 1)

Keynote speaker: Lucía Bellocchio, International Consultant and Director of Trend Smart Cities

Moderator: Alberto Samuel Yohai, President of the Colombian Chamber of Information Technology and Telecommunications (CCIT)

PANELLISTS

- **Juan Carlos Archila**, CEO América Móvil
- **Simbad Ceballos**, CEO Olimpia IT
- **Angel Cárdenas**, Manager of Urban Development and Creative Economies (CAF)
- **Diana Celis**, District ICT Councillor
- **Mónica Casas González**, President of CIRION Colombia
- **María Claudia Rey**, Regional Sales Leader Commercial South America AMD

Closing remarks: Marco Antonio Péres Useche, Externado University of Colombia

15:00 – 17:30

SIDE EVENT:

Urban Spaces for Equity: for a city where everyone has a place and can be themselves (Social Sector)

Location Barrio Egipto, La Candelaria district

PANELLISTS

Social Sector Route

- **Isabel Segovia Ospina**, District Secretary of Education
- **Gerson Orlando Bermont**, District Secretary of Health
- **Roberto Angulo Salazar**, District Secretary of Social Integration
- **Laura Marcela Tami Leal**, District Secretary for Women
- **Santiago Trujillo**, Secretary of Culture, Recreation and Sport
- **Patricia Padilla**, High Counsellor for Peace, Victims and Reconciliation

15:00 – 18:00

SIDE EVENT:

Bogotá Science, Technology and Innovation Campus a strategic project of the City (SDE)

Location Cámara de Comercio Salitre (Room 2)

PANELLISTS

Opening remarks: Santiago Carvajal, Manager, Bogotá Airport City

Keynote speaker: Carlos Felipe Reyes, Manager, RenoBo

Moderator: Natalia Silva, District Secretary of Planning

- **Miguel Silva, Secretary**, General Secretariat
- **Marco Antonio Pérez Useche**, Externado University, Director, Observatory of Society, Government and Information Technologies
- **Carlos Alberto Suárez**, Director, Invest in Bogotá
- **Andrés Santamaría**, Director, District Institute of Tourism
- **Álvaro Toquica**, AEDA-F Citizen Committee
- **María Carolina Castillo**, Executive President, ProBogotá

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16:00 – 17:00

SIDE EVENT:

Metropolitan Action:

Healthy Food Environments. (SDE)

Location Bogotá Planetarium (Main Auditorium)

PANELLISTS

Moderator: Kaitlin Cockerham, Communications Officer, Metropolis, World Association of Major Metropolises

- Representative of Cities Network Metropolis (TBC)
- **Carolina Chica Builes**, Director of Rural Economy and Food Supply, Bogotá - Colombia.
- **Leidy Marcela Rodríguez**, Head of Monitoring of Public Policy on Food Security, Bogotá - Colombia.
- **Jorge Alfonso Redondo Suárez**, Director of the Social Emergency Plan, Cartagena - Colombia
- **Sofia Tvaradze**, Food Bank Project Manager, NGO Green M, Georgia.
- **Maria Eugenia Hulten**, Strategic Coordinator for Food Security and Nutrition, Rosario, Argentina.
- **Aydée Corrales Cruz**, Advisor to the Mayor, Cali, Colombia.
- **Rosa Quintana Re**, Executive Coordinator of the Secretariat of Citizen Education, Montevideo, Uruguay.
- **Angélica Gómez Pizarro**, Operations Manager for Education for Sustainability, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- **Rigoberto Sandoval**, Vice-President of Food Affairs, Havana, Cuba.
- **Ana Carolina Figueiredo Silva**, Manager of Promotion for the Food Security Fair, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

17:00 – 18:00

SIDE EVENT:

Bogotá Science, Technology and Innovation Campus a strategic project of the City (SDE)

PANELLISTS

Keynote speaker: (TBC)

Moderator: (TBC)

- **María del Pilar López**, District Secretary for Economic Development
- **Ovidio Claros**, Executive President of the Bogotá Chamber of Commerce (CCB)
- **Andrés López Valderrama**, Executive President of Corferias
- **Víctor Saavedra**, Director of the Agency for Higher Education, Science and Technology (Atenea)
- (TBC)
- (TBC)

17:00 – 18:00

SIDE EVENT:

Bogotá Science, Technology and Innovation Campus a strategic project of the City (SDE)

PANELLISTS

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Location Principal room ÁGORA

08:30 – 09:45

REGISTRATION

10:00 – 10:45

WORLD CITIES DAY

High-level opening ceremony

- Bogotá video

WELCOME NOTES

- Opening address by **Mr. Carlos Fernando Galán**, Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia
- Statement by **Ms. Rosa Villavicencio**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colombia
- Video message by **Mr. António Guterres**, United Nations Secretary General
- Video message by **Hon. Nga Kor Ming**, President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, and Minister of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia
- Statement by **Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach**, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat

MINISTERIAL REMARKS:

PERSPECTIVES ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- **Ms. Edna Elena Vega Rangel**, Secretary of Rural, Territorial and Urban Development, Mexico
- **Ms. Emma Reynolds**, MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK
- **Mr. Ni Hong**, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China
- **Ms. Helga Rivas**, Minister of Housing, Cities and Territory, Colombia

10:45 – 10:55

CULTURAL PERFORMANCE

10:55 – 11:55

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Localizing the People-Centred Smart Cities Approach

Moderator: Elkin Velasquez, UN-Habitat

PANELLISTS

- **Mr. Carlos Fernando Galán**, Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia
- **Mr. Claudio Orrego**, Regional Governor of the Metropolitan Regional of Santiago, Chile
- **Mr. Lars Weiss**, Acting Mayor of Copenhagen, Denmark
- **Ms. Ndesihafela Larandja**, Mayor of Windhoek, Namibia

11:55 – 12:10

Announcement for the: Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities winners

12:10 – 12:20

Closure of high-level opening ceremony

12:20 – 14:00

Break

14:00 – 15:00

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Roundtable 1:

Achieving adequate housing
through people-centred
smart cities

Moderator: Ms. Vanessa Velasco, Habitat
Chief Secretary, City of Bogotá

Setting the scene:

Access to housing, informal
settlements, and urban basic
services: how can smart city
initiatives and strategies help
achieving these goals?

Moderator introduces the Panel

Keynote speaker: Mr. Jeroen Klink, Director,
Center for Favela Studies (CEFAVELA)

PANELLISTS

- **Ms. Oreoluwa Finnih**, Special Adviser on Sustainable Development Goals, Lagos State
- **Ms. Nevana Srikiissoon**, eThekweni Municipality
- **Ms. Hélène Chartier**, Director of Urban Planning, C40
- **Ms. Zoe Elena Trohanis**, Global Lead for Disaster Risk Management, World Bank

Q&A (10 minutes)

Wrap and closing by the Moderator

15:00 – 15:15

Break

15:15 – 16:15

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Roundtable 2:

Digital innovation to enhance
urban infrastructure, land use and
basic service provision

Moderator: Mr. Juan Ricardo Ortega,
President of Energy Group of Bogotá

Setting the scene:

Transforming urban governance
through digital innovation

Moderator introduces the Panel

Keynote speaker: Mr. Carlos Ratti, MIT
Senseable Cities Lab

PANELLISTS

- **Ms. Carolina Salazar López**, Director of Strategic Projects, Ruta N
- **Mr. Luis Lota**, Director of the Bogotá – Cundinamarca Metropolitan Region
- **Prof. Carlos Moreno**, ETI Chair, Sorbonne University

Q&A (10 minutes)

Conclusion by the Moderator

16:15 – 16:20

Break

16:15 – 16:20

CLOSING REMARKS

- **Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach**, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat