



REPORT TO: THE CITY MANAGER

TO BE REFERRED BY THE OFFICIALS TO MAYCO VIA THE FUTURE PLANNING &
RESILIENCE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE [AFTER CONSIDERATION BY CITY MANAGER]

1. ITEM NUMBER

2. SUBJECT

**FEEDBACK ON THE INTERNATIONAL/OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF THE
RSA TRIP UNDERTAKEN FROM 29 JULY TO 3 AUGUST 2022 TO
ACCOMPANY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR TO ATTEND THE WORLD CITIES
SUMMIT IN SINGAPORE**

3. EVENT SUMMARY

EVENT DETAILS	
CONFERENCE/SEMINAR	<i>World Cities Summit</i>
OTHER	<i>N/A</i>
DATE	<i>31 July – 2 August 2022</i>
VENUE	Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre
TOTAL COST TO THE CITY	R112 110, 02 for both officials
CITY	Singapore
COUNTRY	SINGAPORE

ATTENDEE DETAILS	
NAME AND SURNAME	DESIGNATION
Mr Anthony Hazell	MAYORAL ADVISOR
Dr Denver van Schalkwyk	MANAGER: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
PROVIDE SUMMARY OF HOST ORGANISATION / CITY	
<p><u>Host Organisation – Centre for Liveable Cities:</u></p> <p>Established in 2008 by Singapore’s Ministry of National Development and the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, the Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC)’s mission is to distil, create and share knowledge on liveable and sustainable cities. CLC’s work spans four main areas—Research, Capability Development, Knowledge Platforms, and Advisory. Through these activities, the CLC hopes to provide urban leaders and practitioners with the knowledge and support needed to make our cities better.</p> <p><u>Host City – Singapore:</u></p> <p>The Republic of Singapore is a city-state situated at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, comprising the main island of Singapore and approximately 60 other smaller islands and islets. The city-state has a population of 5.45 million people and regarded as having the second highest population density in the world. Singapore is essentially a small and heavily urbanised island city-state, with a multi-party parliamentary system of government and representative democracy that used to be a British colony and, therefore, a member of the Commonwealth. The president is the Head of State and the Prime Minister, the Head of Government, with a Unicameral Parliament. Singapore’s current and first female president is Ms Halimah Yacob, while Mr Lee Hsien Loong is the Prime Minister. The city-state has the largest port in Southeast Asia and is one of the busiest in the world, due to its strategic location along the Indian Ocean and South China Sea. The strategic position has given Singapore a competitive advantage to trade, which has supported their development towards a high-income country. Singapore has a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD340 billion and a per-capita income of USD59 970. They have a competitive economy, that is underpinned by one of the world’s most business-friendly regulatory environments. The highly developed free-market economy is due to an open and corruption-free business environment, prudent monetary and fiscal policies, and transparent legal framework. The business friendly legal and tax structure, reliable infrastructure and dependable regulatory processes have provided a positive commercial environment. The economy is one of the most competitive in the international system and supports the development of local entrepreneurs. A supportive economic environment together with a stable political system has assisted to secure large inflows of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Multinational Corporations (MNCs) and Financial Institutions. With high government revenue and no significant foreign debt, they are able to compete with top economies in the world.</p>	

4. OBJECTIVE

To attend and participate in the World Cities Summit (WCS), an exclusive platform for government leaders and industry experts, to address liveable and sustainable city challenges, and share Cape Town’s urban solutions.

5. OUTCOMES

Gained insights and best practices regarding urban challenges, coupled with showcasing Cape Town on a global platform, as well as forging new relationships.

6. ACTIONS REQUIRED

- 6.1 Coordinate the Executive Mayor’s membership of the WCS Young Leaders (WCS YL) (**Responsible: International Relations Unit**)
- 6.2 Obtain and share information related to the City’s VPUU Project with the WCS YL (**Responsible: International Relations Unit**)

- 6.3 Link the City of Rotterdam with the Cape Higher Education Consortium (CHEC) **(Responsible: International Relations Unit)**
- 6.4 Link the City of Rotterdam with the Port of Cape Town **(Responsible: International Relations Unit)**
- 6.5 Maintain informal relationship with the City of Christchurch with the view to exchange (technical) information **(Responsible: International Relations Unit)**
- 6.6 Convene Brown Bag Lunch session with the World Bank's Singapore Office **(Responsible: International Relations Unit)**
- 6.7 Brief Water and Sanitation Directorate and Resilience Department on themes and intent of UN Water Conference 2023 for consideration of City's participation. **(Responsible: Anthony Hazell and International Relations Unit)**

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Constitutional and Policy Implications No ☒ Yes ☐

7.2 Environmental implications No ☒ Yes ☐

7.3 Financial Implications No ☒ Yes ☐

7.4 Legal Implications No ☒ Yes ☐

7.5 Staff Implications No ☒ Yes ☐

7.6 Risk Implications No ☒ Yes ☐

7.7 POPIA Compliance

☒ It is confirmed that this report has been checked and considered for POPIA Compliance.

NOTE: POPIA Section MUST be completed otherwise the report will be returned to the author for revision.

Contact your Directorate POPIA Stewards should you require assistance.

The City has a contract in place with XL Embassy Travel for the safe-keeping of a Traveller's personal information as required by the POPI Act.

8. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the feedback report on the trip to accompany the Executive Mayor to the World Cities Summit in Singapore as undertaken by Anthony Hazell and Denver van Schalkwyk from 29 July to 3 August 2022 **be considered and noted**.

9. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Below follows an overview of the WCS activities as attended by the delegation:

a) Young Leaders Symposium (YLS):

The WCS Young Leaders (WCS YL) is a select group of change-makers from diverse sectors that aims to shape the global urban agenda. Membership, limited to a three-year tenure, is by invitation only, and the network comprises of more than 300 Young Leaders. Executive Mayor Hill-Lewis was invited to join the network based on his proven track record in being a change maker or accomplished leader in government / politics, coupled with having an urban dimension related to liveability, sustainability, governance and planning.

The YLS started with a workshop format table discussion that was framed around core questions linked to the main themes of WCS 2022. The aim was for Young Leaders to develop proposals and responses to an assigned topic. Group A discussed the main levers of change we need to build pandemic-resilient cities, and recommended that city leaders should ideally focus, in particular, on the spatial (at city, neighbourhood and building scale), social (especially building public trust through transparency), and economic (fiscal resilience and adaptability) aspects in the future planning of their cities. For its part, Group B discussed ways to futureproof our cities for an ageing population, and they recommended that cities should take care of healthcare; bring in technology; take care of nature, and the community; and, ensure mobility. Group C was assigned the question of what are the top three areas that cities should prioritise to achieve a net-zero future, and they argued that city leaders should rethink the status quo (e.g. energy); focus on their people (e.g. education, capacity, trust); and initiate pro-active, long-term, holistic, but most importantly, realistic plans. What cities should invest in the next three to five years to address climate extremes was the question posed to Group D. In response, the group noted physical infrastructure (e.g. public transport, health, waste, water); and, appropriate mechanisms (e.g. circular economy, education; resilience; funding; private-public-people collaboration). As additional considerations, Group D highlighted the importance of identifying the right priorities and establishing appropriate incentives for making good investment choices and, linked to that, the importance of long-term planning.

The groups discussion was followed by short remarks by:

- ✓ Mr Mikko Kiesilainen (Chief Economist, City of Helsinki): There is a growing tension between central and local governments, with the former wanting more control, but also pushing more costs down to cities. Helsinki is focusing on how cities should ideally provide social

services packages. In order to drive continuous improvement, Helsinki benchmarks the efficiency of its programmes against other cities and, where applicable, the private sector. Openness and transparency is important, and these benchmarking results are published. Each unit of Helsinki's administration needs to show that they are efficient, otherwise they must be subjected to reform (i.e. the burden of proof is on the unit to demonstrate why they should not be subject to reform).

- ✓ H.E. Mr Tan Kiat How (Singaporean Senior Minister of State): Highlighted the responsibility to future generations, and the importance of an inclusive, multi-disciplinary, holistic, and long-term approach to planning. Singapore's long-term plan, which is reviewed every ten years, has a 50-year horizon. Cities must be adaptable to disruptions to create sustainable, resilient cities. Nature-based solutions are crucial to unlock opportunities, e.g. funding. Innovation and dedication, coupled with long-term planning, can assist cities and future generations to emerge stronger.
- ✓ Executive Mayor Hill-Lewis: The Executive Mayor provided brief remarks focusing on the City's Water Resilience Programme, and more specifically on how the City responded to avoid Day Zero, and the City's current and future plans to ensure that Cape Town is water-resilient. For example, he mentioned that Cape Town is taking a three-pronged approach, with a focus on increasing resilience to current and future climate shocks and stresses. Firstly, the City will be securing water supply through the implementation of the New Water Programme as envisioned in the Cape Town Water Strategy. Secondly, the City will be continuing the implementation of its highly effective Winter Readiness programme, which aims to reduce the incidence and impacts of flooding through disaster risk management approaches. Finally, the City has committed, through the Cape Town Water Strategy, to becoming a Water-sensitive City that optimises and integrates the management of water resources to improve resilience and liveability.

After their remarks, a moderated discussion followed where attendees were allowed to ask the three speakers questions. Mr Mikko Kiesilainen was asked whether one should look beyond cities to make cities more liveable. He responded that micro-cities are the model of the future where cities are created that offer packages of cities in one space. This requires planning and changing of mindsets, and is ultimately a journey. Smart cities and technology are becoming increasingly important. Not just the application thereof, but also integrating it into society and how society operates. In this space, a bottom-up approach where technology is co-developed with citizens is crucial.

H.E. Mr Tan Kiat How was asked how long-term planning was crucial in Singapore's development. He noted that Singapore values long-term planning as part of their model for success. Singapore follows an approach of 50-year planning, broken down further into fifteen-year sector plans. The sector plans are reviewed every five years, while the long-term plan is reviewed every decade to stay on top of trends. Executive Mayor Hill-Lewis also took the opportunity to note that he also appreciates the importance of long-term

planning, and for this reason, upon assuming office, he created a Future Planning and Resilience Directorate to assist in this space.

One delegate enquired to what extent and in which ways Cape Town is including stakeholders and citizens in decision-making processes (of major infrastructural urban redevelopment projects). Executive Mayor Hill-Lewis cited the City's Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU) project as an example of an innovative community development project. Extensive initial work was done in order to understand the community organisations and leadership within respective communities, including an assessment of the history of the area, the role of leadership and organisations and the extent to which they are resourced and able to perform their respective roles. Regular engagement was initiated with the leadership and organisations, and the community would present baseline work to the City. This was and still is complemented by a process of negotiation between the City and the community towards an agreed Community Action Plan, and structures were set up in the community in order to track and monitor progress. As a result, communities were directly involved in determining issues such as spatial integration of previously and currently disadvantaged areas and redress of apartheid planning. In addition, these approaches enabled and facilitated a bottom-up participation of communities, coupled with building trust with communities and providing greater credibility to the City and its efforts.

Another representative of the City of Antwerp (Belgium) asked Executive Mayor Hill-Lewis whether co-creation between government and citizens is important in Cape Town pertaining to water management. He responded that, not only is it crucial in water management, but it is essential in every government project. Co-creation is an absolute requirement to ensure the success of a project. Communities must have a sense of ownership and feel that they are included.

Finally, an attendee wanted to hear the views of Executive Mayor Hill-Lewis on how cities should ideally find funding sources to finance solutions to their problems/ challenges. The Executive Mayor underlined that government alone cannot fund the infrastructure that is required, and that there should be a move away from the traditional approach where only governments are responsible to fund, for example, infrastructure provision. The assistance of other stakeholders is required and fundamental.

b) Meeting with the Mayor of Rotterdam (The Netherlands):

The mayors of Cape Town and Rotterdam (i.e. Mr Ahmed Aboutaleb) met on the margins of the WCS. During the engagement, the mayors discussed possible collaboration between educational institutions in Cape Town and Rotterdam, the City's relationship with the Port of Cape Town, and Cape Town's participation in city networks, coupled with its collaboration with foreign (sister) cities.

c) The WCS Mayors Forum:

The WCS Mayors Forum is an exclusive, by-invitation-only global platform for mayors and city leaders to discuss pressing urban challenges and share best practices. The Forum consisted of two sessions focusing on digitalisation and

decarbonisation. It should be noted that Executive Mayor Hill-Lewis delivered a speech as part of the decarbonisation session.

The Mayors Forum was opened by H.E. Minister Desmond Lee, Singapore's Minister of National Development. Cities play a vital role as important spaces for economic and technological development. Cities are fundamentally about people. However, cities, and their resilience have been disrupted over the last two years by major events, including Covid, the outbreak of war between Russia and Ukraine, supply chain management problems, cyber insecurity, and so forth, and it is imperative that cities find ways to overcome these disruptions.

During the session on **digitalisation**, the following presentations were made and could be summarised as follows:

- ✓ Mayor of Rotterdam argued that digitalisation is a human enabler. The only thing that is smart is YOU. He referred to the mile project (i.e. building a new road corridor using technology where the road will go underground, under water, etc.) and the Port of Rotterdam using digitalisation to provide stakeholders involved in the operations at the port with real-time information (e.g. companies can at all times determine where their containers are, when and how they are moving through the system, etc.). He noted that, with a fibre connection, portable joystick, and two monitors, crane operators could work remotely at Rotterdam's port.
- ✓ UN Habitat highlighted its People-centred Smart Cities Flagship Programme launched in 2019. The main objective of this flagship programme is to make urban digital transformation work for the benefits of all, driving sustainability, inclusivity and prosperity, and the realisation of human rights in cities and human settlements. One key area of intervention is supporting local governments with their digital transition, applying a multi-level governance strategy and helping them build skills and capabilities to develop, procure and effectively use digital technologies in an ethical and inclusive way to make sure that no one is left behind. It also prioritises mobilising financing for urban innovation projects that make a direct positive impact on people's lives in cities.
- ✓ The Chairperson of the Mayors Committee and Mayor of South West District (Singapore) highlighted the importance of improving the smart quotient of everyone. She mentioned their digitalisation project where 150 000 elderly people were trained by digital ambassadors since 2020 to assist in coping with the consequences of the restrictions imposed by the government in response to the Covid pandemic. She also noted their Community Development Council Voucher Scheme, which was launched in 2020 to help Singaporean lower-income households defray their cost of living and, at the same time, to support hawkers and merchants affected by the pandemic (with same-day reimbursement of SMEs where beneficiaries spent their vouchers). The scheme is entirely electronic, and those eligible can access their vouchers quickly and safely online.
- ✓ Mayor of Johor Bahru (Malaysia) reiterated the importance of digitalisation referring to how it helped to overcome barriers such as

closed borders during the Covid pandemic. This was especially important for this gateway city, which depends on commuters that earn an income in Singapore, but spend in Johor Bahru – highlighting the link between the digital and the physical.

The above-mentioned presentations on digitalisation were followed by an open dialogue. Delegates noted that one should not underestimate the psychological impact of digitalisation on people, especially those who might feel left behind because they do not understand the technology. Digital skills are in short supply, and could be an obstacle to digitalisation. (In Antwerp, for example, the number of available jobs exceeds the number of unemployed.) The importance of maintaining alternatives for those that don't have technology or don't know how to use it was highlighted. MasterCard noted that there is a trade-off between the speed and quality of digital enablement, and said it was important to consider the end-user journey and make it as simple as possible, and to leverage the rich data set that comes from digital transactions to provide more targeted support.

The circular economy is also important and could be linked to digitalisation. Free Wi-Fi and digitalisation of government services have the potential to assist tremendously in digitalising society. The connection between digitalisation and democracy was also made, e.g. council meetings could continue virtually – including voting – during the Covid pandemic. It was stressed that the digital system should be there to serve us humans and not the other way around.

During the session on **decarbonisation**, the following presentations were made and could be summarised as follows:

- ✓ City of Yokohama presented on their Yokohama Eco-School (YES) Project, which is supported by 150 organisations, inter-regional cooperation, and active partners and multilateral networks with an emphasis on learning. Behavioural change in households is needed to realise Yokohama's vision of becoming a carbon-neutral city and, therefore, they have decided to target schoolchildren to spread the message on how to cut emissions. This is important if one considers that a third of Yokohama's emissions emanate from its households.
- ✓ City of Melbourne (Australia) referred to their ambition to be on 100% renewable energy by 2030, and net-zero emissions by 2040. Its BREATH project was highlighted. This project focuses on retrofitting ventilation systems with the aim to reduce energy consumption in existing office buildings, which account for 60% of emissions.
- ✓ Dhaka South City (Bangladesh) mentioned various initiatives. These include planting 10 000 saplings and trees over the next three years; creating 75 play sites and 30 parks around the city; reducing the number of cars on the roads to lower emissions of fossil fuels, and encouraging walking, cycling and use of public transport. They aim to make 70% of all trips walkable.
- ✓ City of Cape Town's Executive Mayor Hill-Lewis shared with the delegates Cape Town's Energy Priority Programme. This broad City power grid decarbonisation programme, which has been elevated due

to a mayoral commitment to end loadshedding in Cape Town in the next few years, consists of an Independent Power Producers (IPP) Programme and Distributed Generation Programme that is implemented through Large IPP Procurement, Small IPP Procurement, Own Generation and Small-scale Embedded Generation.

The above-mentioned presentations on decarbonisation were followed by an open dialogue. It was noted that the so-called three “I’s”, i.e. intentional, investment, and integration, are important in the decarbonisation journey. It was highlighted that there is clearly a special relationship between cities and decarbonisation, due to the concentration of both activities and vulnerabilities. Therefore, decarbonisation has to be locally led.

Citizen behaviour is crucial. Also, the right vision and policy focus, but only if you include the implementers right from the onset, and not only at the end stage. Further to these, capacity, good governance, a holistic approach, and proper spatial planning practices and regulations could all aid in a major way to reduce emissions. Most of the cities represented in the room need to peak in their emissions by 2030 to reach net zero by 2050. Energy consumption must be reduced; do more with less. Moreover, consensus is vital. Need to ascertain what to do about those who fear the transition and are reluctant to act, coupled with those denying that the problem exists or is that crucial/ bad. It is also important to consider the relationship between cities and rural areas, and the challenge of scaling up solutions (transitioning from 1-2 pilots to the systemic change required). The pandemic; technology; blended finance models; citizen power; and the convening power of city leaders were underlined as the five accelerators in the decarbonisation journey.

Finally, reference was made to the World Bank’s Advanced Practices for Environmental Excellence in Cities (APEX) Project and Green Reboot Report. On the one hand, the APEX Project, by means of an App, allows city planners to make cities more sustainable in four key areas—energy, water, waste, and public transport. It harnesses data insights from advanced green practices around the world to create tailored solutions for particular cities. On the other hand, the Green Reboot Report analyses how cities can allocate their resources to ensure a cleaner living environment for their residents, create jobs, and lay the foundation for a robust local economy. By prioritising climate-smart growth in their recovery plans, cities stand to gain as much as \$7 trillion in investments and could create 144 million new jobs by 2030. It also found that climate-smart growth plans have the potential to prevent up to 1.5 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions, paying environmental dividends for people and eco-systems worldwide.

d) Session on Cities Emerging Stronger:

The ongoing pandemic, crises triggered by climate change and digital disruptions have intensified both the challenges and opportunities for creating more liveable and sustainable cities. In this plenary, global leaders shared their visions and strategies for how cities can emerge stronger from the challenges and opportunities intensified by the ongoing pandemic, climate change crises, and digital disruption.

e) Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Lecture and Forum:

The Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize honours achievements and contributions made to the creation of liveable, vibrant and sustainable urban communities around the world. The Prize is named after Singapore's first Prime Minister who played a leading role in developing Singapore into a world-class city state. Vienna, the Austrian capital, has been awarded the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize 2020. Vienna, in particular, has built, innovated and enhanced its infrastructure to thrive in the 21st century, while honouring its existing historical and cultural fabric. By being people-focused, planning ahead and taking consistent steps to address the global challenge of climate change, Vienna has emerged successful in sustaining the highest quality of life for its people. Vienna has taken a strategic approach to create a distinctive and delightful home for its residents, both today and in the future. Vienna's presentation focused amongst others on its Urban Development Plan of Vienna, also known as STEP 2025, that sets out plans to realise its vision of a polycentric city and create more open and green spaces. The Mayor highlighted large urban redevelopment projects in Aspern Seestadt – an urban laboratory – and Nordbahnhof; and its Grätzloase (Neighbourhood Oasis) platform, a ground-up initiative that transforms parking lanes into parklets for vibrant community interaction. Vienna also has a WWTW that is completely self-sufficient, producing more energy than it uses. In addition, more people in the city have an annual season ticket for public transport (at a cost equivalent to ~ €1/day) than own a car. The City has 1550 km of cycle lanes and is adding the equivalent of 100 football fields in PV surface annually. It aims to reach climate neutrality by 2040, and to become Europe's capital of digitalization through "digital humanism" – using digitalization as a tool to foster human development and improved quality of life.

In addition to Vienna, the cities of Antwerp (Belgium), Boston (USA); and, Lisbon (Portugal) as also received Special Mentions for their best practices in city management. On the one hand, Antwerp was recognised for its careful and deliberate development of systematic plans and projects to rejuvenate the city, through a combination of large-scale and small-scale interventions over the long term. On the other hand, Boston was recognised for its holistic and cumulative effort on climate resilience, improving housing affordability and mobility options, and fostering civic participation, as exemplified through the completion of multiple projects with significant transformative effects. For its part, Lisbon was recognised for its dramatic resurgence over the past ten years. Suffering from a two-decade financial turmoil, the city took the crisis as a chance for better governance and transformed itself into an attractive city with new investments, residents, and visitors. Through innovative ideas and effective implementation, Lisbon has achieved significant results in a short period, despite limited financial resources.

f) Meeting with the Mayor of Christchurch (New Zealand):

The mayors of Cape Town and Christchurch (i.e. Ms Lianne Dalziel) met on the margins of the WCS. During the engagement, they discussed post-disaster management (e.g. 2011 Christchurch earthquake); financial management strategies; human settlements; public transport (Christchurch is also advocating for the devolution of functions to enable public transport integration); renewable energy; water; and crime.

g) Meeting with the World Bank:

Executive Mayor Hill-Lewis shared with the World Bank that water management is a challenge for Cape Town, especially if one keeps in mind that the aging infrastructure is under pressure due to a rising population. The City has funding mechanisms in place, and is trying its utmost to address the above-mentioned challenge. For instance, it is investing in what will be the world's biggest wastewater recycling plant; desalination plants; aquifer drilling, and clearing of alien vegetation.

The World Bank's delegation proposed that the City meets and continues its relationship with Singapore's Public Utility Board (PUB), which is best placed to assist with technology and best practices advice. For instance, the PUB is working with the Nanyang Technological University on membrane technology; however, this type of technology is expensive.

They added that, in their view, public utilities are best placed to provide water infrastructure, as opposed to the private sector, since privatisation is not the best route to follow. They did caution, though, that it is not a one-size-fits-all matter, and that different models, depending on the specific environment, work in different places. Coupled with this, the feasibility of models such as the fixed charges approach depends on the communities and customers.

Based on Cape Town's Day Zero experience, the World Bank enquired whether the City shares its experience with others. Executive Mayor Hill-Lewis responded by making the example of the recent exchange of technical expertise as well communication strategies with the City of Monterrey (Mexico), which is now also experiencing severe water shortages.

Finally, Executive Mayor Hill-Lewis mentioned the challenge with project management in the sense that delivering major projects such as water management ones on time is problematic. The World Bank indicated that they can assist with best practices in this space, and suggested convening a brown bag lunch session, i.e. bringing relevant stakeholders together to discuss issues (cross-cutting).

h) Session on Sustainable Financing of Cities:

This session called for cities to adopt an integrated and systemic approach to how urban projects are funded. This requires holistic consideration of pertinent, inter-linked issues including considering the intersection of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) areas. In addition, other factors also need to be considered such as resilience and climate change, which are areas that move beyond the traditional technicalities that encompass infrastructure financing. The session facilitated insights from an ecosystem of stakeholders, including city leaders, developers, financiers and international organisations. It was noted that, while about \$93 trillion was needed for green infrastructure globally, there was a significant financing gap – especially for developing countries – due to a lack of creditworthiness and a shortage of bankable projects.

Delegates voiced a number of proposals that could assist cities to close financial gaps. These include development impact bonds (which pay for

outcomes, rather than outputs), blended finance (incorporating a mix of risk and return requirements), supply chain finance (focusing on full value chain), and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)-linked bonds. In addition, cities should also consider collaborating to raise finance to fund projects together. For example, Paris is increasingly opting to collaborate with cities in projects funded by the European Union (EU).

Furthermore, cities must manage their expectations when attempting to secure green finance. This must be backed by good systems in place to monitor and report on project progress. One of the best ways to convince investors is to overcome the trust gap by means of consistent monitoring and transparency. Moreover, if cities want to access (a range of) sustainable finance, they must have long-term visions/ plans, coupled with consistency of regulations in place. Policy consistency is especially important if one considers that limited-term city leaders must often manage long-term projects. Leveraging their balance sheets will take many shapes and forms, and cities should look at these options as a single group to select a mix of options that works for them. They need to prioritise with an understanding of the broader vision, and it is important to allocate risk to the party best-able to manage that risk.

i) IFC Roundtable on Building a Green City through Sustainable Investment:

IFC started the session by introducing its APEX (Advanced Practices for Environmental Excellence in Cities), its pre-feasibility tool that provides a one-stop shop to undertake a rapid cost-benefit analysis of projects across four sectors (energy, built environment, transport, water). The IFC has worked with Ekurhuleni to develop an Action Plan, and has begun working with the City of Cape Town, as well. IFC highlighted four necessary factors for a successful transition to a more sustainable trajectory: clear long-term goals and vision; a solid analysis of opportunities and benefits aligned with goals; a good regulatory framework and favourable market conditions; and new infrastructure as a trigger for green innovation and new markets.

The floor was then opened to delegates to ask questions or make inputs. The following were noteworthy:

- ✓ Houston has also prioritised power security after the recent power failures in Texas, which has a competitive energy market. They are focusing on how to achieve decarbonisation in a way that is resilient and both environmentally and economically sustainable. The City has developed a regional master plan, as it needs to integrate with surrounding areas, and is looking at impact funds and green bonds, as well as IPOs, to fund new infrastructure investments.
- ✓ Singapore's solar potential is limited to about 10% of its demand, so it is looking at a regional grid, green hydrogen, carbon capture and energy efficiency. It has introduced a carbon tax, which is increasing steeply to provide the right incentives to businesses and households. It balances this with assistance to make up-front investments.
- ✓ Dhaka, Bangladesh, noted that it contributes less than 0.5% of the world's emissions, but is one of the most vulnerable cities to climate change. Its focus is on expanding green public space and rehabilitating

its waterways. It is also undertaking bus-route rationalization, introducing e-buses, and discouraging own vehicle use. It aims to make 50% of trips walkable through its investments in infrastructure.

The IFC concluded the session by summarising its approach as an actionable approach to achieve better planning and management, attract financing, and generate green jobs. The APEX tool is the culmination of their collection of best practices, as well as their collaboration with Google to analyse data at an aggregate level, rather than city-by-city. It allows Cities to analyse different investment options against a business-as-usual scenario. The biggest impact interventions can then be prioritised in an action plan for more detailed analysis and implementation.

IFC's municipal finance unit assists cities with commercial loans, PPPs/concessions, facilitating private-sector investments, and upstream advisory services. About 88% of its commitments in the past five years have been climate-related.

Green funding is not cheap capital, but strategic capital. However, one option mentioned was action-based financing for meeting certain milestones – for example, a coupon step-down linked to achieving targets, such as a reduction in water loss, for instance.

j) Session on Smart Cities:

This thematic session looked at COVID-19 as an opportunity to reinvent cities towards becoming smart cities. The pandemic has accelerated digitalisation and strengthened the case for smart cities, but it has also raised concerns e.g. data security. The session focused on how smart city priorities will (have to) change in preparation for the next disruption. The utilisation of and access to data often create a trust gap between governments, markets and citizens. Planning is essential, and must keep the impact of technology on humans in mind. Making cities more human is often a missing element when smart cities are designed.

Technology is important in the modern world to run cities in a different and efficient manner. Related to this is the concept of engineering and control. For example, the use of technology to ascertain where the potholes are and to fix them timeously, timetables for buses to operate on time, and so forth. Technology is thus entrenched in people's lives since it creates channels for how people manage themselves and their environments.

Distrust in technology is a problem, though, and sometimes people are just not ready for the disruptions caused by new technology. The above-mentioned are fortunately all open-ended problems, and they can be addressed for the greater good of people. Singapore, for example, places emphasis on a human-centred approach to the application of (new) technology. The application of technology is of course made difficult by concerns over the privacy of data, and for this reason, city leaders must ensure they have adequate policies and regulations in place. It should be stressed though that solutions are not easy to find, and systems always have loopholes.

Finally, Mumbai's rapid transit system was mentioned as an example of a smart city concept. Fifteen years ago, Mumbai had no such system. Today, it is the third largest of its kind in the world, and could soon, purely based on passenger volumes, be the largest in the world.

k) Resilience Cities Network Roundtable on Water Resilience:

The Panel discussion started with inputs from Singapore, Rotterdam and the Netherlands' Special Envoy for Water, followed by brief reflections from RCN, New Orleans, Christchurch, Cape Town, Surat (India), and Indonesia's new capital city development, as well as RCN's implementation partners, NUS, WRT, ARUP and Deltares.

Singapore: Water is at the heart of climate change, biodiversity and equity. It is the first casualty of the climate crisis, but also part of the solution. Need to think about things holistically, which means that governance is crucial at all levels. Water governance is generally not working well at the moment, globally – about 300 billion litres of water are lost globally every day – and it requires a reorientation and whole-of-government approach.

Rotterdam: Water is not a cheap commodity and requires major investment. The Mayor highlighted the risk of privatizing water reticulation, and said there needs to be the right incentives to minimise water leakages. The Mayor also urged that mayors pay particular attention to reports on spatial planning, noting the connection of spatial planning to water. He noted that Rotterdam follows an integrated approach based on a long-term vision. It was also noted that Rotterdam's three universities have established the Rotterdam Convergence Alliance, with each university bringing different strengths (environmental science, economics, sociology) to a multi-disciplinary collaborative research agenda.

Special Envoy for Water: Introduced the planned UN Water Conference 2023, highlighting the fact that the most vulnerable places are also those that are urbanising fastest – they are subject to flooding, drought and pollution. The aim of the conference is to develop and agree an action agenda, with commitments at all levels. This includes commitments by all constituency groups, across the world, the need the Water Action Agenda for next steps, scaling and more, as well as institutional commitments from governments, private sector, NGOs, UN Agencies, finance, Multinational Development Banks, International Financial Institutions, and their coalitions. Finally, the aim is to identify a selection of game changers that contribute to systemic change. The Conference will cover the following five themes:

1. Water for health
2. Water for development
3. Water for climate, resilience, and environment
4. Water for cooperation
5. Water Action Decade

RCN: Noted that urban resilience requires water resilience, which cannot be dissociated from either its sociological or hydrological context.

New Orleans: Looking at economic opportunities of water, especially by SMEs. It is investing in green infrastructure, and unbundling contracts to enable SMEs to participate.

Christchurch: Has a Mayoral task force on flooding, which is multi-disciplinary, and undertakes extensive community engagement. Some of its initiatives following the earthquake in 2011 and subsequent major flooding events included rates relief, voluntary buy-outs, fast-tracked mitigation, and an enduring framework for decision making on flood management and mitigation.

Cape Town: Noting that the City's response to the multi-year drought was fairly well-known, Anthony Hazell focused on the City's winter-readiness programme, highlighting the proactive cleaning, repair and maintenance of stormwater and sewerage infrastructure, as well as communications on flood prevention.

Surat: The entire city was flooded in 2006, with major economic impact. Since then, it has become the fastest growing city in the world, as a result of investments in infrastructure to increase its resilience. Water must be seen as part of the urban design. Surat attracts 93% of all migrants in India. Its population is forecast to double over the next decade.

Nusantara (new Capital City of Indonesia, in terms of a Bill passed by Parliament in January): Will have a population of 1.7-1.9 million people by 2045. 65% of the City will remain a tropical forest, with the aim that the City will be a carbon sink overall, and not just carbon-neutral. In designing the new city, they are applying nature-based solutions and combining grey and green infrastructure.

National University of Singapore (NUS): Has its focus on the next generation and grappling with uncertainty. It follows a holistic, systems-based approach, examined through case studies. NUS undertakes education focused on liveable cities, action research (including on public understanding of risk), as well as advisory services.

ARUP: Reinforced the importance of a City water resilience approach that breaks down silos.

Deltares: Is a Dutch think tank that undertakes capacity development, information sharing, and innovation in water resilience.

I) Session on what does the Future hold for Cities:

This thematic session looked at how COVID-19 has impacted the liveability and the future prospects of cities. The pandemic has damaged multiple aspects of wellbeing through job losses and job reductions, disruptions to public health programmes, reduced access to educational and other child support services, deepened food insecurity, and increased gender-based violence.

Attendees mentioned the following as future challenges for cities post-Covid, namely climate change; population growth; supply chain disruptions, coupled

with food shortages; and crime and safety concerns. The impact is expected to be long-lasting. From a Cape Town perspective, the main impacts are increased levels of insecurity, increased urban decay, negative impact on city business districts, unlawful land occupation and impact on public transport systems. In response to these challenges, listening city leaders are fundamental and crucial. Human beings and their needs (to survive) must be the focus of urban leaders, and the initiatives they put in place. For instance, a city leader's focus on digitalisation should not dehumanise people, but rather improves the quality of their lives.

m) Plenary on Combating the Climate Crisis:

The framing for the plenary was that cities are at the heart of the climate crisis. Cities generate over 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions and are especially vulnerable to climate risks, but are also home to the innovations and resources needed to address the climate crisis. Accordingly, the plenary focused on how cities can do better, and faster, for the future of the planet, by using Singapore as an example. The Singaporean Minister in the Prime Minister's Office offered a snapshot of Singapore's efforts to combat climate change. These include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Green government;
- ✓ Green citizenry;
- ✓ Green housing;
- ✓ Green transport e.g. increasing the number of electric-vehicle charging points from 2000 to 60 000 in 2030.
- ✓ Green mobility e.g. the walking network to be expanded;
- ✓ Renewable energy e.g. floating solar farms at the Tengeh Reservoir;
- ✓ Nature based solutions e.g. Bishan Ang Mo Kio Park with the largest green roof in the country; and,
- ✓ Water and Solid Waste Management e.g. Tuas Nexus Integrated Water and Solid Waste Treatment Facility.

n) Liveable City Site Visit – Tanjong Pagar District:

Tanjong Pagar District is a mixed-use neighbourhood on the fringes of the CBD. The site visit started with a visit to the Singapore City Gallery – part of the City's Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) – which showcases the city's transformation over the last 50 years and provides an interactive, multimedia representation of Singapore's long-term plan, which is very much spatially driven. The city's spatial plan includes both above- and underground planning, with the possibility of viewing all underground and aboveground infrastructure in a single view, as well as planned and long-term potential land reclamation to expand the available land for development.

The city makes use of technology and AI to inform its infrastructure investment decision – for example, they analyse active mobility patterns using CCTV camera footage to determine where pedestrian pathways need to be widened. They also use it to improve the customer experience. A good example of this is their public transport app, which allows a disabled commuter to inform a bus driver ahead of time when and where they will need to lower the ramp for boarding and disembarking. This makes and reduces the time at the stop, improving the experience for the disabled commuter and other commuters, alike. For the

less tech-savvy elder population, they are also piloting a system where a registered user can tap the pedestrian crossing control with the Singapore equivalent of a MyConnect card, which identifies them as an elder person, giving them a longer period to make their way across the road.

The URA has also automated much of its planning approval process, with the result that a plan that is certified by an architect and doesn't include any deviations from policy is approved automatically without requiring scrutiny by human eyes.

The city's ten-year review of its long-term plan incorporates substantial public engagement, including thousands of focus groups and engagements with children and youth. It is strongly spatially driven – the URA is responsible for spatial planning and building plan approval.

After the City Gallery, the tour visited a 50-storey apartment block developed by the Housing & Development Board. The block includes preschools and creches on the third floor, as well as a gym and running track on the 26th floor, and viewing platform on the 50th floor. These flats are sold at significant discount, and purchasers may not sell it for a period of five years.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT:

DATE	12 August 2022		
NAME	Denver van Schalkwyk	CONTACT NUMBER	0214001369
E-MAIL ADDRESS	Denver.vanschalkwyk@capetown.gov.za		
DIRECTORATE	FP&R	FILE REF No	
SIGNATURE :			

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

[MR BEN PETERS]

The ED's signature represents support for report content and confirms POPIA compliance.

COMMENT:

SIGNATURE:

NAME

DATE

MANAGER: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

COMMENT:

EXECUTION OF ACTIONS TO BE
MONITORED UNTIL ALL COMPLETED

DR. DENVER VAN SCHALKWYK

SIGNATURE:

DATE

☐ REPORT COMPLIANT WITH THE
PROVISIONS OF COUNCIL'S DELEGATIONS,
POLICIES, BY-LAWS AND ALL LEGISLATION
RELATING TO THE MATTER UNDER
CONSIDERATION.

LEGAL COMPLIANCE

☐ NON-COMPLIANT

COMMENT:

Certified as legally compliant based on the contents of the report

NAME

TEL

DATE

Note: In terms of clause 10.2 of the Travel Management
Policy.

CITY MANAGER

☒ NOTED

☒ REFER TO THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE VIA
THE RELEVANT SECTION 79 COMMITTEE

DATE

COMMENT:

In terms of clause 5.5 of the Language Policy, reports
submitted to committees (which will include Mayco and
the relevant PC) must be kept in English, however, the
subject headings and recommendations to all reports
must be made available in all three official languages.
As such, kindly ensure that the headings and
recommendations are translated, before the report is
referred to Mayco and the relevant PC.