



**Permanent Mission of Montenegro  
to the United Nations  
New York**



## **Smart and sustainable cities: Changing the world: innovations and better life for future generations**

**31 October 2019, 3:00-4:30 pm  
CR#6, UN Headquarters, New York**

World Cities Day is October 31 and the 2019 theme is “Changing the world: innovations and better life for future generations.” The main goals that have been articulated for World Cities Day 2019 are to:

- Increase awareness of how digital innovations can be used for urban service delivery to enhance the quality of life and improve the urban environment.
- Show new frontier technologies that can create more inclusive cities.
- Present opportunities for renewable energy generation in cities.
- Explore how frontier technologies can promote social inclusion in cities.

To mark World Cities Day, the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations, ITU, GSMA and UNIDO have arranged a session at UN Headquarters in New York aligned with the theme and goals.

Over half the world’s population now lives in cities. This number is expected to double by 2050. Urbanization is one of the world’s most significant trends presenting both challenges and opportunities. Sustainability challenges associated with urbanization include those that are related to housing, environment, climate change, infrastructure, basic services, food security, health, education, decent jobs, safety, and natural resources. However, in our increasingly digital world, both urbanization and digital innovation offer important opportunities for sustainable development. The United Nations has already taken the initiative to support cities in leveraging ICTs and frontier technologies to build a sustainable future through the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative, which is a global platform dedicated to make cities smarter and more sustainable and achieve the SDG 11.

A smart sustainable city *is an innovative city that uses information and communication technologies (ICTs) and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic, social, environmental as well as cultural aspects* (ITU and UNECE, October 2015).

This session will explore the opportunities presented by smart and sustainable cities for sustainable development while also examining how to address key challenges to be overcome to ensure that all will have the opportunity to benefit. Some of the technologies with great potential include autonomous transport, drones, AI, remote sensing, virtual, augmented and mixed reality and internet of things. Among the questions that will be addressed by this panel discussion are: How are cities already working with such technologies, what are their experiences thus far and how are they planning to use them to help advance SDG 11 to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable?

<b>Programme</b>
<b>Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ H.E. Ambassador Prof. Dr. Milica Pejanović-Đurišić, Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations</li></ul>
<b>Speakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Carlos Bosch, Senior Technology Director, GSMA North America</li><li>■ Asma Guerrab, Chief Technology Officer, NYC Department of Small Business Services</li><li>■ Claudia Linke Heep, Deputy Representative to the United Nations and International Organizations, UNIDO Office New York</li><li>■ Stuart Reid, Co-Chairman, Digital Divide Partners, <i>Streaming University Project</i> &amp; Member, Board of Directors, The Internet Society-New York Chapter</li><li>■ Filiep Decorte, Deputy Director, New York Liaison Office, UN-Habitat</li></ul>
<b>Q &amp; A and comments</b>
<b>Wrap up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Mina Nabizada, Director of International Relations, Government and Regulatory Affairs, GSMA</li></ul>
<b>Moderated by</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Ursula Wynhoven, ITU Representative to the United Nations, New York</li></ul>