

## Session 7 Concept Note

Session Title	Lead and Co-hosts
<p><b>Resilient Cities, Infrastructure and Energy Systems: critical to transformative change</b></p>	<p><b>Leading organisation: ICF</b>  <b>Co-hosting organisations:</b> Adaptation Fund, Global Commission on Adaptation, GRP, ICCCAD/LUCCC, ICLEI, IDF, ISO's Climate Change Task Force, PIANC, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, Resurgence, Slum Dwellers International (SDI), UNCTAD, Urban Systems Lab at the New School, Wetlands International; Climate Finance Climate Policy Initiative</p>
<p><b>Time of the session:</b> 2 pm - 4 pm</p>	<p><b>Room:</b> Starr Hall L.02</p>
<p><b>I. Short Session Description</b></p> <p>This session brings participants together to discuss the latest knowledge and understanding of opportunities and challenges to building resilience in cities, infrastructure, and energy systems. Experts will start the discussion by providing their perspectives and tangible examples, stimulating interactive discussion in small groups of opportunities to scale up good practice, based around sectoral and thematic themes to enhance inclusive resilience building.</p>	
<p><b>II. Background to Session</b></p>	
<p>As drivers of the global economy and home to much of the world’s population, cities play a vital role in securing a resilient future. Critical infrastructure, including transportation, communication and energy systems, link cities to each other and to the global supply-chains that enable global trade in goods and services. This infrastructure provides the physical network on which societies and economies depend for the movement of people, freight and information. However, cities, and infrastructure systems are also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change – both from acute disasters and long-term changes. These impacts are already being felt, from an intensified hurricane season in the Caribbean and eastern U.S. to record heatwaves across Europe to rainfall extremes in Africa. Damage, disruption and delay can have major knock-on effects and give rise to extensive economic losses.</p> <p>Cities, policymakers and industry stakeholders have begun to respond to these changes and prepare for future impacts, but much remains to be done. Those that have successfully enhanced resilience, and from those places that have experienced climate impacts and have bounced back from them, have much insight to offer. The session will provoke discussion and seek solutions to the critical challenges and opportunities to enhance urban- and infrastructure-system resilience in the face of climate change.</p> <p><b>Expert provocateurs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jainey Bavishi, Director of New York Mayor’s Office of Resilience (NY story of local resilience – resilience post Sandy)</li> <li>• Katherine Touzinsky (US Army Corps of Engineers/PIANC) Transportation (Port focus, with inputs from UNCTAD)</li> <li>• John Dora, International Standards Organization (System thinking in urban resilience)</li> </ul>	

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- Fred Boltz, Water Lead, Global Centre for Adaptation (Water) - potential to integrate other components of Global Commission on Adaptation
- Energy representative – Con Edison (NY energy utility; building energy resilience post Cyclone Sandy)
- Stéphane Hallegatte, Senior Economist, Climate Change Group, The World Bank. Author, “Lifelines: The Resilient Infrastructure Opportunity” (2019)

### III. Objective and Expected Outputs

To provide a better understanding of challenges and of approaches to resilience building and adaptation

#### Expected Outputs and Outcomes

- Common narrative on resilience
- Documentation of actions and commitments
- Strengthened and new partnerships developed to build a resilient future – building a movement for transformation on resilience and becoming greater than the sum of our parts

### IV. Format for the Session

This session will be held in the “Black Box” room, which is primed for an interactive session based around small group discussions. The experts/provocateurs will kick off the discussion by providing an overview of key issues, challenges and approaches for different areas of substantive focus and share their expertise and insight into our key questions of the day: opportunities and challenges for ensuring that we can build climate resilience for cities, infrastructure, and energy systems. By providing perspective on key issues, the provocateurs can help ensure that the participants are engaged and on the same page to ensure productive discussion.

The participants will then break out into different thematic groups (numbers of tables dependent on participant numbers: max 10 per table) to discuss such opportunities and challenges within three core themes that touch core pillars of resilience and decision-making for adaptation.

### V. Session Agenda

Time	Details of programme item
2:00	Welcome & introductions, Drs Robert Kay and Molly Hellmuth, ICF
2:10	Expert provocateurs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do we know about climate change impacts on cities and infrastructure?</li> <li>• What action is being taken to enhance resilience and develop adaptation response measures?</li> <li>• What are the commitments being made right now?</li> <li>• What are challenges to scaling?</li> </ul>
2:50	Group discussion: Exact groupings to be determined on the day, depending on registrations. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Transport;</li> <li>2) Energy;</li> <li>3) Blue-green infrastructure;</li> <li>4) Water;</li> <li>5) Communications;</li> <li>6) Community empowerment;</li> <li>7) Financing</li> </ol>

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3:40	Group report out
3:55	Closing reflection