

»Cities as Global Actors 2025«

In Cooperation with Berlin Senate Chancellery.

Tuesday, December 2nd 2025

Cities around the world are increasingly taking responsibility for global challenges, including climate change. In December 2025, the **Cities as Global Actors** conference will bring together representatives from Berlin's 18 partner cities – from Paris to Jakarta to Buenos Aires – to make urban diplomacy tangible. The focus will be on sharing successful international strategies and how cities can implement climate mitigation and adaptation on the ground, building new alliances, and strengthening cities as global players.

The public part of the conference on December 2, 2025, will focus on "**Cities as Climate Actors: Responsibility, Innovation, Action.**" It will explore how cities around the world are stepping up to address the climate crisis by taking responsibility, driving innovation, and turning commitments into concrete action.

Voices from science and urban practice will frame the conversation: Prof. Dr. Johan Rockström will highlight the planetary boundaries that define the urgency for urban climate action, while Prof. Carlos Moreno will present practical pathways for cities to lead sustainable transformation.

Stakeholders from international urban policy, foundations, think tanks, and civil society organizations will be invited to contribute their perspectives and experiences. The event aims to foster dialogue, inspire collaboration, and strengthen the role of cities as key actors in global climate governance.

The event will be held in English.

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

4:00 - 5:30 PM	<p>International Marketplace of Opportunities Wappensaal, Red City Hall The "Marketplace of Opportunities" offers space for exchange, inspiration, and collaboration, where initiatives and organizations from the fields of sustainability and international cooperation present their work and engage with guests in an open, interactive setting.</p>
5:30 – 7:00 PM	<p>Discussion „Cities as Climate Actors: Responsibility, Innovation, Action“ Festsaal, Red City Hall Moderation DR. CHRISTIAN JOHANN Director, European Academy Berlin</p> <p>Welcome FLORIAN HAUER (tbc) Permanent Secretary for Federal and European Affairs and International Relations State of Berlin Delegate to the Federation</p> <p>Keynote “Understanding Planetary Boundaries: The Scientific Imperative for Urban Climate Action” by PROF. DR. JOHAN ROCKSTRÖM Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research</p> <p>Keynote “Cities as Drivers of Climate Innovation: Practical Pathways to Sustainable Urban Transformation“ by PROF. CARLOS MORENO Urbanist, University Paris IAE – Panthéon Sorbonne Scientific advisor to Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris</p> <p>Panel Discussion “From Science to Strategy: Urban Innovation for a Sustainable Future” PROF. CARLOS MORENO Urbanist, University Paris IAE – Panthéon Sorbonne Scientific advisor to Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris</p> <p>PROF. DR. JOHAN ROCKSTRÖM Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research</p> <p>CATHRYN CLÜVER ASHBROOK (tbc) Senior Advisor, Bertelsmann Stiftung</p> <p>BARBAROS BÜYÜKSAGNAK Head of Department of Foreign Affairs, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (Berlin Partner City)</p>
From 7:00 PM	<p>Reception</p>

International Marketplace of Opportunities

The **INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE OF OPPORTUNITIES** is an activity of the Berlin Initiative for the Future of Europe (BELIZE).



Our Partner Organizations:

- Aspen Institute - Future Cities Go Global
- Berliner Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit
- Centre Français de Berlin
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für die Vereinten Nationen
- Deutsch-Japanische Gesellschaft
- Deutsch-Ungarisches Jugendwerk
- Eine Welt Stadt Berlin - Modellprojekt: Sister Cities in Action
- Europe Direct
- Nabu Berlin - Projekt: Artenschutz am Gebäude
- Stiftung Mercator

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