

Attachment 1

Report from the Mayor's Designate to the Sao Paulo Urban Summit & Urban 20 Rio Summit

In 2024, I attended several international engagements as the Mayor's designate and represented the City of Toronto at the following:

- São Paulo Urban Summit which included three large-scale international events in São Paulo, Brazil: the Metropolis Board of Directors meetings, the U20 preparatory meetings, and the ICLEI World Congress.
 - participated on the Metropolis Policy Debate;
 - spoke on a panel during the ICLEI World Congress on collaboration and solutions for nature and biodiversity conducted within the context of the City's participation in the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Generation Restoration project; and
- U20 Summit, where Toronto was invited to participate as an Observer City in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Toronto's participation for the 2024 U20 cycle began at the invitation of organizers of the Sao Paulo Urban Summit which took place in June 2024. Following several years of limited to no engagement with international networks, the City of Toronto was invited to participate as an Observer City for the 2024 cycle of the Urban 20 (U20), an international city diplomacy initiative that supports engagement between the G20 and cities by establishing a forum in which cities develop a collective message that emphasizes their unique role in the sustainable development agenda.

The U20 brings together international mayors and designates from G20 cities under a common framework and coordinates a joint position to inform the discussions held by national leaders. Contributions from the U20 are shared with the G20 Presidency and Heads of State, enhancing the role of cities as global economic and political leaders. The main output of the U20 process every year is the development of the U20 Communiqué endorsed by U20 cities, which puts forward a united position to contribute their unique urban perspectives to the G20 process.

While in São Paulo, I undertook over 20 formal engagements, ranging from panel participation, technical sessions and bilateral meetings to site visits and knowledge exchanges with municipal representatives.

In September 2024, I traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to attend the final U20 2024 Summit where I reinforced the City's endorsement of the U20 Communiqué. During this Summit, I further engaged with key U20 representatives, conducted additional bilateral meetings, and participated on a panel on urban planning for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Additionally, I witnessed the transfer of the U20 Communiqué from the U20 Presidency (the Mayors of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro) to the President of Brazil. In total, I conducted over 23 engagements, as well as informal courtesy calls with dignitaries also in attendance.

There was significant interest in Toronto at all events as there has been limited to no engagement with international networks over the past few years. This pressing interest provided an opportunity to connect with the globe's most important cities and for Toronto to learn and share our experiences in topics ranging from urban sustainability, mobility, economic development and housing solutions.

Toronto's international activities are guided by an International Policy Framework (IPF) adopted by City Council in 2002. The purpose of the IPF is to position Toronto as a diverse, economically dynamic, creative and caring global urban centre which respects human rights and champions local democratic government. In the recent Council approved International Alliance Program review, it was conveyed that cities are increasingly using membership and involvement in international networks and conferences to build relationships, exchange knowledge, promote their values and brand, and support business development. This engagement is vital for cities as it is a cost-effective complement to building and maintaining important bi-lateral relationships.

São Paulo Urban Summit (São Paulo, June 16 - 20, 2024)

The São Paulo Urban Summit brought together three global conferences: Metropolis, U20, and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. Toronto participated in all three conferences, with a presenter role in Metropolis and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability.

Panels and presentations

Metropolis Policy Debate: At Home in the Metropolis - Roundtable: Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities

Key themes: integration of informal cities (encampments) and improving their living conditions; balancing the need for increased housing with sustainability goals; measuring success of housing priorities, ensuring achievement of the goal of "affordable housing for all."

Panelists:

- Jorge Macri, Mayor of Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Kabelo Gwamanda, Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa
- Roger Mbassa Ndine, Mayor of Douala, Cameroon
- Alejandra Bravo, Councillor and Chair of the Economic and Community Development Committee, Toronto
- Mauricio Zunino, Intendente of Montivideo, Uruguay

Session impact: Following the panelists' interventions, Metropolis leaders identified this discussion as an important pivot toward recognizing affordable housing and the need for shelter as a crisis for global cities.

Speaking notes: Toronto is one of the planet's most cosmopolitan, diverse cities. While we have many advantages, homelessness and housing are a challenge to our municipality. This is

the case across Canada, and though eighty per cent of the population lives in cities, there is no community untouched by growing numbers of people who do not have a place to live. The growth in homelessness is caused by increased cost of rent, inadequate income, and reduced social support and health care. In a city of three million people, forty-eight per cent are renters, eighty per cent of minimum wage earners cannot afford a home, and market rents have grown forty per cent in four years.

City Council proclaimed housing a human right and ensuring housing for all is our goal. We invest in emergency shelters, in housing with specialized supports, and in aiding transitions so that people remain in a permanent home. This requires meeting the needs of individuals, whatever their situation, with dignity and respect, captured in the City's encampment protocol.

Toronto's actions to provide shelter and housing centre on two important and interconnected strategies. One is building a new shelter capital plan that would provide. The second is a plan to build more affordable housing, ranging from affordable market units, deeply affordable for those with the lowest incomes, and housing with supports. At the same time, actions are under way to protect/preserve existing affordable rental units, to protect renters against unfair eviction/displacement, and to support the creation of cooperatives and land trusts to ensure perpetual affordable ownership of housing stock. Using city-owned lands, Toronto is supporting non-profit private projects. It is also purchasing existing rental building with the Multi-Unit Residential Acquisition Program. Housing goals are, additionally, integrated with our climate plan.

ICLEI Session: Greening our Urban Tapestry: Collaboration and Solutions for Nature and Biodiversity

Key themes: utilizing technological advancements and data-driven approaches to monitor and manage urban biodiversity and their positive outcomes; city partnerships formed with academic and research institutions to advance understanding and innovation in urban biodiversity conservation.

- Alejandra Bravo, Councillor & Chair, Economic Development Committee, City of Toronto, Canada
- Alfredo Coro II, Mayor, Municipality of Del Carmen, Philippines; ICLEI Global Executive Committee Member
- Anil Kumar, Mayor, City of Kochi, India; ICLEI South Asia Regional Executive Committee
- Annelise de Bruin, Manager: Metropolitan Spatial Planning and Growth Management, City of Cape Town, South Africa
- Atha Phillips, Senior Policy Strategist, City of Austin, United States
- Deyvson Moura Braga, Director Forestry and Sustainability, City of Manaus, Brazil
- Gulnara Roll, Head of Cities Unit, Climate Change Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Laurence Lavigne Lalonde, Deputy Mayor, City of Montreal, Canada
- Luiz Dâmaso Gusi, Secretary of Food and Nutritional Security, City of Curitiba, Brazil
- Mauricio Mira, Director of the Department of Environmental Management, City of Cali, Colombia

- Shin Sang-jin, Mayor, City of Seongnam, South Korea

Speaking notes: Toronto has more than 30 years of ecological restoration and forest management expertise, including the development and use of new tools to set priorities, focus efforts, and make land-use management choices. We are guided by a goal of the most positive impact for biodiversity, and we think about equity at the same time. We use geospatial data, interactive maps, and computer modelling to 1. Understand how Toronto's forest is doing, changing over ten years, and what can aid its adaptation to climate change; 2. Evaluate large-scale tree planting and for guiding restoration—computer modelling designed for natural forests and adapted for an urban setting; 3. Aid residents to identify the best planting locations, and how to maximize the benefits of their tree through a partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation.

The newly adopted Tree Equity approach layers data and mapping of socio-economic factors with areas with the least tree cover to identify priorities for tree-planting. Through a partnership with American Forests, Toronto is Canada's first city to develop a publicly available online Tree Equity Score Analyzer tool. This free map-based application can be used by the City and the public to identify tree planting opportunities on a neighbourhood scale.

Toronto has multiple academic institutions and benefits from this expertise for advice on work such as Toronto's Biodiversity Strategy, the development of standards, and the identification of best practices. A collaborative example is the tracking and modelling of ecological health of natural areas and wildlife populations using standardized monitoring methodologies. Academic collaborations have led to improved testing of bioherbicides to manage invasive species without the use of chemical pesticides, for example.

Toronto embraces access to nature in the city as essential to the overall health and wellness of residents, making communities resilient to heat, managing stormwater during heavy rainfall, and contributing to improved mental health. A 2015 study, *Neighbourhood greenspace in a large urban center*, used City of Toronto street-level tree data to show that streets with more trees made people feel healthier, richer, and younger.

Site Visits

Vila Reencontro – Canindé

Opened only a few days before my visit, Vila Reencontro - Canindé is the seventh complex to be delivered under the framework of the City of São Paulo's Reencontro Program. The Reencontro Program is centered on three key goals: connection, care, and opportunity. On my visit, I was given a tour by City Councillor & Municipal Secretary of Assistance and Social Development of São Paulo Carlos Bezerra Jr.

The complex, built with a modular building solution inspired by Toronto's modular housing, will house up to 192 people in 48 units. Canindé is the first of the Reencontro vilas to provide temporary housing for people with disabilities. Vila Reencontro has 39 on-site staff to provide services, including coordinators; social workers; psychologists, administrative assistants, educators, health workers, social monitoring supervisors, field assistants during the day and at night, cooks, maintenance managers and general service assistants. To prepare resident to transition out of the Vila, services such as professional courses and other supports are made available to help them succeed.

The City of Sao Paulo has opened six other sites also serving people experiencing housing instability or homelessness. All seven sites can collective house up to 1,958 people and have all opened since December 2022.

When developing the Vila Reencontro model, a delegation from São Paulo met with representatives from the Toronto Shelter & Support Services in September 2022. While in Toronto, the delegation visited Seaton House and the Modular Supportive Housing Site at 540 Cedarvale Avenue. This study visit helped to inform their plans, and it was a good opportunity to see how São Paulo has further innovated on the concept of modular housing with their unique community of care service model. Of particular interest for Toronto is the operations of Vila Reencontro, which is operated by an organization of people who have been homeless, producing outstanding outcomes for residents.

Coliseum Housing Complex

The Coliseum Housing Complex (*Conjunto Habitacional Coliseu*) is part of the largest housing program in the history of the city of São Paulo and had a completion date of March 2024. The Complex is in an area that was formally home to the Funchal Favela in Vila Olímpia, a prime area of the city with one of the highest property prices per square meter in the São Paulo. The initiative, part of the Favela Urbanization Program of the Municipal Housing Secretariat (SEHAB), is a result of a R\$44 million (approximately CAD\$ 11 million) an investment by the city.

The housing complex now provides an area with consolidated services, sanitation, transportation, energy, and telecommunications. In total, there are 272 housing units, divided into three blocks: Block 1 (Coliseum 1) houses 109 housing units; Block 2 (Coliseum 2) houses 109 apartments; and Block 3 (Coliseum 3) houses 54 units. All condominiums have a covered leisure area with a playground.

Bilateral Meetings

- Meeting with Secretary Soninna Francine, Human Rights and Citizenship, and Secretary Cica Santos, Secretary for Assistance and Social Development
- Briefing with Canadian Consul General in Sao Paulo
- Meeting with Metropolis Secretary General
- Meeting with Deputy Mayor of Montreal

Opportunities and Outcomes

- There is interest in inviting Toronto to become a member of the Metropolis Board of Directors. Opportunity must be reviewed, as the new Board will be selected in 2026, potentially conflicting with the municipal election cycle.
- Participate in the upcoming 40th anniversary Metropolis World Congress, taking place in Seoul, South Korea. Explore the possibility of arranging additional meetings on the margins in the region, to explore knowledge sharing opportunities on key City priorities and advancing economic development discussions.
- Continued participation in the U20 cycle, to ensure the successful endorsement of the 2024 Communique.

- Learning exchange on solutions for housing people experiencing homelessness, and how their organizations may be a pathway for improving outcomes.

Urban 20 Rio Summit (Rio de Janeiro, November 14 - 17, 2024)

Panels & participation

U20 Open Session: Social Participation in City Planning

Key themes: Strategies and challenges to develop urban planning for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda locally for citizens and with citizen participation, urban planning, building a city for everyone, leaving no one behind.

Participants:

- Daniel Mancebo, General Coordinator of the Rio de Janeiro City Hall Planning Office (Geographer, Master in Territorial Management and Structuring).
- Representative of Belo Horizonte city hall.
- Alejandra Bravo, Councillor & Chair of Economic & Community Development Committee, Toronto.
- Representative of Valongo city hall.

Overview of panel: City officials, urban planners, policy makers, researchers, students, environmental advocates, and representatives from international organizations focused on urban development and the Brazil National Front of Mayors joined together to present strategies for social participation. There was also debate of challenges with aligning urban planning and social participation, and discussion of citizen participation as a tool for social inclusion.

Bilateral meetings

- Reception Hosted by Mayor Eduardo Paes, Rio de Janeiro and H.E. Fahr al Rasheed, Saudi Arabia Urban 20 Lead and 2020 U20 Chair
- Meeting with Canadian Ambassador to Brazil
- Meeting with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and Mayor of Skopje, North Macedonia
- Meeting with Mayor Low Yen Ling, Singapore's Senior Minister of State and Chair of the Mayors' Committee
- Meeting with City of Rio de Janeiro and Invest Rio, led by the Secretary of Urban & Economic Development
- Meeting with the Mayor of Barcelona
- Additionally, interactions took place with: Mayor of Glasgow, Scotland; Mayor of Helsinki, Finland; Mayor of Guadalajara, Mexico; Mayors of Tokyo and Kobe, Japan; Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles, USA; Mayor of New Orleans, USA; and, the Mayor of Kampala, Uganda who had previously met with City of Toronto officials, an engagement that helped inform their approach to borough models. Additionally, meetings took place

with international representatives from the cities of Montreal, Amsterdam, New York City, and Abidjan.

Opportunities & outcomes

- Continued knowledge exchange opportunities and outreach with cities the Councillor engaged with, on topics including but not limited to housing, economic sustainability, disaster relief, social inclusion, social procurement, and the Global Alliance on Poverty and Hunger, among others.
- Leverage information gathered during the meeting with Rio de Janeiro representatives to inform the review of the Toronto-Rio de Janeiro agreement.
- Staff to review the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize, offered by the Government of Singapore, and consider applying. Total prize SGD\$300,000 or approximately CAD\$315,000.

Next Steps

- Based on the City's active participation during the 2024 cycle, Toronto has been invited back as an Observer City for the 2025 cycle by the host cities of Johannesburg and Tshwane, South Africa.
- The 2025 cycle will follow a modified model, requiring the Mayor or Mayor's Designate to travel in September 2025 to Johannesburg, South Africa
- Staff from the City Clerk's Office – Strategic Protocol and External Relations will support the participation of the Mayor or Mayor's Designate to the 2025 U20 Cycle, culminating with the Summit in September 2025; and the Metropolis World Congress 40th Anniversary, taking place in Seoul, South Korea in September 2025.