

## **U.S. - South Asia Mayoral Platform On Sustainable Cities**

October 21 - 22, 2024 | Jaipur, India

### **Background**

Over the past 20 years, South Asia's energy consumption has surged by more than 50%. Driven by urbanization in the region, electricity demand in countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka has been increasing by over 5% annually over the past two decades, with projections suggesting a potential doubling by 2050. As cities grow, energy consumption in sectors like buildings, transportation, and industry is rising, contributing to increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. There is a significant opportunity and necessity for cities in the region to raise their ambitions and implement strategies and actions for a sustainable energy transition (SET). City governments will play a crucial role in such a transition, to manage urban energy demand sustainably, accelerate cities' progress towards net zero goals and ultimately contribute to the achievement of national climate and energy targets.

A framework for cooperation between South Asian and U.S. cities, is being envisaged spearheaded by USAID's South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP) program. The [SAREP program](#) aims to improve access to affordable, secure, reliable, and sustainable energy in six countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka – to strengthen systems and processes, in line with the economic and energy-security priorities of these countries. The said framework will enable a platform for knowledge brokering and exchange of ideas between the city mayors of the United States of America (U.S.) and South Asia (SA), and will be focused on addressing key challenges and successes in developing resilient cities, focusing on the areas of municipal infrastructure. It is foreseen that this platform would catalyse the exchange of innovative approaches and technological advances as well as approaches to economic revitalization within cities.

To initiate the platform and outline the plan for the annual gathering, USAID SAREP, in collaboration with ICLEI South Asia, is organizing a two-day program on the sidelines of the [South Asia Clean Energy Forum \(SACEF\) 2024](#), focused on exploring opportunities for sustainable energy transitions in cities across the U.S., India, and South Asia. SACEF is the flagship event of USAID India, focusing on clean energy transition in South Asia with an emphasis on action-oriented discourse. SACEF 2024 will bring together key government officials and senior energy experts from the region as well as from across the world.

### **Objectives**

- To launch U.S. - South Asia Mayoral Platform on Sustainable Cities
- To engage in a strategic dialogue to identify key priority areas and explore opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing between the cities through the platform

- To facilitate exchange of good practices, innovative approaches and technical solutions for clean and sustainable energy implementation among city leaders and decision makers of U.S. and South Asia

**Snapshot of Overall Program**

**October 19, 2024**

- Afternoon/Evening: Arrival of delegates

**October 20, 2024**

- Afternoon/Evening: Arrival/Transfer of delegates to Jaipur from Delhi (Volvo Bus)

**October 21, 2024**

- Site visit to Mahindra World City, Jaipur

**October 22, 2024**

- Morning: Launch of U.S. - South Asia Mayoral Platform on Sustainable Cities at SACEF Inaugural session
- Pre-lunch: Mayoral Roundtable: Opportunities to Accelerate Clean Energy Solutions in Cities
- Afternoon: Mayoral Platform’s Dialogue on Clean Energy Initiatives by U.S. and South Asian Mayors

**October 23, 2024**

- Morning: Delegates transfer to New Delhi
- Afternoon: Meetings with Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)

**Detailed event agenda**

**Monday, October 21, 2024 Jaipur**

<p>Tentatively 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Site Visit to Mahindra World City (MWC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mahindra World City, Jaipur, is a Public Private Partnership Initiative between Mahindra Group and the Government of Rajasthan. It includes a Multi-Sector Special Economic Zone (SEZ) spread across 3000 acres built on the principles of carbon neutrality, water positivity, and zero waste to landfill. For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.mahindralifespaces.com/mahindra-world-city/jaipur/">https://www.mahindralifespaces.com/mahindra-world-city/jaipur/</a></li> </ul>	<p>Transport will be arranged</p>
<p>4:00 PM</p>	<p>Delegates Arrive to their Hotels</p>	

**Tuesday, October 22, 2024**

**Venue: Regency Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Mansarovar, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India**

Time	Session Details
<b>Session I: Inaugural Session</b>	
10:00 - 11:15 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of U.S. - South Asia Mayoral Platform on Sustainable Cities</li> <li>• U.S. Ambassador to India</li> <li>• Mr. Heeralal Nagar, Energy Minister, Government of Rajasthan</li> <li>• Mr. Surendra Kumar Bagde, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India</li> <li>• Representatives from USAID Mission</li> </ul>
11:15 - 11:30 AM	Coffee/Tea

**Venue: Imperial Hall, Hyatt Regency Mansarovar, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India**

<b>Session II: Mayoral Roundtable: Opportunities to Accelerate Clean Energy Solutions in Cities</b>	
<b>11:30 AM - 12:30 PM</b>	
11:30 – 11:35 AM	<b>Presentation on U.S. - South Asia Mayoral Platform on Sustainable Cities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI, Executive Director – ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability South Asia</li> <li>• Ms Angie Fyfe, Former Executive Director, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, USA</li> </ul>
11:35 – 11:45 AM	<b>Special address:</b> Mr. Surendra Kumar Bagde, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India
11:45 - 11:55 AM	<b>Keynote address:</b> Senior Representative of USAID (TBC)
11:55 - 12:00 PM	<b>LOI Exchange between Cities</b>
12:00 - 12:05 PM	<b>Delegates Group Photo</b>
12:05 – 12:30 PM	<b>Open Discussion</b> <b>Moderator:</b> Mr Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI, Executive Director – ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability South Asia  <b>Statements by Indian, U.S., and South Asian Mayors and City Delegates on expectations and contributions to the Platform.</b>
12:35 - 01:00	<i>Break</i>
1:00 - 2:00 PM	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>Session III (Part A): Dialogue on Clean Energy Initiatives by U.S. &amp; South Asian Mayors</b>	
<b>2:00 PM - 3:30 PM</b>	
02:00 – 02:02	<b>Reflections from Roundtable</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Soumya Chaturvedula, Deputy Director, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability South Asia</li> </ul>
02:02- 02:10	<b>Presentation on U.S. Cities Initiatives and Good Practices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Joshua Radoff, Zero Carbon Cities Advisor, ICLEI U.S.A</li> </ul>

02:12 – 02:20	<p><b>Presentation on South Asian Cities Initiatives and Good Practices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Nikhil Korsepatil, Senior Programme Coordinator (Energy &amp; Climate), ICLEI South Asia</li> </ul>
02:22 – 03:30	<p><b>Voices from U.S. Cities Subnational Leaders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Lily Mei, Mayor, City of Fremont</li> <li>Ms Nicola Armacost, Mayor, Village of Hastings-on-Hudson</li> </ul> <p><b>Voices from South Asian Subnational Leaders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Somya Gurjar, Mayor, Jaipur Municipal Corporation (Greater)</li> <li>Mr Paras Singhvi, Deputy Mayor, Udaipur</li> <li>Mr Ugyen Dorji, Mayor, Thimphu Municipality, Bhutan</li> </ul>
03:30 - 3:45 PM	<i>Coffee/Tea</i>
<p><b>Session III (Part B): Dialogue on Clean Energy Initiatives by U.S. &amp; South Asian Mayors</b> <b>03:45 PM - 5:30 PM</b></p>	
03:45- 05:15	<p><b>Voices from U.S. Cities Leaders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Alice Kennedy, Housing Commissioner, City of Baltimore,</li> <li>Ms Alana Shockey, Deputy Director, City of Columbus</li> <li>Ms Amanda Lavalle, Deputy County Executive, Ulster County</li> <li>Ms Mo McReynolds, Senior Project Manager, Office of Sustainability, City of Indianapolis</li> </ul> <p><b>Voices from South Asian Subnational Leaders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Pratibha Jain, Mayor, Ahmedabad</li> <li>Ms Sita Sahu, Mayor, Patna</li> <li>Mrs. Kusum Yadav, Mayor, Jaipur (Heritage)</li> <li>Mr Ashok Byanju Shrestha, Mayor, Dhulikhel</li> <li>Mr Adam Azim, Mayor, Male City Council</li> <li>Ms. Melegoda Gamage Nadeeka Dilrukshie, Municipal Commissioner, Kaduwela Municipal Council</li> </ul>
05:15 – 05:25	<p><b>Summary and Key Takeaways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Soumya Chaturvedula, Deputy Director, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability South Asia</li> </ul>
05:25 - 05:30	Closing Remarks by USAID India

**Wednesday, October 23, 2024 New Delhi**

01:00 pm	Arrival in Delhi from Jaipur	Transport will be arranged
01:00 – 02:00 pm	Lunch at Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) Office in New Delhi	
02:00 – 04:00 pm	<p><b>Discussion with the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions that aims to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development. For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.cdri.world/cdri-overview">https://www.cdri.world/cdri-overview</a></li> </ul>	
05:00 – 06:00 pm	<p><b>Discussion with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is India’s leading national think tank on urban planning and development. For more information, please visit <a href="https://niua.in">https://niua.in</a></li> </ul>	
7:00 PM	Delegates arrive at Hotel or head to Airport	