

MONDAY 28 MARCH | 19:00 – 20:30
HONG KONG THEATRE, CLEMENT HOUSE

CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

JOAN CLOS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN HABITAT

CO-CHAIRS: TONY TRAVERS AND RICKY BURDETT

Urban areas will have to play an increasingly important role as part of strategies addressing global climate change: due to their wealth, they disproportionately contribute to global carbon emissions. At the same time, dense, compact cities have repeatedly shown to be far more carbon efficient than other settlement types of similar affluence.

The need for urban areas to adapt to some of the unavoidable consequences of climate change is acute due to the particular threats of extreme weather that come with it. Without addressing the risks associated with complex urban systems and infrastructure, an ever-increasing urban population might end up living in the more vulnerable locations of cities and mega-cities, potential disaster traps. Joan Clos examines climate change in an urban context and discusses UN HABITAT's new *Global Report on Human Settlements: Cities and Climate Change*.

Joan Clos is United Nations Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT

Tony Travers is Director, LSE London

Ricky Burdett is Professor of Urban Studies and Director of LSE Cities and the Urban Age

LSE Cities, an international research centre at the London School of Economics, builds on the interdisciplinary work of the Urban Age, extending its partnership with Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society. Its core objective is to understand how the built environment has consequences on the shape of society in an increasingly urbanised world where over 50% of people live in cities.