

## WORKSHOP: "BA, 15-MINUTE CITY"

Concept Note



### Introduction

The global pandemic unleashed by COVID-19 generated clear disruptions to our lives as we knew them. One of the main impacts observed was on mobility, where, due to prolonged quarantines around the world, the amount, duration and type of travel changed radically. People went from moving around to work, consume and find places of leisure, to hardly moving from their homes, limiting the use of all types of transport.

In this sense, the pandemic brought about the return of the concept of "15-minute cities", i.e. cities that allow the basic needs of its inhabitants (shopping, studying, access to care and relaxation) to be met within a 15-minute radius of their homes. This is clearly a people-oriented development, and is in contrast to the urban paradigms that dominated the 20th century where residential areas were separated from business centres, industry or entertainment. This concept aims to generate dense cities, with a mix of uses and ease of access and connectivity.

In recent years, Buenos Aires has been transformed with the clear purpose of becoming a "city on a human scale" (a 15-minute city format), a city model that places people's quality of life at the centre of government policy and continuously seeks to improve it, while respecting the identity, characteristics and particular dynamics of each of its neighbourhoods.

### Horacio Rodríguez Larreta: his role in the C40 Climate Leadership Group

C40 is a network of nearly 100 mayors from the world's major cities, committed to working towards urgent and necessary actions to address the current climate crisis and create a future where everyone, no matter where, can thrive.

As of March 2020, the Mayors of BA and Bogotá integrate the **Steering Committee of the C40 Climate Leadership Group**, representing the Latin American region as Vice-Chairs for a period corresponding to the duration of their mandate.

In this context, Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles and Chair of C40, proposed to HRL to **lead and position the "15 Minute City" issue internationally**. At the last meeting of the C40 Steering Committee, which took place in September, the Head of Government officially accepted this leadership.

## Meeting objectives

In this context, the Secretary General and International Relations is currently working on the HRL Work Plan as the leader of this agenda, seeking to set up an internal task force within the GCBA to technically support the political leadership of the Head of Government at the international level.

This first meeting is intended to be the launch of this working group and has the following specific goals:

- To **set up a formal and operational working group** to technically support the international positioning of the Head of Government regarding the "15-minute cities";
- **To establish a common vision** of what it means for BA to be a "15-minute city" and contribute to generate conversation and activities in the promotion and dissemination of this concept within the government and internationally;
- To support the SG&IR in the **development of a Work Plan 2021-2023** for the leadership of the Head of Government as Vice Chair of C40.

## AGENDA

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**Date:** 28 May 2021

**Starting time:** 9:30 a.m. (Buenos Aires time)

**Link:** <https://c40.zoom.us/j/92753020057>

## PARTICIPANTS

- **GCBA**

Secretary of Citizen Attention and Community Management

Secretary of Transport and Public Works

Ministry of Public Space and Urban Hygiene

Secretary of Urban Development

Undersecretary of Citizen Welfare

Undersecretary of Federal Urban Cooperation

Environmental Protection Agency

Undersecretary of International and Institutional Relations

- **C40**

Manuel Olivera, Regional Director for Latin America



Ilan Cuperstein, Vice Regional Director for Latin America  
Flavio Coppola, Technical Lead for Urban Planning  
Hélène Chartier, Head of Zero Carbon Development  
Martina Ferrarino, City Advisor to Buenos Aires

- **Internacional**

**Carlos Moreno**, Professeur Associé à l'IAE de Paris – Université Panthéon Sorbonne y  
Co-fondateur et Directeur Scientifique de la Chaire ETI

**Clara Fayard**, Directrice de Cabinet sur la Ville du Quart d'Heure

## SCHEDULE

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### Round 1 - Presentations (45 min)

**5 min** - Introduction round of participants

**7 min** - Urban Planning C40 (Flavio Coppola / Hélène Chartier)

**15 min** - Carlos Moreno (10 min presentation / 5 min Q&A)

**15 min** - Clara Fayard, City of Paris (10 min presentation / 5 min Q&A)

**3 min** - Closing of the presentations

### Round 2 - Group Discussion (45 min)

**10 min** - 2 minutes per area to tell what they are doing in terms of "15 minute city".  
Ask each area to bring an example of a policy linked to one of the following 4 areas  
(without PPT support):

- 1) Access to goods and services close to home
- 2) Connected spaces
- 3) People-centred mobility and thriving streets
- 4) One place for all

Is there anything you have heard that you think is missing or that we should add?  
What do you need from others?

**30 min** - Discussion with MURAL tool, moderated by Flavio, Hélène and Martina Ferrarino. The workshop participants will download their ideas to post-its and pin them to a MURAL to be discussed in group.

Trigger question 1 (10 min): Having listened to the policies pursued by colleagues in other areas of government, what are the main concepts/ideas that come to mind when thinking about a "15-minute city"?

Trigger question 2 (10 min): What ideas/proposals do you think could be used to project BA's image to the world as a "15-minute city"?

Trigger question 3 (10 min): Sketch a definition of what it means for Buenos Aires to be a "15-minute city", i.e. what is a "15-minute city" for you? Proposed "definition" of the concept for BA

**5 min - Closing and next steps** - Francisco Resnicoff, Undersecretary of International and Institutional Relations

### Proposed Next steps

In order to keep the working group launched here operational and active, the next steps are proposed:

1. SG&IR will share the draft and first proposal of the 2021-2023 work plan of the Head of Government as Vice-President of C40, specifically with regard to the "15 minute cities" agenda, in order to receive feedback and comments from each of the areas involved.
2. Establish monthly meetings with an agenda to be defined for each meeting.
3. Generate proposals for international visibility of the work carried out by BA in terms of "15 Minute Cities".
4. Participate in interviews/meetings in order to develop a document on BA's work in this area in recent years.

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### Reference Bibliography

C40 Knowledge Hub, "Spotlight on: 15 minute cities" -

[https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/Introducing-Spotlight-On-15-minute-cities?language=en\\_US&utm\\_campaign=15+minute+cities&utm\\_medium=Hub+newsletter&utm\\_source=Hub+newsletter](https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/Introducing-Spotlight-On-15-minute-cities?language=en_US&utm_campaign=15+minute+cities&utm_medium=Hub+newsletter&utm_source=Hub+newsletter)

Carlos Moreno TED Talk, "The 15-minute city" -

[https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/Carlos-Moreno-The-15-minute-city?language=en\\_US](https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/Carlos-Moreno-The-15-minute-city?language=en_US)