

Item 9

International Travel - Women4Climate Conference, Paris 2019

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Summary

The Lord Mayor has been invited to speak at the 2019 Women4Climate Conference to be held at Paris City Hall on 21 February 2019.

The City became a member of the C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) in 2007. C40 is a group of more than 80 of the world's largest cities representing 600 million people, committed to collaborative action on climate change.

Participating cities commit to practical action to cut greenhouse gas emissions, to working with business, community and government on climate change, and providing leadership internationally.

The City actively participates in a range of C40 events, and has implemented a number of projects with technical and practical information from C40 - including our LED street lighting rollout, Environmental Upgrade Agreements and Smart Green Apartments Program.

Women4Climate is an initiative of C40. Its aim is to support and empower female leaders (including up and coming leaders) taking action to protect the climate. In 2014, there were only four female mayors amongst C40's global cities. In 2018, there are twenty. Twenty-one per cent of C40 mayors are now women, representing 110 million urban citizens.

Women4Climate is shaped by three pillars - mentoring, research, and technology.

It includes a Mentorship Program to empower the next generation of female climate leaders by connecting them with successful and inspiring female climate leaders. Staff are investigating establishing the program in Sydney.

The annual Women4Climate Conference is one of C40's flagship events, designed to bring together hundreds of influential and inspiring mayors, business leaders and innovative change-makers from around the world.

The Lord Mayor and the City of Sydney have participated in the C40 summits for more than ten years, attending in New York in 2007, Seoul in 2009, Sao Paulo in 2011, Johannesburg in 2014 and Mexico in 2016.

For the first time, the Women4Climate conference will feature innovators from the Women4Climate Tech Challenge - a global competition involving women in the tech community, designed to spark innovation and accelerate climate solutions for a wide range of issues such as mobility, food, waste, water, buildings, urban farming and air quality.

C40 Mayors attending the event will be invited to select the winners of the Women4Climate Tech Challenge based on a direct, live pitch opportunity offered to finalists of the challenge.

By speaking at the Conference and participating in media opportunities, the Lord Mayor will be able to promote the City's innovative projects and build on Sydney's reputation as an international climate change leader.

The City of Sydney is considering bidding to host the 2020 Women4Climate conference. Attendance at this summit will enable the City to learn what is required to host the event.

C40 will cover the cost of airfares and two night's accommodation for the Lord Mayor and one City delegate. There will also be some meals provided as part of the conference program. Airport transfers will be covered by the City of Paris and in-city transportation to and from the conference will be provided by C40.

It is proposed the Lord Mayor be accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer and one staff member. Costs for the staff member will be met by the City of Sydney.

It is also proposed that the Lord Mayor and Chief Executive Officer take the opportunity to visit the City of London to discuss innovative projects initiated by London relating to affordable housing, clean air and transport.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) endorse the travel of the Lord Mayor, the Chief Executive Officer and one staff member to Paris to attend the Women4Climate Conference, to be held on 21 February 2019;
- (B) endorse the Lord Mayor and Chief Executive Officer visiting the City of London to view relevant projects;
- (C) note that the Lord Mayor will provide a report to Council after the travel;
- (D) note the City's consideration of a bid to host the Women4Climate Conference in 2020; and
- (E) note that staff are investigating establishing the Women4Climate Mentorship Program in Sydney.

Attachments

Attachment A. Letter of Invitation to the Lord Mayor – Women4Climate Conference

Background

C40 Cities

1. Women4Climate is an initiative of C40 Cities - a group of more than 80 of the world's largest cities, representing 600 million people, committed to collaborative action to address climate change.
2. The City became a member of the C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) in 2007, and has participated in C40 Summits held in New York in 2007, Seoul in 2009, São Paulo in 2011 and Johannesburg in 2014.
3. Participating in C40 summits and events has directly contributed to important initiatives by the City, such as the LED street lighting rollout, Environmental Upgrade Agreements and Smart Green Apartments Program.
4. Sustainable Sydney 2050 will prioritise addressing climate change and taking action for the future on adaptation and water, energy, finance and economic development, measurement and planning, solid waste management, transportation, and urban planning and development.
5. The City's continued presence and involvement at C40 events is an important signal of our commitment to climate action and an opportunity to exchange ideas, gain knowledge and build international relationships that will contribute to a stronger plan and a better future for the city.
6. The next C40 summit will take place in October 2019.
7. Information on the C40 is available at www.c40.org.

Women4Climate Conference

8. Women make up more than half the world's population, and although they are often more impacted by climate change, their voices have not always been heard due to lack of representation at the decision-making level.
9. The numbers are shifting. In 2014, there were only four female mayors amongst C40's global cities. In 2018, there are twenty. Twenty-one per cent of C40 mayors are now women, representing 110 million urban citizens.
10. Female leaders played a pivotal role in negotiating the Paris Agreement on climate change in 2015, and will be crucial to its success in the future. Now more than ever, enhancing women's participation and leadership is critical to securing a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future for us all.
11. The Women4Climate initiative was founded by Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, the Chair of C40, in 2016 to inspire the next generation of female climate leaders to become the problem solvers and innovators needed in the world's cities.
12. Women4Climate's philosophy for climate-change innovation is shaped by three pillars: mentoring, research, and technology.
13. The Women4Climate Mentorship Program is a ten-month program that seeks to empower the next generation of female climate leaders by connecting them with successful and inspiring female climate leaders.

14. The second pillar, research, emphasises the need for evidence and case studies to show the impact of climate change.
15. Women4Climate's Tech Challenge is an international contest open to any woman carrying out an innovative technology solution focused on climate change.
16. Women4Climate help connect these start-ups and innovators with cities who can conduct experiments to test the new solutions. If successful they can be scaled-up to help cities worldwide. Complementary to the Women4Climate Mentorship Program, the key goal of the Tech Challenge is to promote concrete solutions with a measurable impact in cities.
17. The annual Women4Climate Conference is one of C40's flagship events, designed to bring together hundreds of influential and inspiring mayors, business leaders and innovative change-makers from around the world who are committed to taking action on climate change and air pollution.
18. The conference provides a platform for a unique cross-section of powerful women – and men – to advance a shared agenda that spans education, innovation, and social equality. It highlights the critical role of women in creating a healthier, greener and more economically prosperous urban future.
19. Through the Women4Climate initiative, C40 aims to:
 - (a) empower and inspire the next generation of climate leaders through the global mentorship programme;
 - (b) influence the conversation through leadership events and create a new vocation among future leaders;
 - (c) drive action by launching an annual challenge dedicated to the best innovations in climate and sustainability; and
 - (d) raise awareness through research on gender, cities and climate to highlight gendered climate impacts in the urban context, and the key role women play in championing climate policies.
20. The Lord Mayor has been invited to represent the City of Sydney at this event. This will help promote the City's innovative projects, and build Sydney's reputation as an international climate change leader.
21. It is proposed that the Lord Mayor and Chief Executive Officer take the opportunity to visit representatives of the City of London to discuss innovative projects initiated by London relating to affordable housing, clean air and transport.
22. The City is considering bidding to host the 2020 Women4Climate conference. Attendance at this summit will enable the City to learn what is required to host this event. Should the City bid to host the conference, a report outlining the details and costs of hosting the conference will be brought to Council.
23. Information on Women4Climate is at www.w4c.org.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

24. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 1 - A Globally Competitive and Innovative City, and Direction 2 - A leading Environmental Performer - An important focus of Women4Climate is facilitating world-leading innovation in climate solutions. Participation in the conference supports Sydney's reputation as a leader in this important field, and provides the opportunity to be involved in exciting new solutions for the challenges of climate change.
 - (b) Direction 10 - Implementation through Effective Governance and Partnerships - The Women4Climate Conference provides opportunities for the active exchange of ideas and building of international relationships that can support a strong and sustainable future for the city.

Environmental

25. The objectives of the C40 and Women4Climate align closely with the Sustainable Sydney 2030 plan to become a sustainable global city, and one of the world's leading green cities. Participation in the conference will enable Sydney to demonstrate environmental leadership, and learn from the experiences of other cities.

Budget Implications

26. Airfares and two night's accommodation will be provided by C40 for the Lord Mayor and one staff member. It is proposed that the Chief Executive Officer and one staff member attend the Conference with the Lord Mayor. Incidental costs for the Lord Mayor and Chief Executive Officer and all costs for the staff member will be met by the City.
27. The cost to be met by the City is estimated at an average of \$13,000 per person.
28. Funds are available within existing operational budgets.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

29. The conference will be held in Paris on 21 February 2019. Planning needs to occur now to secure travel bookings and organise an itinerary.

MONICA BARONE

Chief Executive Officer