



Special Session Proposal

From Vulnerability to Opportunity: Building Resilient and Liveable Cities through Sustainability and Digitalisation

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Abstract

The complexity of today's urban systems demands integrated approaches that merge sustainability with resilience to ensure they remain liveable and inclusive in the face of change. While cities serve as epicentres of economic activity, innovation and social progress, they are simultaneously sites of significant environmental and socio-economic vulnerabilities. This dual reality of opportunity and vulnerability calls for innovative responses, where governance, citizen engagement and digitalisation play central roles. By focusing on how cities can transform inherent vulnerabilities into catalysts for sustainable development, this framework moves beyond reactive approaches to resilience and emphasises proactive, transformative strategies.

Achieving urban resilience requires adaptive governance structures that can respond flexibly to emerging challenges while incorporating the voices of local communities. Participatory approaches to urban planning and governance ensure that resilience strategies are responsive to local conditions, grounded in community needs, and capable of building social capital. Furthermore, digital technologies allow cities to monitor and manage vulnerabilities while enhancing urban resilience and liveability through improved data collection, analysis and real-time decision-making.

Contributions to this session may include empirical research, case studies or practical applications that examine the interplay of these themes in enhancing urban adaptive capacities and promoting transformative urban change. Potential topics for submission include, but are not limited to:

- Participatory approaches to building resilient and liveable cities.
- Citizen science and smart technologies for resilience.
- Resilient urban infrastructure and smart technology.
- Transforming urban vulnerabilities into resilient opportunities.
- Cross-cultural and comparative analyses of urban resilience.
- Urban proximity and x-minute cities.
- Digital opportunities for coping for urban vulnerabilities.