

Cities Leading the Circular Shift

Cities are at the frontline of the zero-waste transition. Urban areas generate the majority of global waste but are also the spaces where innovative solutions, community engagement, and regulatory frameworks can be tested and scaled. From local bans and deposit systems to city-wide reuse infrastructures, municipalities are proving that ambitious action at the city level can shape national and even global agendas.

This session will highlight pioneering cities that are redefining urban waste management and accelerating the shift toward circular living. It will examine the practical tools, political will, and partnerships required to make zero-waste a reality in diverse urban contexts, from megacities to smaller municipalities.

This session will ask:

- What policies and programmes have enabled cities to reduce waste at source significantly?
- How can cities balance the need for ambition with the practical constraints of budgets, infrastructure, and enforcement?
- What role do partnerships with communities, businesses, and innovators play in delivering results?
- How can city-led action influence national policies and international commitments?

° 16:30 - 17:45 °

° Friday, October 17, 2025 °

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Keynote Speaker: Rasaque Silvano Manhique (Maputo)

Moderator: Magash Naidoo (ICLEI)

Alhassan Kalokoh (Freetown City Council)

Gabriel Andrés Vannelli (Vicente López, Buenos Aires)

André Dzikus (UN-Habitat)