

Public Lecture on the Challenges and Actionable Steps Cities can Take to Become More Resilient to Water Related Climate Risks delivered by Mr. Hastings Chikoko.

He is the Managing Director of Regions and Mayoral Engagement & Regional Director for Africa at C40. He serves on the Advisory Board of the African Centre of Cities and also sits on the Advisory Group for the African Cities Research Consortium at the Global Development Institute of University of Manchester.

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Short Summary of the Public Lecture

According to Mr. Hastings, the conversation on water related climate risks remains a significant topic around the world because water is to climate what energy is to climate mitigation.

He further stated that in order for cities to become more resilient to water related climate risks, they should focus on data driven and science-based evidence, planning investments and financing. Cities should ensure that their research agenda is relevant to respond to the needs of the communities.

Other actionable steps may include strategies that will institute emergency protocols and early warning systems such as evacuation plans as well as implementing modern Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).

"Universities should stop being epitomes of the elite and start focusing on community engagement, partnerships and cocreations of knowledge with city governance in order to deliver change."

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