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June 3 - 4, 2026



# URBAN7 INTERNATIONAL MAYORS SUMMIT

Under the French G7 Presidency

## PRESS RELEASE

Nancy, 6 May 2026

### **Urban7 International Mayors Summit: G7 cities to gather in Nancy on 3 and 4 June to adopt a Declaration handed over to the French G7 Presidency ahead of the Évian Summit**

*France urbaine, the Urban7 Secretariat, the City of Nancy and the Greater Nancy Metropolitan Authority, today in Nancy presented the broad orientations of the Urban7 International Mayors Summit, which will take place on 3 and 4 June 2026. For the first time in G7 history, Urban7 has been recognised as an official Engagement Group. The Summit's proceedings will result in the adoption of the Nancy Declaration – a political roadmap handed over to the French G7 Presidency immediately ahead of the G7 Heads of State and Government Summit in Évian (15–17 June 2026).*

### **A historic first: cities enter the G7 architecture**

In 2026, Urban7 – the group bringing together the national associations of cities from G7 countries, with the support of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the Global Parliament of Mayors – is recognised for the first time as an official G7 Engagement Group. This recognition reflects a now widely shared conviction: today's challenges – climate change, democratic resilience, social cohesion, territorial security – cannot be overcome without the full, coordinated involvement of cities and local authorities.

*"For the first time in G7 history, cities are officially at the table. We owe this to the French Presidency, which has placed the voice of cities among its priorities. We also owe it to a long-term movement, carried for decades by visionary mayors from around the world. They have held the conviction that transformative change emerges from the level of government closest to the people", said Matthew Bach, Director of ICLEI Europe, and Rainer Kern, Director of the Global Parliament of Mayors, Co-Directors of the Urban7 Secretariat.*

### **Resilient cities, resilient democracies**

The theme of the opening plenary on 3 June, "Resilient Cities, Resilient Democracies", frames the entire Summit. In an international context marked by geopolitical tensions, climate emergency and democratic mistrust, resilience is built at the level of cities – where vulnerabilities, capacities for action and public innovation concentrate. In most G7 countries, mayors of major cities are, according to opinion surveys, the elected officials who enjoy the highest levels of citizen trust.

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Cities embody this resilience across three interconnected dimensions, which will be explored in depth during three thematic workshops on the afternoon of 3 June:

→ Socio-economic resilience builds community cohesion and economic vitality, countering inequality and fostering inclusive growth where social fractures threaten stability. This workshop will be moderated by the OECD.

→ Environmental resilience drives the sustainable transformation of urban spaces, tackling climate vulnerabilities through green infrastructure, energy transitions and biodiversity protection. This workshop is co-led by ICLEI and the Fédération Nationale des Agences d'Urbanisme (FNAU).

→ Democratic and institutional resilience strengthens governance, protects local elected officials under threat, and renews citizen trust through participatory innovation. This workshop will be co-led by France urbaine, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, La 27<sup>e</sup> Région, and Sciences Po's CrisisLab.

A dedicated workshop will also be held on the reconstruction and resilience of Ukrainian cities, with the participation of several Ukrainian mayors expected.

The summit benefits from scientific coordination provided by the City Diplomacy Lab, led by the scholar Lorenzo Kihlgren Grandi.

### The Nancy Declaration, handed over to the French G7 Presidency

The Nancy Declaration will be adopted and publicly signed on Thursday 4 June at 2 PM, during the closing plenary, before being handed over to the French G7 Presidency.

Drawing directly from the Summit's discussions and outcomes, this Declaration will deliver concrete, operational recommendations to G7 leaders while offering a fresh urban perspective to enrich the French G7 Presidency's ongoing work. Its strategic timing, eleven days before the G7 Heads of State and Government Summit in Évian, ensures cities' frontline insights will to some extent make their way into high-level discussion.

### A Summit embodied by mayors from across the world

More than 200 participants are expected in Nancy, including mayors from more than 15 countries – representing G7 nations, Nancy's twin cities, G7 outreach countries (Kenya, Brazil, India and South Korea), Ukraine, as well as cities specifically invited for their expertise on the Summit's key themes. High-level institutional and academic representatives have also been associated to ensure substantive exchanges, with several G7 ministers also expected to attend.

Key figures include Eckart Würzner (Mayor of Heidelberg, Germany, and head of the German delegation to the U7 Summit), Kizo Hisamoto (Mayor of Kobe, Japan, and head of the Japanese delegation), Serhii Morhunov (Vinnytsia, Ukraine, twin city of Nancy since 2023), Dilpreet Sidhu (Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles, United States), alongside the President of France urbaine and Mathieu Klein (Nancy).

*"Welcoming the mayors of the largest G7 cities is both an honour and a responsibility, reflecting Nancy's international standing. This diplomatic gathering, just one year after hosting the signing of the Franco-Polish Friendship Treaty in 2025, also demonstrates the collective mobilisation of the entire territory – including its cultural, economic and academic stakeholders – to showcase its expertise and openness to the world"* said Mathieu Klein, Mayor of Nancy and President of the Greater Nancy Metropolitan Area, host of the Summit.

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The full press kit, speakers' biographies, and photos of press-open sessions are available on request from the press contact.

Press accreditation: urban7@agencesuitcase.com before 25 May 2026.