

Working Group 6

Digital Development Goals

(U4SSC Thematic Group on Digital transformation for people-centred cities)

Presented by:

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Co-Leaders of the Working Group 6 on Digital Development Goals

5 November 2025



Working Group 6 on Digital Development Goals



Working Group Leaders

Bas Boorsma (Urban Innovators Global & Professor of Practice at Thunderbird School of Global Management, The Netherlands) and Teppo Rantanen (City of Tampere, Finland)



Working Group Scope

This working group will develop a global framework of Digital Development Goals for Cities. This framework will support achieving the SDGs by means of digitalization, while also containing unique new goals that will address inclusive and sustainable digitalization itself. This framework will help cities to report progress on – and enable progress through – digitalization using clear metrics.



Expected deliverables

- Rudimentary Draft DDGs – May 2026
- Final DDG Framework – November 2026
- DDG Framework as an Open Commons: *To be discussed*



Working Group 6 on Digital Development Goals: **Context**

- For the first time in the history, cities and urban conduct get expressed in **three dimensions**: The physical and the socio-economic dimensions have now been joined by the digital one.
- **Digitalization** has reached a point it no longer ‘just’ optimizes an old world but is helping forge (a) new one(s). We are looking at the **Emancipation of Digitalization**.
- High end connectivity, AI and a growing array of virtualization technologies cater for the crafting of a next phase in urban digitalization. The emerging ‘**Citiverse**’ is an illustration of this development.
- Previous chapters of digitalization have taught us we cannot let its development happen in some ‘default’ shape and expect good outcomes only: it requires tested **designs, principles, goals, curation and mitigation** in order to obtain the types of urban digitalization that are sustainable and inclusive.

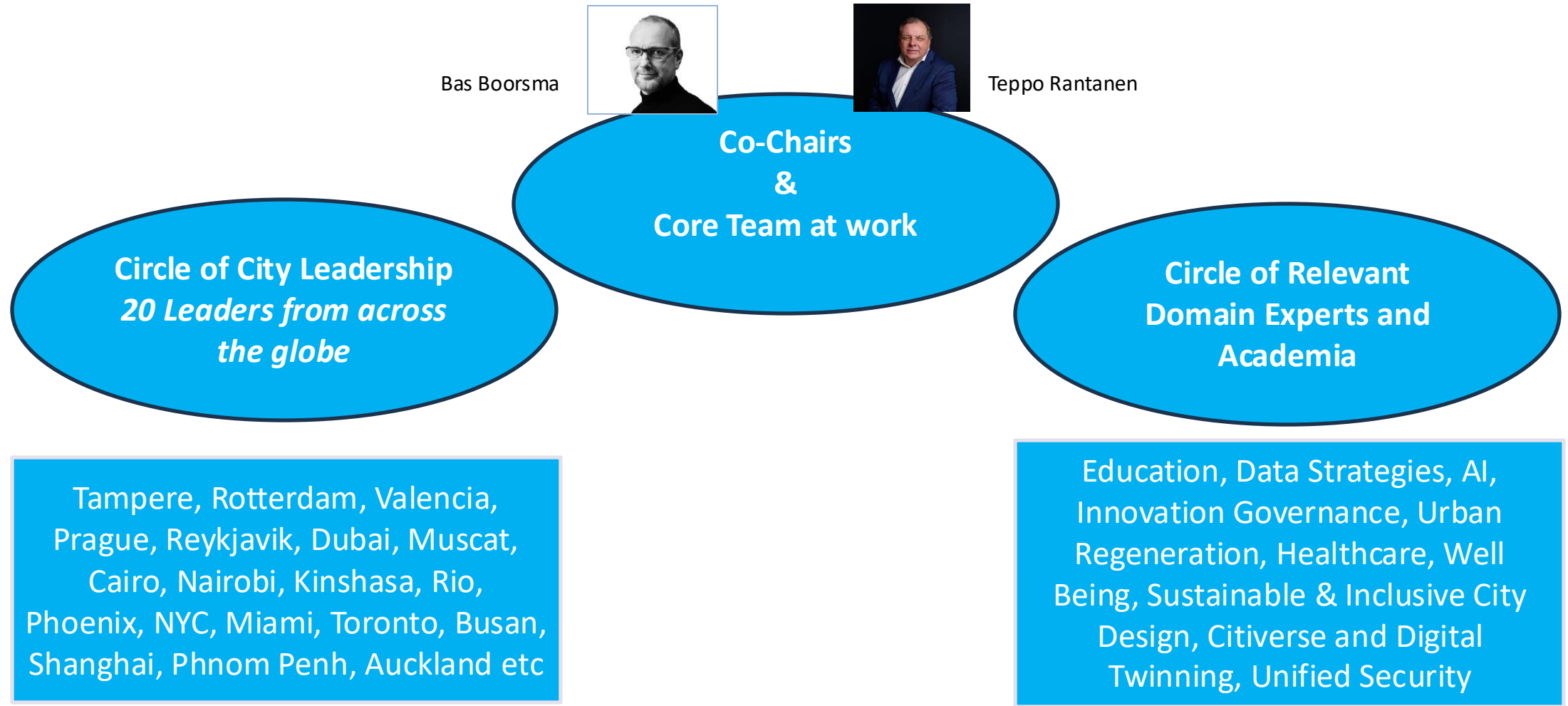
Working Group 6 on Digital Development Goals: from context to mission

- The (re)design of **sustainable, inclusive urban environments** and the conduct within them – even to the point of reframing what we collectively understand to be ‘urban’ - is happening **now**. We have the opportunity and responsibility to get it right.
- The urban focus is an important mission, but not one that can come at the cost of rural. Somewhat paradoxically, urban development goals should be able to relate – and strike a balance with things **rural**.
- Cities continue to physically **grow**, but many cities have also begun to **shrink**. Digital development goals are needed to address both trends
- In short: a **Framework of Digital Development Goals** is imperative, and time for its creation is **now**.

Working Group 6 on Digital Development Goals: **the Mission at Hand**

- Build a Global Framework of Digital Development Goals
- Design them for local use, and so so with city leadership from across the World
- In support of the SDGs, while also seeing the DDGs truly be Goals in their own right with specific outcomes
- Build a shared language
- Work with City Leaders and subject matters from across the world in early stages of the work
- Framework as first and key deliverable, 12 months

DDG4C Structure, Governance



Initial group of committed leaders, practitioners



Prof Bas Boorsma
Thunderbird/ASU, UIG



Teppo Rantanen
City of Tampere
UN Citiverse Track leader



Monica Kerretts
Africa leader, Thunderbird
School Global Management



Honorata Grzesikowska
City Designer



Arturo Castella
City of Valencia



Jake Taylor
Greater Phoenix



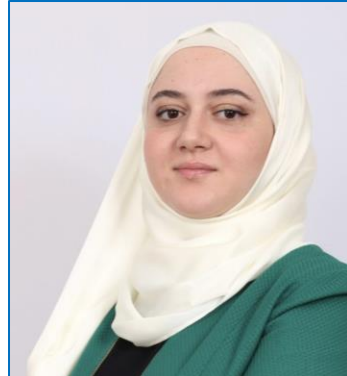
Dr Yousef Al Assaf
Dean, RIT Dubai



Nasser Alsayegh
Mini. Of Housing and
Urban Planning, Oman



Prof. Stephen Goldsmith
Harvard. Former Mayor of
Indianapolis, Former
Dep Mayor of NYC



Islam Bouzguenda, Ph.D.
University of Twente



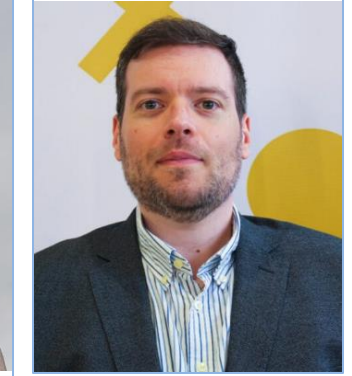
Knut Schoenfelder
Unified Security



Charla Griffy Brown
Dean, Thunderbird School
of Global Management



Roland v.d. Heijden
Chief Citiverse Officer
City of Rotterdam



Gert Hilgers
Science Diplomacy
OASC

To be updated throughout November.

Upcoming Meetings in 2025 and 2026

- 20 November 2025, 16:00 – 17:30 hours, Geneva time
- 18 December 2025, 15:00 – 16:30 hours, Geneva time
- 15 January 2026, 15:00 – 16:30 hours, Geneva time
- 29 January 2026, 15:00 – 16:30 hours, Geneva time
- 12 February 2026, 15:00 – 16:30 hours, Geneva time
- 12 March 2026, 15:00 – 16:30 hours, Geneva time
- 9 April 2026, 15:00 – 16:30 hours, Geneva time
- 7 May 2026 16:00 – 16:30 hours, Geneva time
- 22 June 2026 16:00 – 16:30 hours, Geneva time
- 3 July 2026 16:00 – 16:30 hours, Geneva time

Meetings post July 2026 will be confirmed later.

For more information, please contact:

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U4SSC website:

<https://u4ssc.itu.int/>

Thank you!

