**Fostering Renewables through Innovation: pioneer cities set ambitious renewable energy targets**

Cities, towns and regions all over the world are making significant advances by committing to innovative and ambitious targets, policies, and actions, using efficient RE technologies. During the official networking event that will take place in 18 October 2016, 16:30 - 18:30 (Room MR7 - Habitat III official venue) the cities of Vancouver, Boulder and Barcelona will share about the key benefits, drivers, challenges they have been facing as pioneers in the transition to a sustainable energy future.

Exploring options and adding a higher percentage of renewable energy (RE) in our energy supply is of crucial importance if we aim to achieve the 1.5° Celsius scenario called for in the 2015 Paris Agreement. Several cities and regions have taken the lead, by committing to 100%RE for all activities and sectors, such as the City of Vancouver, and are benefiting from multiple benefits, including socio-economic. Yet these impacts are only possible through enactment of policies and regulations, as well as the use of incentives and finance models which enable action, engage stakeholders and lead to results.

This networking event will address the key actors: local government leaders, national and international agencies, as well as energy experts. It will explore how we can anchor RE into the New Urban Agenda of Habitat III and address national and international framework conditions needed to enable ambitious necessary local action in support of the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement. Partnership is a central element in all of this – join us and explore how we can together unlock innovation capacity of cities, towns and regions to rapidly scale up renewable energy roll-out.

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