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## Parallel sessions – DESIGNING THE FUTURE

19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – 14h

# #1 Smart and Sustainable Cities

The concepts of Smart City and sustainability are directly linked to each other. The importance of cities and local governments in the deployment of the SDGs Agenda is evident, to the extent that one of the SDGs is about sustainable cities. Smart cities mean precisely this: an urban sustainable development that can give answers to the needs of citizens and other actors (companies and institutions) in all areas: economic, social, environmental, etc.

Smart and sustainable cities need to take into account efficient and quality services that can improve the quality of life of citizens in different areas: environment, infrastructures, health, transportation, emergency services, etc. New technologies are the main ally of smart cities and the different trends in this area have a high impact on the services offered (such as the internet of things).

One thing that stands out when it comes to smart cities, beyond what we have discussed so far, is the very governance of the city. Here we are introducing a paradigm shift, as management is handed, somehow, to citizens. Smart cities are participatory and collaborative by definition. This allows sustainability governance and the SDGs Agenda to be in the hands of citizens and people.

