

## Pourya Salehi's Short Bio:

Pourya Salehi is the Head of the Urban Research, Innovation, and Development Department at the World Secretariat of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. In this capacity, he leads a team dedicated to advancing evidence-based policymaking and science-informed local action. Pourya is also the coordinator of ICLEI's Global Research & Innovation Strategy, overseeing the organization's research and innovation (R&I) portfolio across 24 offices. This includes curating R&I-related events such as Research & Innovation Symposia, designing R&I projects, co-developing peer-reviewed publications and other knowledge products with partners, and contributing to international agendas, such as the [updated Global Research and Action Agenda](#). In addition, his role involves initiating, maintaining, and fostering effective collaborations with relevant stakeholders and partners on a global scale.

In addition to his managerial and coordination responsibilities, Pourya actively represents ICLEI in various R&I-related spaces. In early 2022, he was appointed as co-chair of the Research & Innovation Technical Working Group by the Strategic Advisory Board of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM). He also plays a significant role as a member of the UNFCCC Global Innovation Hub, contributing to hub activities on multiple fronts, including engagement with cities for the Climate and Sustainable Development Roadmap, promotion of Systemic Management Innovation, and playing a part in the Digital Finance Working Group.

Pourya's academic background includes studies in urban planning and management (BSc), land management and property rights (MSc), and digital innovation and finance (PhD research topic). His expertise and passion lie in innovative approaches to sustainable development. Pourya is an accomplished author, having authored and co-authored numerous scientific articles, flagship reports, and peer-reviewed publications on various topics, including the Springer-published book [Resilient Smart Cities: Theoretical and Empirical Insights](#). Additionally, he serves as the lead author of a chapter on Agenda Setting and Transformative Innovation for the UCCRN's forthcoming Third Assessment Report on Climate Change and Cities (ARC3.3).

He is recognized as a thought leader for the Mission Innovation-led initiative "Expanded Climate and Innovation Agenda for Cities and Regions," where he actively contributes to associated tools and initiatives including the ["AI-Powered Scanning Platform for Expanded Climate and Innovation Leadership,"](#) ["The Gigaton Opportunity,"](#) and ["Accelerating Innovation and Climate Strategies for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."](#)

With over a decade of international experience, Pourya has served on Steering Committees and Advisory Boards for various prominent international initiatives such as the European Space Agency's "Space for Smart and Green Cities" Task Force and UNCCD's [Global Land Outlook 2.0](#).