

Global Initiative on AI and Virtual Worlds - *Discovering the Citiverse*

# Towards an AI-Enabled Citiverse



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Okan Geray, Chair of Steering Committee



# Global Initiative Overview

A multi-stakeholder global platform advancing the AI-enabled Citiverse where AI, spatial intelligence and digital twins converge to deliver real-world impact. It brings together governments, industry and the UN system to promote safe, open and interoperable ecosystems, enabling public service transformation, economic growth and digital trust.

**Global Initiative on AI and Virtual Worlds**  
*Discovering the Citiverse*  
[itu.int/metaverse/virtual-worlds](http://itu.int/metaverse/virtual-worlds)

**Founding Partners**  
ITU UNICC DIGITAL DUBAI

**Champions**  
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications DIGITAL DUBAI

**Supported by a growing coalition of 70 partners**

ETRI Stanford University IDC GAICT Smart Cities Council bizztech Direct Relief DUTY University 45 prasann S2GRUPO CSIT INTERPOL gemini untwined

UNSPF UAB CIBERLAB LASIGE anteverti BlackAlgel FORUM VIRTUUS HELSINKI RIBA THE METAVERSE INSTITUTE METAWORLDX TAMPERE CARDART

SANDBOX @bellum GLOBAL CITIES HUB W.G. BOSENIUS PORT ASTON belldigital FORUM VIRTUUS HELSINKI RIBA THE METAVERSE INSTITUTE METAWORLDX TAMPERE CARDART

future/ade University of Staffordshire Salford im:ast:app CMAD

# Key Pillars of Action

Three strategic pillars — each with dedicated tracks addressing the most pressing opportunities in AI-powered virtual worlds.



## Pillar 1 — Bringing Virtual Worlds to Life

- Strategic Guidance
- Digital Inclusion & Accessibility
- Scaling Framework
- Evaluation and Assessment



## Pillar 2 — Connecting Cities with Virtual and Real Worlds

- Emerging Technologies
- Use case Identification
- Security and Trust
- Interoperable Citiverse
- Sandbox Experiment Facility



## Pillar 3 — Tunneling the Citiverse

- Citiverse Assembly
- Citiverse Challenge
- Citiverse Alliance
- Citiverse on the ground
- Awareness Building
- Virtual Worlds Toolkit
- Annual Training
- Talent Grants for Developing Countries



# Initiative Deliverables

A growing library of actionable reports, taxonomies, and blueprints guiding cities and stakeholders toward responsible Citiverse adoption.



# Navigating Cities to the New Frontier

## Journey to an AI-Enabled Citiverse

A phased, inclusive and iterative journey to build a smarter, more livable and sustainable city

### 1 SET THE VISION



Define the future state and aspirations for an AI-Enabled Citiverse.

- Align on outcomes that matter
- Define guiding principles
- Envision citizen-centric impact

### 2 ASSESS & IDENTIFY GAPS



Understand the current state across people, processes, data and technology.

- Assess maturity
- Identify strengths and gaps
- Prioritize opportunity areas

### 3 FORMULATE STRATEGY



Design the roadmap and capabilities to bridge gaps and realize the vision.

- Define strategic pillars and outcomes
- Prioritize use cases and initiatives
- Build the business case and roadmap

### 4 IMPLEMENT & INTEGRATE



Build the foundation, implement use cases and integrate across the ecosystem.

- Build secure, scalable infrastructure
- Deliver prioritized use cases
- Integrate systems and data
- Embed responsible AI practices

### 5 SCALE, LEARN & EVOLVE



Continuously improve, scale impact and evolve with emerging tech and needs.

- Monitor impact and outcomes
- Learn and adapt
- Scale what works
- Innovate for the future

**AI-ENABLED CITIVERSE**  
Intelligent. Inclusive.  
Sustainable.  
Together.

#### ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS THROUGHOUT THE JOURNEY

**CITIZENS & COMMUNITIES**  
Co-create solutions that address real needs.

**CITY LEADERS & AGENCIES**  
Align priorities, policies and investments.

**INDUSTRY & TECH PARTNERS**  
Co-innovate and leverage best-in-class capabilities.

**ACADEMIA & RESEARCH**  
Advance knowledge, talent and applied research.

**CIVIL SOCIETY & NGOs**  
Champion inclusion, trust and ethical use of AI.

**INVESTORS & FUNDERS**  
Enable sustainable funding and long-term value creation.

### A Phased Journey

#### Explore

Identify opportunities and assess readiness

#### Pilot

Launch controlled sandbox experiments

#### Scale

Deploy interoperable Citiverse solutions city-wide



TRUST & ETHICS



DATA GOVERNANCE & PRIVACY



INCLUSION & EQUITY



SUSTAINABILITY



RESILIENCE & SECURITY

# Capitalizing on Partnerships, Alliances & Existing Knowledge



## Strategic Alliances

Co-creation with leading international bodies and standards organizations



## Shared Knowledge

Open toolkits, taxonomies, and blueprints freely available to all members



## Global Reach

Talent grants and capacity-building programs for developing countries

The Initiative draws on a powerful ecosystem spanning governments, academia, industry, and civil society to accelerate progress.

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Thank you!



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