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Higher Content & Inspiration



MAURICIO RODAS

Global authority on urban climate finance; former Presidential Candidate and Mayor of Quito who built Ecuador's first metro in a record three years

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- Former Mayor of Quito (2014–2019), youngest in the city’s history
- Delivered Ecuador’s first metro system on time and on budget, a global benchmark
- Global leader in climate finance and sustainable urban development
- Advisor to cities, multilateral institutions, and global policy networks
- Professor at University of Pennsylvania shaping next-generation urban leaders
- Recognized as one of the 100 World's Most Influential People on Climate Action
- Senior Fellow at the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, Senior Advisor at the Atlantic Council, and member of the United Nations' Committee of Experts on Public Administration

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Mauricio Rodas is a global authority on urban climate finance, city diplomacy, and sustainable urban development. As Mayor of Quito, Ecuador (2014–2019), he led the construction of the country's first metro system, a USD 2 billion, 23-kilometer underground line completed in a record three years, on time and within budget, at the lowest per-kilometer cost of any metro in Latin America. The project was showcased by four multilateral development banks as a flagship initiative and recognized by UNESCO as an international model for heritage preservation. Before his tenure as mayor, Rodas founded SUMA, a national political party, and ran for President of Ecuador in 2013, before being elected the youngest Mayor in Quito's history the following year.

As Mayor, Rodas implemented a wide range of initiatives advancing urban sustainability, social equity, and inclusive economic development, and hosted the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). He held senior leadership roles across major global city networks, including World Co-President of United Cities and Local Governments, Vice-Chair of C40 Cities, and board member of the Global Covenant of Mayors and ICLEI.

He is currently a Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, where he teaches on climate-resilient infrastructure finance for cities, and a Senior Fellow at the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment. He is the founder and Executive Secretary of the SDSN Global Commission for Urban SDG Finance, co-chaired by the Mayors of Paris and Rio de Janeiro alongside Professor Jeffrey Sachs, bringing together more than 90 mayors and global institutions to advance innovative solutions to close the urban SDG financing gap.

He is also a Senior Advisor at the Atlantic Council, a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration, and the Executive Committee of the Global Parliament of Mayors.

As founder of Meridio Consulting, he has advised cities worldwide, including Athens, Barranquilla, Dhaka, Freetown, Miami, Melbourne, Monterrey, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago de Chile, and Seville. Named by Apolitical among the world’s 100 most influential people in climate action, he has received the University of Pennsylvania’s World Urban Leadership Award and ICLEI’s Climate Action and Sustainability Leadership Award.

Mauricio is a former Young Global Leader and a member of the Global Future Council on Cities and Urbanization of the World Economic Forum. He has served as a jury member for Prince William's Earthshot Prize, the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation, C40–Bloomberg Philanthropies Award, and WRI Ross Center Prize for Cities, and others.

A highly sought-after keynote speaker, panelist, and moderator, Mauricio is a frequent contributor to major global convenings, including the World Economic Forum in Davos, the NYC Climate Week, London Climate Action Week, COP, the G20, UNGA, and the World Urban Forum, among others.

Rodas holds a JD from Universidad Católica de Quito and two master's degrees in Government Administration and Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied on a Fulbright Scholarship.

Why Book Mauricio Rodas?

- A global authority on urban climate finance and city leadership
  Leads one of the world's most influential platforms advancing sustainable urban development and innovative financing solutions.
- Proven execution at scale: delivering transformational infrastructure
  Built Ecuador's first metro—a $2B project—on time, on budget, and at record efficiency, setting a global benchmark.
- Unique perspective: from political leadership to global advisory
  Former mayor and presidential candidate who now advises cities worldwide and shapes global urban policy agendas.
- At the center of global decision-making networks
  Works alongside mayors, multilateral institutions, and global leaders across five continents to tackle urban challenges.
- Thought leader bridging climate, finance, and cities
  Helps leaders understand how to fund, design, and scale sustainable infrastructure in rapidly growing urban environments.
- Credibility at the highest global level
  Recognized among the world's most influential climate leaders; advisor to major global institutions and juror of top international awards.

TEMAS

Mauricio tailors each presentation to the needs of his audience and is not limited to the topics listed below. Please ask us about any subject that interests you:

- Urban Climate Finance & Sustainable Infrastructure
- The Future of Cities and Urban Transformation
- Public-Private Partnerships & Infrastructure Delivery
- Climate Change, Cities, and Global Policy
- Leadership in Complex and High-Stakes Environments

PROGRAMAS

From Vision to Delivery: How to Build Transformational Urban Infrastructure Against All Odds

What does it take to deliver a $2 billion metro system in a record-breaking three years—on time, on budget, and amid intense political pressure? This keynote draws on one of Latin America's most ambitious urban projects to showcase governance innovation, international financing strategies, and execution excellence. A compelling roadmap for leaders determined to turn bold visions into transformative, real-world outcomes.

Financing the Future of Cities: Closing the Urban Climate Investment Gap

Cities are at the frontline of climate action but face a massive financing gap. Drawing on global leadership and real-world delivery, this talk explores innovative financing mechanisms—from blended finance to pooled capital structures—that can unlock trillions for sustainable urban infrastructure. It offers practical pathways for governments, investors, and institutions to accelerate bankable, scalable solutions in cities worldwide.

City Diplomacy in Action: How Mayors Are Shaping the Global Agenda

As cities gain influence on the global stage, mayors are emerging as key actors in solving climate, economic, and social challenges. This talk explores how city diplomacy, global networks, and collaborative platforms are redefining governance—enabling cities to mobilize investment, shape policy, and drive collective action beyond national constraints.

The Next Generation of Urban Leadership: Innovation, Resilience, and Impact at Scale

What defines effective urban leadership in an era of climate risk, rapid urbanization, and technological disruption? Bridging practice and academia, this session highlights the skills, mindsets, and tools needed to lead cities toward resilient and inclusive growth. It offers insights for emerging leaders and institutions shaping the future of urban development globally.

Cities at the Center of the Climate Solution

Over 70% of global emissions originate in cities. Rodas explores why urban areas are critical to climate action and how mayors, governments, and the private sector must collaborate to accelerate change. A highly relevant talk for leaders navigating sustainability, ESG, and long-term investment strategies.

CONDICIONES

- **Travels from:** Quito, Ecuador
- **Fee Range:** Please Inquire