1. What are the session key findings? What are the new Lesson(s) learned / Scientific progress (since AR5 release, if relevant)?

This session had a very cohesive yet wide encompassing structure, starting with a broad high level perspective on key concepts such as sustainability and resilience and the need for distributed assets /decentralized solutions (Stockholm University), an overarching perspective on urban governance and the Sustainable Development Goals (Australian National University), the principles of the theory of change and its disruptive nature moving down to examples of local level actions (Dutch Research Institute for Transitions), as well as examples of methodologies, tools and others resources available to support cities in their institutional transformation process towards a low-carbon climate resilient and sustainable future and global initiatives intended to inspire and catalyse transformation (ICLEI), and finalizing with examples of how small and medium enterprises can also be agents of change, and how visualization tools can be used to inspire and change the current mind-set (University of Waterloo).

2. What are the major knowledge Gaps and Research Needs identified in the session?

What are the triggers for transformative action?
How to promote systems thinking in urban development and avoid repeating mistakes of the past?
(how to avoid transformations that are not transformative, and enable cities to leap-frog?)
What are the biggest barriers to be removed?
How to scale-up transformative action?
How to align urban knowledge gaps and research?

3. Did the session discuss/identify promising approaches in the fields of Adaptation and Mitigation, or both?

Both. The session promoted the debate around collective leadership; multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral and multilevel-governance dialogue, engagement and cooperation as a way to enable and catalyze transformative action.
4. Are there take-home messages from the session?

(When relevant, please specify targeted group of stakeholders. For example, policy-makers / COP21 negotiators, practitioners (experts, etc.), NGOs, private sector, citizens, media, etc.)

A vision of a different future can be the start of a process of change. Determined leadership – which can take the shape of an individual champion – is important to overcome obstacles and carry the process through. The local / neighbourhood scale offers the opportunity to test concepts and demonstrate their viability, prior to scaling-up and/or replication.

5. Are there Important Quotes from the session?

6. Please include any other remark that you might have.

Participants were invited to disseminate and encourage cities to participate in the Transformative Actions Program, a collaborative effort led by ICLEI, which aims to select 100 transformative projects to be presented at COP21 (www.tap-potential.org)