



# Peer-Review Statements

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All of the articles in this proceedings volume have been presented at the Conference on Technologies for Future Cities (CTFC 2025) on 12th – 13th December 2025 in Pillai College of Engineering, New Panvel, Navi Mumbai, India. These articles have been peer reviewed by the members of the Peer Review Committee and approved by the Editor-in-Chief, who affirms that this document is a truthful description of the conference's review process.

## 1. REVIEW PROCEDURE

The reviews were *double-blind*. Each submission was examined by *at least 2-3* reviewer(s) independently. Each reviewer were not allocated more than 3 papers for review.

The conference submission management system was Microsoft CMT.

<https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/CTFC2025>

The first review was done by the editorial board to check the quality and scope of the paper. If found not suitable, the papers were desk rejected due to poor quality or being beyond the scope of the conference. If the paper was found within the scope of the conference, it was sent for Plagiarism check. A thorough plagiarism check was done through Drillbit and Turnitin, both software. Only papers with plagiarism of less than 10% were forwarded for the review process. The papers with plagiarism greater than 10% were sent back to the authors for careful consideration and updating. After the plagiarism check of the papers if found satisfactorily every paper was assigned to 2-3 reviewers. The reviewers selected were assigned papers according to their expertise and qualifications. Each reviewer was assigned not more than 3 papers. The review process was a double-blind review process. The identities of the authors and reviewers were kept hidden. The final decision on the acceptance of the paper was based on the decision criteria of 2-3 reviewers, which were among the following categories.

- a. Accepted without revision
- b. Accepted with minor revision
- c. Major revision.
- d. Rejected

The papers with major revision were again went through the review process. The team will also ensure the minor revisions are incorporated and the manuscript is resubmitted.

## 2. QUALITY CRITERIA

All submissions to CTFC 2025 were evaluated solely based on their academic merit through a rigorous peer-review process. Reviewers were instructed to assess each manuscript according to the following quality criteria, listed in order of importance:

- 1. **Relevance and alignment** of the paper’s content with the scope, objectives, and thematic tracks of the conference.
- 2. **Originality, novelty, and timeliness** of the research contribution and its potential impact on the field.
- 3. **Technical soundness**, including the appropriateness and rigour of the methodology, analysis, and validity of results.
- 4. **Compliance with ethical standards** and accepted codes of conduct applicable to the respective research domain.
- 5. **Clarity and quality of presentation**, encompassing organisation, language, figures, tables, and overall coherence of the manuscript.

In addition to peer review, all accepted papers were subjected to Artificial Intelligence (AI) Text similarity checks using plagiarism detection. Where necessary, authors were required to revise their manuscripts to address similarity concerns prior to final acceptance, thereby ensuring the originality and integrity of the published proceedings.

## 3. KEY METRICS

The main statistics for the review process for the Conference on Technologies for Future Cities (CTFC) 2025, Theme: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, are as follows.

<i>Total submissions</i>	102
<i>Number of articles sent for peer review</i>	92
<i>Number of accepted articles</i>	32
<i>Acceptance rate</i>	31.37%
<i>Number of reviewers</i>	65

All submissions were processed through the conference’s peer-review system in accordance with Springer’s editorial and ethical standards. The acceptance rate is calculated as the ratio of accepted articles to total submissions.

#### 4. COMPETING INTERESTS

Neither the Editor-in-Chief nor any member of the Organizing Committee, Scientific Committee, or review body declares any competing interests that could have influenced the editorial decisions or the peer-review process of CTFC 2025.

All submitted manuscripts were handled in accordance with Springer’s editorial policies and ethical guidelines. Where potential conflicts could arise, appropriate measures—such as reviewer or editor recusal—were applied to ensure fairness, transparency, and the integrity of the review process.

Some members of the editorial and scientific committees are affiliated with the same institutions as certain submitting authors, and in a few cases, student–supervisor relationships exist between authors and members of the editorial or review bodies. To address these potential competing interests and to preserve the integrity of the editorial process, **all such editors and committee members were recused from handling, reviewing, or making editorial decisions on the affected submissions.**

Manuscripts presenting potential conflicts were assigned to **independent editors and reviewers with no personal, professional, or institutional connections to the authors.** All reviews were conducted in accordance with Springer’s editorial policies and the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines, ensuring a fair, transparent, and unbiased peer-review process.

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