

## **Chairs dialogue with Major Groups**

Reflect on the “Proposed Elements for Consideration in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction” and building coherence and mutual reinforcement between DRR, SDGs and CC agreements

**15 July**

**0900-1030**

Madame / Mister Chair

I Mayor of Yogyakarta, thank you for giving this opportunity and I am honored to represent the local governments in this very important dialogue.

Sir, let me start by highlighting some of the problems that local authorities are facing now and would evidently face in the future.

As per UN, globally, more people live in urban areas than in rural areas, with 54 per cent of the world’s population residing in urban areas as of 2014. Today, the most urbanized regions include Northern America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe. In contrast, Africa and Asia remain mostly rural, with 40 and 48 per cent of their respective populations living in urban areas. All regions are expected to urbanize further over the coming decades. Africa and Asia are urbanizing faster than the other regions and are projected to become 56 and 64 per cent urban, respectively, by 2050.

On the same note, Africa and Asia are home to nearly 90 per cent of the world's rural population. India has the largest rural population (857 million), followed by China (635 million).

To add, the fifth IPCC assessment report, has strongly indicated that emerging climate change risks are concentrated in urban areas, climate change impacts on cities are increasing fast, in fact, two-thirds of cities with population's above 5 million are located in the Low Elevation Coastal Zone.

If that's not enough, the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction notes that poor urban governance drives urban risks.

Continuing population growth, urbanization, assets at risk and changing climate are adding to our existing problems at local level. Although local governments are at the forefront of reducing risk and managing disasters, HFA progress at the local levels has been lagging behind. Major barriers include insufficient devolution of authorities and resources to local levels and insufficient capacity of local institutions.

With regards, and having looked at the 600 local government self-assessment report submitted through the Making Cities Resilient campaign, we local authorities, who are at the forefront of risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development of our populations propose a few changes to the suggested elements paper.

First, we support the preamble of the and agree that the new framework should be built on existing frameworks while promoting actions at the local level in order to reduce the increasing risks from disasters worldwide.

Second, recognizing the needs at local level, we would call for reinforcement of the role of local and regional governments, strengthen their capacities and include them as essential implementers and actors of the framework under the guiding principle of the suggested elements.

To strengthen measures for implementation, we need to make provision for

- a. Integration of local risk information and engagement of local and regional governments in national decision-making process including national platforms and similar mechanisms which otherwise will induce new risks from future policies.
- b. Inclusion of urban development and land use plans to address disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
- c. Ensure allocation of budget and promote community-based disaster risk management by involving those at risk through planning, decisions and implementation - particularly women and other vulnerable groups as agents of change.

To reinforce public awareness and education, we, Mayors, recommend that the new disaster risk reduction framework should continue and further strengthen the key

role of local and regional authorities by effective decentralization with the principle of active citizen engagement and participation to ensure local risk reduction, climate change adaptation and resilience.

The suggested element puts forward global targets and families of input and output indicators for monitoring, reporting and review. Although policies and plans are developed at national level, investments and implementation are carried out at the local level, thus, we call for inclusion of local indicators and a strengthened local reporting which supports in the development and monitoring of local plans. Building on that and based on discussion at the Technical Session, yesterday, we recommend that national reports should be based on local inputs and achievements. The Making Cities Resilient Campaign and its Local Government Self Assessment tool should be further strengthened for this purpose.

Finally, there is huge gap in local data, we recommend that the HFA 2, the SGDs and the new climate framework should promote and ensure that mechanisms are put in place to address this gap.

Thank you