

## CHAIR'S DIALOG – Local Authorities

Geneva, 15 July 2015

Thank you Madame Chair,

I'm Alessandro Attolico, Executive Director of the Territorial Planning and Civil Protection Office at the Province of Potenza and I am here with Mr. Rossino, the Provincial Councillor at Local Authorities. Province of Potenza is an Italian Local Authority of Sub Regional and Supra Municipal levels whose political-institutional action is performed also by the interaction with the Municipalities. **It counts 100 Municipalities among its territorial and government extension.**

I am also representing all the local governments, cities and regional authorities that are part of the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient campaign globally, which currently stands at 1900.

The Province of Potenza has many territorial competencies. Territorial planning and civil protection are the most significant as regards the regional policies.

By 2013, the Province adopted its Structural Master Plan, that draws the local governmental proposals for the development of the provincial territory and, in particular, provides guidelines and support to the local actors - including Communities, private sector and Municipalities - for the **correct land use planning**. Within the territorial and urban planning tools, the Province of Potenza has established an intense cooperation process on issues related to the integration of **environmental sustainability** policies - including protection, use and management of the territory - linked to those relating to **community safety**, such as risk assessment, territorial impacts of disasters and related mitigation actions and climate change adaptation measures.

With the adoption of the Master Plan, the Province started proposing a comprehensive and supportive approach including cooperation with **local communities** and, in particular, with the **Municipalities**, to pursue the objectives of territorial resilience in a networking approach. This cooperation is aimed at the integration of **environmental sustainability** and **strengthening resilience** in the urban and land-use government actions.

For this purpose, the Province initiated a territorial coordination action providing coordination and support to Municipalities (knowledge, methodological, procedural, etc.) to strengthen strategies to integrate **sustainable** and **resilient** local development through the provision of tangible actions, facilitating the establishments of specific partnerships to jointly develop experiences and local actions.

Establishing this territorial network was not an easy task, so the Province benefited from the UNISDR "Making Cities Resilient" Campaign and its tools as a vehicle to bring together and call the attention of Cities to these important issues. To date **all 100 Municipalities** of the Potenza have joined the Campaign.

Now we aim to Local Resilience Action Plans which, starting from the current and actual needs, foresee the implementation of specific actions in the short, medium and long term.

The cooperation between the National Government, Province and the Municipalities will focus on integration of **disaster risk reduction**, **resilience** and **climate change adaptation** in the context of regional and urban planning, **proactive involvement of local communities** and **networking** to

facilitate the exchange and the implementation of good practices.

As a **bottom-up approach**, the most urgent issues to be promoted to the regional and national institutional levels is the need for a revision of the regional (but also national) land-use legislation for inclusion of risk mitigation measures (prevention), climate change adaptation and resilience. Including, knowledge and accessibility of innovative financial resources, in particular with the involvement of the private sector.

These actions will be accompanied by **specific commitments** in particular to:

1. **integration of territorial safety in environmental sustainability policies**, in perspective of inclusive and smart growth;
2. support and encouragement of **strategic cooperation** actions involving the interaction of finance, scientific research, industry and professional systems;
3. involvement of the **private sector**;
4. promotion, production, dissemination, **accessibility** of spatial information in the form of "open data" and the use of innovative tools and methods for risk assessment data elaboration, in order to be **accessible** also by the communities;
5. the **proactive involvement of stakeholders and communities** (in different groups of interest) in the land use planning activities processes;
6. the **active involvement** of the **civil society** (with particular attention to the most vulnerable), also though the involvement of the "non-governmental" organizations as a connection between institutions, communities, citizen;
7. promoting and investing in **rising awareness** within local communities and at all levels;
8. promoting and investing in **rising the political will** and **public support**;

We further commit to strengthen **Networking** with Municipalities towards:

- a. best practices proposition and sharing,
- b. providing support and cooperation,
- c. continuously monitoring the action,
- d. measuring and sharing the progresses,
- e. performing critical analysis,
- f. evaluating corrective and integrative actions,
- g. achieving a good communication flow among institutions and all stakeholders.

We hope that this process can be replicated **in other cities** and **provinces** around the world. Potenza will provide a progress report on this project in Sendai 2015.

In concluding, Madam Chair, we recommend that the commitments made by cities and local governments while joining the Making Cities Resilient Campaign should be included in the HFA 2 implementation process including the outcomes of the commitments made at regional platforms such as Aqaba, Gyuaqil, Abuja, Bangkok and Milan.

Thank you.