

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS' SOLIDARITY AND PREPAREDNESS INSTRUMENTAL TO THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

MOTION CARRIED BY ADA COLAU, MAYOR OF BARCELONA
ADOPTED BY THE WORLD COUNCIL OF UCLG
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LES GOUVERNEMENTS LOCAUX
ET RÉGIONAUX AU
DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
LOCAL AND REGIONAL
HEART OF SUSTAINABLE



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- 01** Local and regional governments are on the front line when it comes to responding to any type of crisis, natural or man-made. Under the current conditions of increasing violence, globalization and urbanization, these are a growing concern in terms of the scale and the number of people impacted.
 - 02** As the sphere of government closest to the people, local and regional governments have both a legal and moral obligation to act, not only towards the citizens we represent but also towards those that reach our territories seeking safety.
 - 03** Growing populations, environmental degradation, unplanned settlements, expanding and ageing infrastructure, the increasing number of assets at risk and armed conflicts are some of the causes that are leading to a humanitarian crisis comparable only to the great wars. We also underline the importance of recognizing climate change as one of the structural causes of future forced migration and of welcoming climate refugees as actions of moral and political responsibility.
 - 04** **We, local and regional governments, are convinced that solidarity and strong local responses will be instrumental to facing these challenges.**
 - 05** **We call on colleagues** around the world to commit to adequate awareness-raising actions oriented towards their populations, which need to foster solidarity and understanding. We call for all of us to develop policies that will prepare our territories.
 - 06** **We call on national governments** to include local and subnational governments in their deliberations and to provide adequate funding and capacity building to face crisis situations, in particular for displaced persons and the refugee crisis. We further call on the competent authorities to ensure the opening of safe and legal routes for all those seeking asylum and in need of international protection.
 - 07** **We further call on the international community** to ensure a specific focus on urban crises in the World Humanitarian Summit, to build on what is outlined in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, to pay special attention to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and to include a strong urban approach in the Paris Climate Conference (COP21) and the outcomes of the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).
 - 08** **We call on our World Organization, UCLG,** to continue working to ensure that the international community includes the local dimension and to support us to foster solidarity and peer-to-peer collaboration.
 - 09** **We commit to work together with all stakeholders to enable urban societies, in particular those most at risk, to prepare for, cope with and recover more quickly from the effects of natural disasters and/or armed conflicts.**
 - 10** **We commit to supporting the displaced and contributing to finding adequate solutions for their refuge.**
 - 11** Our commitment is embedded in human rights and based on the principles of gender equality, inclusive participation, accountability to affected populations, non-discrimination and the right to remedy violations. We further commit to ensure that gender disparities are addressed and that there is equality of access in crisis preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery activities.
- Further recommendations adopted by the World Council:**
- We propose that UCLG set up a working group to coordinate local action on refugees and allow cities receiving refugees to exchange knowledge, as well as to undertake joint advocacy directed at state governments regarding their competencies in the area. We hope all cities will support this initiative.