



SENDAI DECLARATION

Of LOCAL and SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

“ENSURING ENHANCED RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS IN THE URBAN WORLD”

1. We Local and Subnational Governments participating at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, have gathered from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai City of Miyagi Prefecture in Japan.
2. **Expressing** our gratitude to the City of Sendai, the Government of Japan and UNISDR for hosting this important event;
3. **Recognizing** that, climate change and uncontrolled urbanization are major risk drivers producing increased exposure and vulnerability to both people and assets, with 66% of the world's population projected to be living in urban areas by 2050, it is crucial resilience is incorporated into development to produce sustainable city futures;
4. **Acknowledging**, the role played by the “Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-15: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters” in the last ten years, that resulted in significant public awareness, mobilization of political commitments and building capacity particularly at the local and subnational government level, through the “Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready” campaign and its partnership;
5. **Emphasizing**, however, that despite all concentrated efforts, there are evident gaps in capacity, knowledge and financing at local level that would ensure implementation and sustainability;
6. **Taking into account**, the proposed Sustainable Development Goals that may call for making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable including the new climate regime to be adopted in Paris at COP21;
7. **Expressing**, the need for national governments and development partners to recognize the important role of local and subnational governments in disaster risk reduction and building resilience by engaging them in long term planning and national review processes;
8. **Acknowledging**, the targets set out by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
9. **Realizing**, that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 calls for empowerment of local authorities, as appropriate, through regulatory and financial means to work and coordinate with relevant stakeholders in disaster risk management at local level;
10. **Considering** the experience gained through the implementation of the Ten point checklist – Essentials for Making Cities Resilient;

Commit ourselves to



- I. **Adopt and implement** local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, across different timescales with associated targets, indicators and timeframes, aimed at preventing or minimizing the creation of risk, reduction of existing risk, and the strengthening of economic, social and environmental resilience;
- II. **Establish and strengthen** government coordination fora composed of all stakeholders at local levels including but not limited to youth, children, women, persons with disabilities, professional associations, academia, CSOs, NGOs, media and the private sector through local platforms on resilience;
- III. **Promote** the integration of disaster risk assessments into land-use policy development and implementation, including urban planning, land degradation, informal and non-permanent housing, integrated water management and the use of guidelines and follow-up tools informed of anticipated demographic and environmental change;
- IV. **Periodically, assess** and communicate disaster risks, including existing, emerging and new sources of risks, vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics and their possible cascading effects at the relevant social, economic and spatial scale;
- V. **Promote** revision of existing or the development of new building codes, standards, rehabilitation and reconstruction practices at the national and/or local levels, as appropriate, with the aim of making them more applicable in the local context, particularly in informal and marginal human settlements, and reinforce the capacity to implement, survey and enforce such codes, through an appropriate approach, with a view to fostering disaster-resistant structures and sustainable buildings, using innovative or traditional techniques as suitable;
- VI. **Ensure** the resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure, including the integration of disaster risk reduction considerations and measures in financial and fiscal instruments;
- VII. **Lead** the implementation of the NEW “Ten point Checklist – Essentials for Making Cities Resilient” and seek opportunities of synergies with existing initiatives, mechanisms, processes such as Resilient Cities Acceleration initiative, Durban Adaptation Charter, Compact of Mayors, Medellin Collaboration and Resilient Cities Congress Series;
- VIII. **Follow-up** and review implementation of this framework at local level based on internationally agreed monitoring tools such as the Local Government Self-Assessment tool (LGSAT) or UNISDR’s City Disaster Resilience Scorecard;
- IX. **Strengthen** the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and implement integrated environmental and natural resource management approaches that incorporate disaster risk reduction;
- X. **Invest in**, develop, maintain and strengthen people-centred multi-hazard, multi-sectoral forecasting and early warning systems;



- XI. **Prepare** and **periodically** update disaster preparedness and contingency policy that incorporates disaster risk reduction into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes;
- XII. **Impart and build** capacity of citizens and communities to effectively respond in case of disasters through DRR education and practical drills in schools and communities;
- XIII. **Strengthen** collaboration between the public and private sector for greater synergies to achieve resilience objectives;
- XIV. **Establish** a global network to connect disaster stricken cities for sharing information and mutual cooperation;

further:

11. **Recognizing**, the role of local governments as the primary responsible authority in disasters and emphasizing the greater need for international cooperation, we hereby reiterate the strong commitments of local and subnational governments and their networks, conveyed by Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), to collaborate with national governments and the global community to advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
12. **Request** continuation of “Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready” Campaign with added support and direct assistance at local level;
13. **Urge** agencies, networks and other relevant bodies of local governments to continue supporting cooperation and mutual learning and capacity development among local governments for disaster risk reduction and the implementation of this framework;

And finally:

14. Reconvene at UCLG World Congress in 2016 in Bogota, Colombia and the Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016 that will call for national and local commitments for a “New Urban Agenda”.

17 March 2015, Sendai