



Local Authorities Roundtable Sendai, March 13th

Concept Note (as of 15 January 2015)

The Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDRR) will take place from 14 to 18 March in Sendai, Japan, where an agreement on post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction will be adopted. This framework will guide and support our collective efforts to build resilient nations and communities to disasters. All the stakeholders committed to disaster risk reduction and resilience will gather in Sendai

To address the gap in local implementation of HFA 2005-2015, UNISDR launched the Making Cities Resilient Campaign in 2010 and has developed a global network of local governments committed to reducing risk and building more resilient cities with the support of LG organizations such as ICLEI and UCLG. These local government bodies represent cities of different sizes, characteristics, risk profiles and locations. Their efforts are reinforced by a supportive group of partner organizations. Through high profile media and public awareness activities, the campaign has helped to build a strong sense of political commitment among local governments to reduce disaster risk and address climate change adaptation. A successful campaign of implementation of the Ten essentials was conducted in several regions of the world.

Taking into account the experience gained through the implementation of the HFA, and in pursuit of the expected outcome and goal, laid in the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, there is a need for accelerated and focused action across sectors by local and national governments, in the following priority areas:

- 1) Understanding disaster risk;
- 2) Strengthening governance and institutions to manage disaster risk;
- 3) Investing in economic, social, cultural and environmental resilience;
- 4) Enhancing preparedness for effective response, and building back better in recovery and reconstruction.

Recognizing the pivotal role of local and regional government in urban risk reduction and resilience building and given the multiple efforts underway to support local governments in their adaptation and resilience efforts, the post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction provides a much-needed opportunity by calling for following actions:

1. Governance and capacity building

- Build the capacity of local government officials;
- Adopt and implement national and local plans;
- Strengthen mechanisms to monitor, periodically assess, ensure compliance, and publicly report on progress on national and local plans;
- Establish or further strengthen all-stakeholder coordination mechanisms at national and local levels, such as national and local platforms for disaster risk reduction;
- Strengthen policy, technical and institutional capacities in local and national disaster risk management, including those related to technology, training, and human and material resources;
- Explore synergies with existing initiatives, mechanisms, process, in particular focusing on climate adaptation such as Durban Adaptation Charter, Compact of Mayors, Resilient Cities Accelerator Initiative, Medellin Collaboration and Resilient Cities Congress Series

2. Legal and institutional framework

- Promote the coherence of, and further develop as appropriate, national and local frameworks of law, regulation and public policy, including for development, poverty reduction, climate change adaptation and environmental management, which through defining roles and responsibilities guide the public sector in: (i) addressing disaster risk in publically owned, managed or regulated services and infrastructure, and (ii) regulate and provide incentives for actions by persons, households, communities and businesses;



- Encourage the revision of existing or the development of new building codes, standards, rehabilitation and reconstruction practices at the national or local levels, as appropriate, with the aim of making them more applicable in the local context, particularly in informal human settlements, and reinforce the capacity to implement, monitor and enforce such codes, including through a consensus-based approach;
- Protect or support the protection of museums and other sites of historical, cultural and religious interest, as well as of work places;

3. Planning

- Give land-use policy development and implementation, including urban planning, informal and non-permanent housing, special attention due to their direct impact on risk exposure;
- Promote the incorporation of disaster risk assessment into rural development planning and management, in particular with regard to mountain and coastal flood plain areas, including through the identification of land zones that are available and safe for human settlement;

4. Finance

- Empower, through regulatory and financial means, local action and leadership in disaster risk management by local authorities;
- Allocate resources at all levels of administration for the development and the implementation of disaster risk reduction policies, plans, laws and regulations in all relevant sectors;
- Strengthen public investments in critical facilities and physical infrastructures, particularly disaster prevention and reduction structural measures, schools, clinics, hospitals, water and power plants, communications and transport lifelines, disaster warning and management centers through proper design, including the Principles of Universal Design, building better from the start, retrofitting and re-building, taking into account economic, social, and environmental impact assessments.
- Adopt public policies and establish coordination and funding mechanisms and procedures to plan and prepare for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction;
- Ensure the engagement of diverse institutions, multiple authorities and stakeholders at all levels, in view of the complex and costly nature of post-disaster reconstruction;
- Review existing financial and fiscal instruments in order to support risk-sensitive public and private investments;

5. Monitoring

- Promote and use voluntary and self-initiated peer reviews among countries and local governments;
- Development of monitoring mechanisms, those support national and local monitoring.

Keeping in view the expected outcomes of WCDRR and the focus on accelerated implementation at local level, ICLEI, UCLG, UNISDR and partners of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign will organize a local authorities roundtable on 13 March from 15:00 – 18:00 at Room 1&2. The purpose of this meeting would be to:

- discuss the implementation of post-2015 framework disaster risk reduction at local level
- discuss coordinate messages to deliver during the WCDRR
- and to agree and endorse the declaration of mayors.

Participants are all local government and partners of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign.



14-18 March 2015
Sendai, Japan

Agenda of Local Authorities Roundtable on 13 March:

Time	Discussion points
(30 mins)	Welcome to the group and Overview of WCDRR sessions
(60 mins)	Presentations by cities on the implementation of HFA2
(25 mins)	Presentations by partners and advocates
(15 mins)	Endorsement of declaration of mayors
(15 mins)	AOB
	Closure

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