

Medellín Collaboration on Urban Resilience 11 April 2014

The organizations represented below announce to work together to strengthen the resilience of all cities and human settlements around the world. We already collectively work in over 2,000 cities globally and commit more than \$2 billion annually toward advancing resilient urban development.

Our individual commitment and this collaboration is based on the challenges cities face in promoting sustainable urbanization, in particular the increasing urban exposure to various shocks and stresses. For example, there are nearly 180,000 people added to the urban population each day and, by 2030, there will be nearly 5 billion urban dwellers, representing 60 per cent of the world population. Over the past 30 years, the proportion of the population living in flood-prone river basins increased by 114 per cent and on cyclone-exposed coastlines by 192 per cent.

There are some 1 billion people living in informal settlements without adequate access to healthcare, clean water and sanitation, and in locations exposed to hurricanes, cyclones, flooding, earthquake, epidemics, as well as crime, and other man-made threats, including serious risks from catastrophic climate change. It is also equally important to note that economic losses due to disasters caused by natural hazards continue to increase particularly in wealthy countries. In 2010, the economic loss risk to floods in the OECD, which concentrates about 53 per cent of the global GDP exposed per year, is about 170 per cent more than in 1990.

The inter-connected nature of these conditions, coupled with an increasing global reliance on the exchange of goods and services produced in cities, strengthens the social, environmental, and economic imperatives for ensuring the resilience of all urban settlements.

There is growing understanding of the central role that cities play as contributors to global social, environmental, and economic progress, and the need to move beyond conventional approaches to disaster and climate hazard mitigation and prevention towards a forward-looking, holistic approach to resilience in the context of this new urban era.

With this greater understanding, numerous cities represented in Medellín have already substantially reduced their impact on the environment and strengthened their physical, social and economic resilience. These practices should not only be highlighted, but also promoted.

In addition, there are a number of good international initiatives supporting cities to mobilize national, regional, and local level actions that address drivers of vulnerability, including fighting poverty, building capacity, reducing the impacts of disasters, managing climate risks, and confronting climate change.

The goal of this collaboration is to facilitate the flow of knowledge and financial resources necessary to help cities become more resilient to disruptions related to climate change, disasters caused by natural hazards, and other systemic shocks and stresses, including the socio-economic challenges associated with rapid urbanization.

The collaboration aims to bring to bear our relevant expertise and resources on the following areas:

1. Developing common definitions and metrics for defining the multiple types of shocks and stresses experienced by cities and for assessing and measuring the resilience of cities;
2. Fostering harmonization of the multiple approaches and tools available to cities into a menu of services tailored to various social, economic, and environmental conditions;

3. Catalyzing access to existing international finance and innovative finance mechanisms, including risk-based instruments that will enhance cities' ability to reduce exposure and vulnerability to shocks stresses and increase their adaptive capacity;
4. Promoting resilience as a criterion for investment to ensure the sustainability of urban development;
5. Supporting capacity development of cities to achieve their goals by facilitating direct sharing of best practice information and knowledge enhancement;
6. Strengthening partnerships with those cities aiming to improve their resilience to a multitude of shocks and stresses;
7. Promoting greater alignment within the urban resilience agenda, including the post-2015 Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development frameworks, and the Habitat III agenda, towards the common purpose of maximizing the health and safety, resilience, inclusion and cohesion, and sustainability and prosperity of all cities and people living in them; and
8. Inviting and fostering new partnerships with urban networks and institutions and the private sector.

Signatories

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

The World Bank Group

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

The Rockefeller Foundation

100 Resilient Cities - Pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation

The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability