



Chengdu Declaration for Action

13 August 2011

Chengdu, People's Republic of China

The 2nd World Cities Scientific Development Forum and the First Mayors' Summit on Disaster Risk Reduction were held in Chengdu, China, from 11 to 13 August 2011. Organized jointly by the Government of Chengdu, the World Cities Scientific Development Alliance (WCSDA), the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and Sister Cities International (SCI), the two events were attended by more than 200 participants from 33 countries of Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe, including mayors, councillors, parliamentarians, ambassadors, civil society representatives, scientists and experts, as well as from UN agencies and other organizations.

The theme was *Development and Cooperation Among Cities: Building Liveable Cities for Humanity*. The events offered a platform for information sharing, knowledge transfer and brainstorming on challenges and opportunities of urbanization and city development around four topics:

1. Urban Planning and Design for Disaster Resilient Cities
2. Disaster and Emergency Management of Cities
3. Urban Economic Transition and Sustainable Development
4. Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation for Sustainable City Development

The ongoing UNISDR World Disaster Reduction Campaign - with the theme *Making Cities Resilient - My City Is Getting Ready!* - was an underlying topic.

Deliberations at the Forum emphasized that rapid urbanization was a major feature of industrialization and modernization, innovation and well-being, that cities were the drivers for national socio-economic development but such rapid urbanization and city development posed various challenges to governments, leaders and citizens. These challenges include natural resources and environmental management as well as climate change and disaster risks.

The participants also stressed that disasters were not natural, but the result of unsustainable development planning and activities. Natural hazards, such as floods, earthquakes and storms become disasters due to human and societal factors which can be addressed by decisive policies, actions and active participation. They noted that disaster risk reduction (DRR) was not expenditure but a no-regret investment that could protect lives, property, livelihoods, schools, businesses and employment.

They added that DRR and climate change were closely linked with sustainable development which needed social equity, economic sustainability and environmental protection, and in addition required multi-level cooperation and win-win partnership among different stakeholders at all levels and among civil society, cities and countries. While governments endeavour to make urban development fast, safe and sustainable, current policies and actions should not compromise natural resources and environment for future generations.

PLAN OF ACTION

Building on discussions at this (August 2011) Forum and the "Mayors' Statement on Resilient Cities" at the 3rd Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva in May 2011, mayors, local government leaders, parliamentarians and other stakeholders gathered in Chengdu at the First

Mayors' Summit on Disaster Risk Reduction held during the 2nd World Cities Scientific Development Forum, resolved to undertake the following:

1. ENHANCE COOPERATION

1.1. Sister cities collaboration:

- Seek further partnerships through the sister city model of collaboration, resulting in shared strategies, best practices and technical assistance aimed toward developing sister cities. Local governments will be able to strengthen their urban planning efforts, sustainable community initiatives and expand international outreach through a commitment to engage with other mayors, volunteers, business leaders and non-profit organizations. Additionally, at least annual gatherings of interested parties should be convened in forums to review progress toward these goals and report on continued next steps.

1.2. City-to-city collaboration

- Promote other models of city collaboration in the context of the *My City Is Getting Ready!* campaign and identify cities' offers of good practices and mutual cooperation that can be linked to any of the "Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient" and share successfully applied tools, methodologies and ordinances with others through the Campaign website, handbook and information products.
- Over a one-year period, identify a minimum of five city cooperation partnerships and publicize their results through the Campaign outreach for future multiplying effects.

1.3. Strengthen local capacity and national-local cooperation:

In the context of the Campaign:

- Address national governments and parliamentarians to highlight the need to strengthen the human and financial capacities of local governments for disaster risk reduction, planning and disaster management (including budget allocations that can be used for planning and prevention) and review or introduce needed legislation and bills to that extent.
- Ensure community and civic engagement is incorporated into all phases of resilience building and disaster risk management, including public-private partnership.

1.4. Urban resilience and development based on scientific knowledge:

- Ensure collaboration between universities and research institutions with local governments and city administrations.
- Invite academia to consider research topics to advance state-of-the-art urban risk reduction and applied research on risk modelling and methodologies to reduce risk.
- Cities involved in the Campaign shall reach out and cooperate on monitoring and assessing risks, analysing trends and develop social and engineering solutions to successfully shape a culture of resilience and invest smartly through innovative solutions and safer infrastructure development. This is especially relevant for schools, hospitals and health care systems, monitoring pandemic and other health risks, sanitation and improved urban drainage and water resource management (and other municipal and urban services).

2. INCORPORATE DISASTER RESILIENCE CRITERIA INTO URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Effective risk reduction is part of participatory, strategic local and urban development plans:

- Engage Campaign partners and cities in successful application of disaster resilience criteria in urban development, land use planning and strategic planning to develop guidelines (ex. Chengdu Municipal Planning and Designing Research Institute, China; South Africa; Makati in the Philippines; North Miami in the USA; Kobe in Japan).

- Use the “Greening of Cities” initiative as a possible model (San Jose/California, USA).
- Publish guidance notes and collect case studies for city administrators and urban planners.

3. ORGANIZE PUBLIC AWARENESS EVENTS

- Encourage community groups, citizens, local governments, youth groups, business associations and others to organize outreach awareness raising events in each city participating in the *My City Is Getting Ready!* campaign, during the UN International Day for Disaster Reduction on 13 October every year (and/or at commemorative dates of major local or national disasters) in activities such as: engaging youth and community groups and citizens in public hearings on risk information, drills and table-top exercises, media debates or other outreach activities; and share the guidelines, public announcements and results through the Campaign network and UNISDR. These activities will promote ownership among the public in self- and mutual help for disaster reduction and relief.
- Use these opportunities to strengthen local committees and alliances for disaster resilience in each city as an organizational mechanism to plan and follow up on the “Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient”.

4. BUILD ON INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR POLITICAL COMMITMENTS

4.1. Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and vulnerability assessments:

- Join efforts at city level to record and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (see ICLEI) and actively pursue multi-hazard risk assessments to be applied for integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction planning. Work with African institutions to promote local, national or regional-scale relocation solutions for population in high-risk, environment/land degradation or drought-stricken areas.
- Showcase cities’ advancement in building resilience at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Durban, South Africa, in December 2011 (and in the Republic of Korea in December 2012) to ensure proper access (and release of) to resources and fast track funding for climate change adaptation for cities (see: www.unfccc.org)

1.3. Sustainable development:

- Use international meetings to help address urban risk and increase cities’ experience of resilience building, such as the UN Conference on Sustainable Development “Rio+20”, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 4-6 June 2012 (www.uncsd2012.org).
- Work with national governments to include urban sustainable development and resilience as a national priority in the outcome of this conference.

5. ENHANCE DISASTER AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF CITIES

Disaster preparedness, including contingency planning and access to early warning systems, helps to save lives and property:

- Strengthen disaster and emergency management at city level and, as a principle, coordinate with all stakeholders and citizens groups to empower them to become integral part of emergency management, to make relief operations and recovery more effective, and as part of the planning and sustainable development of the community. In this effort pay special attention to the urban poor and elderly population who are vulnerable to hazards but have limited coping capacity.
- Work with schools and health facilities as essential services to the community, to assess their risks and to apply safety and preparedness measures to enhance long-term urban resilience.

We, the participants from cities, countries and organizations (listed in Annex), adopted this Chengdu Declaration for Action and will follow-up on and share it with other cities, as part of the ongoing UNISDR 2010-2012 Global Campaign. We shall continue to promote “My City Is Getting Ready!” networking and alliances with campaign partners (see: www.unisdr.org/campaign).

We, the organizers of this Forum and Summit, commit to follow up and facilitate the implementation and reviews of progress in future Forums.

ANNEX 1 - List of Countries and Organizations

with representatives, officials or nationals present at the 2nd World Cities Scientific Development Forum (WCSDF) and First Mayors' Summit on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Chengdu, People's Republic China, from 11 to 12 August 2011

Country	Local Government representatives	Organization
1. Bangladesh	Barisal	1. Chengdu Municipal Government
2. Barbados		2. Crisis Management Organization, Iran
3. Benin		3. Enviroplus + Associates Ltd
4. Cambodia		4. German Committee for Disaster Reduction
5. Canada	Vancouver	5. German Chamber of Commerce in China – South & Southwest China
6. China (People's Republic of)	Sanya City , Hainan Province; Mianyang City, Sichuan Province; Xining City, Qinghai Province; Luoyang City, Henan Province; Xianyang City, Shan'Xi Province; Dali; Deyang; Shanwei; Jiangyang; Chengdu; Beihai	6. SCI (Sister Cities International)
7. Congo (Democratic Republic of)		7. UNAPCAEM-ESCAP (United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)
8. Costa Rica	Siquirres	8. UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification)
9. Finland		9. UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre/SU-SSC (Special Unit for South-South Cooperation)
10. Germany		10. UNDP China / Disaster Management
11. Iran	Mashhad	11. UNESCO Global Task Force for Building Codes
12. Ireland	Ennis	12. UNISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction)
13. Jamaica	Portmore	13. WCSDA (World Cities Scientific Development Alliance)
14. Jordan		14. CADRI (Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative) [a joint programme of UNISDR, UNDP and OCHA (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)]
15. Kyrgyz Republic		
16. Lebanon	Beirut	
17. Malaysia	City of Kuching South & City of Miri, Malaysia Kolonia	
18. Micronesia (Federated States of)		
19. Nigeria	Abuja	
20. Pakistan	Punjab	
21. Palestine		
22. Philippines	Makati & San Fernando, Pampanga Province	
23. Poland		
24. Samoa (Independent State of)		
25. Senegal	City of Kayar	
26. Seychelles		
27. Singapore		
28. South Africa	Saldanha Bay	
29. Sri Lanka		
30. Uganda	Mbarara	
31. USA	Normandy, Minnesota, North Miami; Cincinnati, Phoenix	
32. Vanuatu	Lenakel, Luganville	
33. Vietnam		