



## **DECLARATION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AT THE 2019 GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

Local and Regional Governments are at the forefront of disaster risk reduction. When disasters strike municipalities and regions, it requires local authorities to react as the first line of response and relief. They are the sphere of government closest to the communities and are acutely aware of their unique characteristics, expectations and needs.

The role of local and regional governments needs to be broadly understood not only from the perspective of efficient relief in case of a disaster but also critical for resilience policy development, risk management and community building.

Since the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 and in particular since the last Global Platform in 2017 the local and regional level have contributed notably to the reduction of disaster risk and have demonstrated great commitment to involve communities in resilience development.

Many cities around the world have established local disaster risk strategies and specific departments dealing with disaster risk reduction, thereby improving their resilience and contributing at the same time to the achievement of target E of the Sendai Framework. Many more need to complete this task.

At the same time, the global number of disasters (as well as the number of losses and affected people) continues to rise at a high level. Local and regional governments are facing new challenges regarding disaster risk management related to the increasing frequency of extreme events.

In this context the need for coherence and synergy with other global agendas, such as the Paris Agreement, Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda is crucial.

We, Local and Regional Governments, participants in the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, gathered on 14 May 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland:

**Commend** the positive impact of the *Making Cities Resilient Campaign* and other internationally driven efforts to raise awareness and foster and strategic approach to resilience.

**Recognize** the achievements made by the local and regional level in disaster risk reduction (DRR) we renew our commitment to achieve the Sendai Framework for DRR as an important agenda by 2030.



**Acknowledge** the need for climate action and commit to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement as well as fostering coherence and synergy with other global agendas such as the Agenda 2030 and New Urban Agenda in our action.

**Request** institutional, financial and technical support from the national governments and supra national organizations for disaster risk reduction to increase the resilience of our cities and territories.

**Accept** that the nature can provide eco-system services and resilience from risks like heat, flood, drought and pollution. If we protect nature, nature will protect us.

**Reinforce** the principles of good governance, community participation and commitment and accountabilities of local leaders.

**Acknowledge** the critical role to be played by local and regional government networks in the localization of the Sendai framework, in fostering learning and raising awareness about the links between local action and the achievement of the global agendas.

In this context, we:

**Call on national governments** and the international community to provide an enabling environment including adequate resources to increase the mandate and capacity of local and regional governments to enhance the efforts to reduce the risks of disasters.

**Call on the international community** at the front line of humanitarian response to join the Global Alliance on Urban Crisis and to involve local governments in their strategic approach and actions.

In this light and with the resolve to play our part in facilitating fair, resilient and liveable communities we commit to:

**Review** periodically the progress made by local and regional governments concerning the achievement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

**Foster** achievement of target E of the Sendai Framework by 2020 through the establishment of city to city learning and capacity building.



**Ensure** that the development of strategies is inclusive and mindful of the values, perspectives and cultures of the local communities, putting to the full use the local wisdom, knowledge and experience.

**Promote** multi-level cooperation with national government, other stakeholders and the international community in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

**Foster** solidarity among local governments through our worldwide municipal movement and our local and regional government associations.

**Promote** territorial cohesion in the development and implementation of strategies.

**Involve** civil society organization, educational institutes, non-profit organizations, private sector and citizen in the localization of the Sendai Framework.

**Continue** to support the Making Cities Resilient Campaign and its successor and make measurable and actionable proposals that can significantly contribute to creating resilient communities, especially for women, children, persons with disabilities and vulnerable population.

**Ensure** strong links between the localization of Agenda 2030 and the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

ADOPTED IN GENEVA, 14 MAY 2019

