



DECLARATION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AT THE 2017 GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Cities and urban centres in developing countries are evolving rapidly without always being able to fund sustainable and resilient planning and infrastructure to protect populations and property. This large-scale urbanization is a major challenge for many countries to address on many levels and, in particular, as regards the resilience of public infrastructure, the introduction of local risk-reduction strategies and protecting vulnerable populations.

Local and regional governments, in the majority of countries, play an important role in developing and improving the population's standard of living. They are increasingly considered to be essential partners in developing and implementing public policies, ensuring effective and equitable services for citizens and building necessary infrastructure for economic development and a better quality of life.

The last two years (2015-2016) have been pivotal in moving the International Community towards fairer, more inclusive and resilient societies. Indeed, the adoption of several global agendas (Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction:2015-2030, Paris Agreement, Financing for Development, Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda) is evidence of this wish for a fairer and more desirable world. In order to maintain this momentum, two requirements must be fulfilled: the first involves seeking coherence and synergy between these different agendas, and the second guaranteeing the resources and tools to implement them.

We, Local and Regional Governments, participants in the 5th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, gathered on 23 May 2017 in Cancún, Mexico;

- A. **Expressing** our gratitude to the city of Cancún and to the Mexican authorities for their welcome and to United Nations Officer for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) for organizing this major event;
- B. **Recognizing** the positive effects of controlled urbanization which enables us to manage development processes as opposed to uncontained urbanization, which tends to increase risks and the vulnerability of people and property;
- C. **Seeking** to give new impetus to the Making Cities Resilient Campaign in order for our cities and our territories to be as well protected as possible against disasters;
- D. **Recognizing** our commitment to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;



- E. **Expressing** our commitment to local action and international cooperation to achieve Goal 11 of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities;
- F. **Promoting** the benefit for all in seeking coherence and synergies between resilience and risk reduction, on the one hand, and the Paris Agreement, the Financing for Development, Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda, on the other;

Are committed to:

1. **Stepping up** our local action with a view to implementing the Sendai Framework;
2. **Introducing** a specific budget for disaster risk reduction and particularly in cities which are located in areas subject to risks, and establishing a specific budget line in the general budget allocated to disaster risk reduction;
3. **Strengthening** our territories' technical and institutional capacities and providing continual training that is tailored to technicians;
4. **Incorporating** disaster risk reduction considerations into spatial planning and development;
5. **Adopting** an overall approach to our territories in order to consider both risk reduction and climate change, which has an impact on populations and property;
6. **Introducing** arrangements at local level for coordination and consultation with the different state departments and with non-governmental organizations in order to improve knowledge of disaster risks;
7. **Giving** more visibility at local level to the International Day for Disaster Reduction (held on the second Wednesday in October each year), by organizing discussions and open days at the specialized services for citizens and also in order to present traditional expertise so that it endures;
8. **Setting up** a local coalition around elected officials which includes all public and private partners for consultation and exchanging information on disaster risks;

Furthermore,

Recognizing the role of national, regional and international associations in supporting local and regional governments to prepare and implement their



strategies, build public policies in partnership with the national level and also publicize innovative experiences in disaster risk reduction at local level;

9. We call upon States and national governments to provide local governments with all the necessary financial (subsidies, aid, tax incentives, etc.), institutional and legislative support (improvement of urban planning frameworks and laws, new supervisory structures for construction, land speculation, etc.).
10. We request the international community (civil society, research centres, universities, the private sector, etc.) and the United Nations specialized agencies to give their support and technical and financial assistance to local governments in order to achieve the imminent goals set by the Sendai Framework and the other international agendas.

Adopted in Cancún, 23 May 2017.

