

High Level Forum

“Implementing Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at Local Level”

Venue: City Hall, Florence, Italy

Dates: 16-17 June 2016

Context of the event

We live in an urbanizing, complex world. Up to two-thirds of the world’s population – some six billion people – may live in cities by 2050. Cities act as first responders to disasters and urban populations experience the impacts firsthand. In order to reduce vulnerability and to protect inhabitants from current and future risks, cities face the challenge of building their resilience while adapting to growing urban populations, increasing pressures on basic service networks, and climate change. The best way to ensure success would imply immediate intervention by local governments in terms of cooperation, planning and investment.

In lieu and on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the devastating Florence floods, the Italian Government and the City of Florence in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) are organizing a High Level Forum gathering Ministers, Mayors, policymakers, local government authorities, private sector, experts and partners from across the world interested and committed in local and urban resilience and disaster risk reduction. The event features the attendance of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, and other high-level dignitaries and local level representatives.

Objectives

The high level forum will:

- Highlight the importance of disaster risk reduction at the core of the sustainable development and climate change agendas.

- Provide input for the development of Habitat III Conference (Quito, 2016), The Climate Change COP22 (Marrakesh, 2016), and the Fifth Global Platform on DRR (Cancun, 2017).
- Promote a coherent approach in the implementation at local level of the post-2015 international agreements (i.e. the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals –SDGs, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change):
 - SDG Goal 11 directly calls on Mayors and local governments to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
 - The Sendai Framework has prescribed a strengthened disaster risk governance, all of society’s engagement, stronger coordination and a series of other priority actions that local governments need to undertake within the course of the next fifteen years; and
 - The Paris Agreement recognizes the need for local authorities and communities to strengthen knowledge, technology, practices and efforts.

Expected outcomes

The high level forum challenges policymakers, local government authorities, private sector, experts and partners to:

- A set of commitments to actions that will enable the local authorities to risk proof their investments, and keep citizens and businesses informed and aware, so as to address current and future risks that may impact their communities.
- Real actions addressing the challenge of the implementation and achievement of those targets defined by the international agreements for local authorities with a focus on disaster risk reduction and building resilience.
- Sharing and spreading knowledge, good practices and non-sensitive data.
- Identifying plans and actions to be considered in future global forums, such as Habitat III Conference (Quito, 2016), The Climate Change COP22 (Marrakesh, 2016), and the Fifth Global Platform on DRR (Cancun, 2017).