



# Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Fourth Session - Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow

Geneva, Switzerland, 19-23 May 2013

<b>Name and Type of Event</b>	Post-2015 Framework for DRR Consultation with Mayors and Local Governments
<b>Date</b>	20 May 2013
<b>Reporters name</b>	
<b>Number of Participants</b>	

## I. Introduction

The following reflects inputs from local governments attending the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR13) as member of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign. These observations are taken from Consultations, bi-laterals, and the meeting with the DSG. More than 200 Mayors and local governments are represented at the GPDRR2013.

## II. Main observations

**HFA-2 Must Reflect Urban Development and Political Challenges:** For cities in developing countries, where the rate of urbanization is happening the fastest, and those in the throes of conflict and perennial social unrest, it is difficult to push a DRR agenda. Likewise, growing urban populations brings additional governance challenges. Youth unemployment, a lack of access to basic services (water, sanitation, etc), compound the social pressures on cities.

**Recommendation:** The HFA and future frameworks should, therefore, consider the broader 'Resilience' agenda, which reflects growing challenges urban populations and local governments will face. Need to think beyond a 'disaster risk' agenda.

**HFA-2 Should Focus on Long-Term Planning (20-30 years):** Informal settlement (slum) growth is the biggest challenge facing cities in the world's most rapidly urbanizing nations. The vast majority (75%) of city governments in Africa cite informal settlements as their biggest problem. The challenges linked to slum growth mean that DRR often takes a backseat to development, because the two are viewed as separate challenges requiring separate solutions. Local governments need to balance the demand from people to deliver immediate solutions to big problems, while also taking a longer view that will avoid repeating the same mistakes and compounding existing challenges. The solutions needed --development of safe land and housing; natural resource

management, building of schools, medical and health facilities, availability of sanitation, piped water, and other municipal services---requires time and sound planning guidance.

**Recommendation:** HFA-2 should emphasize a long-term planning and development process. A 10-year framework is too short. It should be more like 20-30 years.

**Drivers of DRR—it's not always about the money:** The notion of mainstreaming is not a concept—it's a way to work and distribute resources efficiently. To mainstream, you must work at different levels. Local governments need to get away from this idea of the disaster management cycle. Sectorial approaches—transport, waste management, land-use planning etc. --are one way to incorporate disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management into municipal plans and budgets. Overall, local governments see the main drivers of disaster risk reduction as:

--Sectorial approaches; transport; land-use planning, etc.

--Access to more effective tools and methods of assessing, measuring disaster risk reduction and resilience efforts.

--Scaling-up knowledge sharing and training--especially between local governments and technical experts.

**Recommendation:** National and international community should look at the Philippines as an example (5% of national budget on disaster risk reduction), but also focus on building technical capacity—especially at local level, where human resource and technical expertise is often limited.

**Community Engagement is Critical:** It is crucial to engage and empower communities by providing resources from central and local government to support them in developing ideas for appropriate responses to reduce risk or increase resilience, which are compatible with their unique situation. There are resources and funds available if you cast the net very wide. We need to adapt and learn from other communities.

**Recommendation:** Recognizing that most of the time we are not operating in a response or recovery phase, governments at all levels must focus on enhancing resilience in the community while simultaneously ensuring local government is operationally ready to respond.

**The Future is Only Getting Riskier – HFA-2 Must Reflect Climate Change, Land and Environmental Degradation, and Threats to Natural Resources:** Further key issues that we recognize include the wide range and type of risks being faced, the level of risk awareness, and the changing perception of risk over time. Many communities do not recover economically and many must relocate. Climate Change will worsen conditions. All Campaign cities living on or near coastlines are facing risks, while the implications for all urban areas is more extreme flooding and droughts, which compromise water supplies and puts people in unlivable circumstances. We must concentrate on building resilience into urban planning practices and infrastructure --building dykes, dams and other infrastructure.

**Recommendation:** Any new international framework must reflect Climate Change and in the context of urban areas, since the most extreme effects of climate change will be felt within the next 30 years-- when 80% of the world's population is projected to be living in cities.

### **III. Overview of Key Recommendations:**

- Create opportunities to engage and empower local communities to make decisions that improve disaster risk reduction outcomes.
- Carry out updated and adequate local and regional diagnostics and information systems to identify all types of vulnerabilities and risk scenarios to be included in local policies and projects.
- Promote decentralized cooperation and strategic alliances among local and regional governments to exchange good practices and experience on disaster risk reduction and resilience.
- Promote a culture of resilience through education at all levels and include this subject on the agenda of public debate with the participation of mass media.

#### **In support of the above, Local Governments recognize the need to:**

- Move to practical guidance and benchmarking as aspirational standards, including for urban design and building.
- Create a methodology for municipalities to engage with community groups and public and private institutions.
- Seek solutions internally. Resources for resilience should not be only expected from the outside- from national or international sources. Local governments should also seek to generate and provide innovation for endogenous sources.
- Systematically promote a culture of transparency and good governance.
- Reiterate UNISDR World Disaster Risk Reduction Campaign by not only re-engaging cities, but seeking commitment to action and ensuring DRR Campaign tools (LGSAT) are implemented across regions.
- Engage academic institutions to support the cities campaign.
- Ensure political commitments to support local level implementation.
- Promote best practices of cities at the global level.
- Engage the private sector in disaster risk reduction projects at the local level.
- Ensure concerns of local level authorities are reflected post 2015 negotiations.
- Re-energize the [regional] cities' networks through increased commitment by local actors.
- Promote disaster risk reduction focused capacity building across all levels of local administration, including for high-level officials.
- Facilitate and participate in city-to-city learning and sharing experiences.

