

**GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION  
FIRST SESSION, 5-7 JUNE 2007, GENEVA**

**RESOLUTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

We, the representatives of local authority organisations (UCLG and its metropolitan section, Metropolis, ICLEI and Citynet) and their partner EMI (Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative), met on 5 to 7 June in Geneva on the occasion of the First Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, whose members include the United Nations, central governments, local authorities and expert bodies;

Whereas the Hyogo Framework for Action (Kobe, Japan 2005) proposes – through this platform – to devise policies and actions that seek to reduce the loss of human lives and material, economic and environmental damage caused by disasters, notably in towns and cities;

Recognising that our world is increasingly urbanised and that the concentration of populations in towns and cities has considerably raised the impact of disasters on people and on material assets and the economy in general, as demonstrated by the examples of Bam, Banda Aceh, Istanbul, Kobe, Manila, Mexico and New Orleans;

Mindful that good urban management, founded on the principles of good governance, should encompass a policy to prevent and reduce the risk of disasters;

Convinced that disaster risk reduction strategies cannot solely be devised and implemented at a local level but that they require a joint effort by all stakeholders, as well as the mobilisation of the necessary expertise and finance;

Recalling the commitment of local authorities around the world to working to prevent and reduce disasters and to mobilise where needed in the face of humanitarian emergencies;

We call on all partners (the United Nations, central governments, multilateral organisations, the private sector, civil society, academic circles and the scientific community) to:

1. Support the constitution of an Urban Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction;
2. Make this Urban Forum a useful tool for developing urban policies to prevent and reduce disasters by means of specific action plans in order, in particular, to strengthen the means and capacities of local authorities and associations with a part to play in this sphere;
3. Support, through this Urban Forum, a new awareness among international organisations and central governments of the specific nature of urban problems in relation to disaster prevention;
4. Equip this Urban Forum with a co-ordination mechanism encompassing the main partners, and with a secretariat, initially within the ISDR, to ensure that the actions approved are implemented and monitored;
5. Ensure, in order to attain the proposed goals, the active and decisive participation of local authorities and their representative bodies, as the main interested parties, in the co-ordination and governance mechanisms of this Urban Forum.

Geneva, 6 June 2007

