

**COMMITMENT OF  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS  
TO THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE  
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION  
14 TO 18 MARCH 2015, SENDAI, JAPAN**

**Preamble**

Local Government Leaders in the Americas are aware of their great responsibility to contribute to the construction of more prosperous, protected and resilient communities and territories. A fundamental aspect of this task is to advance the effective reduction and management of risk associated with the occurrence of natural phenomena and human activities and implement adaptive strategies to climate change so that they are incorporated in municipal, regional and national environmental planning.

Heeding the call of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction to highlight this effort, increasing its visibility in the content of the post-2015 framework and recognizing the achievements in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action of the stakeholders at the local level, we propose the establishment of voluntary commitments from leaders to achieve the objectives of the post-2015 framework.

Voluntary commitments, assumed by the different actors working in building resilient cities, disaster risk reduction and the reduction of various forms of disturbance that affect the people and ecosystems of the regions of the

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Americas, translate into Agendas for Urban Resilience with monitoring and evaluation instruments. These monitoring tools will enrich and accelerate the implementation of the priorities in the framework post 2015.

Understanding that the situation of Local Governments across the Americas is varied in terms of their institutional strengths, management capacities and resource availability, and considering that the local governments could provide services to others in matters of cooperation, particularly for the prevention and reduction of risk and adaptation to climate change, we believe that it is feasible to establish a consensus on a set of commitments that we would assume as Local Governments of the Americas to contribute to the formulation and implementation of the post-2015 framework, reinforcing strategies of urban and regional planning and response capacities to various forms of disturbance and crises. In this sense, the construction of urban and community resilience in the Americas will be addressed with knowledge of the vulnerabilities of the different ecosystems that provide services to urban and rural populations.

These commitments reaffirm the vision and will to act together with all stakeholders in achieving sustainable development that is resilient and sensitive different types of risk and to challenges to the establishment of a culture of prevention and timely response to the climate vulnerability.

Voluntary commitments of Local Government Leaders in the Americas are an example of the responsibility, vision and willingness to act to achieve prosperous, protected and resilient communities, nations and cities.

These commitments are an important leadership exercise by governments at different territorial levels, and facilitate the implementation of the Post-2015 Framework, therefore we expect to be recognized as part of the overall outcome and incorporated into the political declaration of the World Conference of Japan.

Aware the importance for the future of our cities and the planet, we make the following voluntary commitments:

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## Chapter 1.

### **Leadership and resilience building, DRR and sustainable**

1. Understanding the need to integrate all stakeholders in territorial planning, promote awareness and investment in the risk prevention and increase resilience in our cities and towns, we are committed to taking a leadership role to establish links between local development and resilience in the face of various forms of crisis, including natural disasters and those of anthropogenic origin.

Goal: Actively promote knowledge on the subject, establish a programme of South-South Cooperation between cities with best practices, organize capacity-building forums and conferences, promote awareness of local officials and promote voluntary commitments signed between civil society and communities with the local government to build resilience, which includes DRR.

Indicator:

Number of public interventions on the subject a year

Number of forums and conferences

Number of training events in the commune on the subject a year

Number of officials certified in awareness of sustainable cities, DRR and resilience

Number of commitments with civil society and communities

Programme for South-South cooperation established (set date)

2. We pledge to be advocates and leaders at the national, sub-national and local levels

Goal: Actively promote partnerships between local governments and sensitize regional and national government structures in the field

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Indicator:

Results of the work of the Urban Risk Platform 2010-2015

Annual city investment in risk prevention programmes and projects

Number of meetings between local leaders and governors for the definition of regional priorities

Number of projects and amounts of South-South cooperation

Meetings with regional authorities to coordinate programmes with local authorities

Number of meetings with national authorities

Number of joint declarations achieved with other local authorities

Number of declarations achieved by regional or national authorities

3. We pledge to work with our municipalities and municipal governments, civil society and the private sector to create business networks and NGOs aimed at capacity building in the field of local government

Goal: creation of business networks and NGOs focused on the topic of sustainable and resilient cities - DRR

Invite a representative of companies and NGOs from the district to participate in the work plan and decision making related to the topic

Indicator:

Number of business networks

Number of civil society networks

Number of companies and NGOs involved in the municipality

4. We pledge to promote partnerships between cities on the continent to promote the existence of a spokesperson and consistent information on the subject of sustainable and resilient cities with DRR and other topics related to resilience and for national and international entities to channel available resources through coordination with local governments.

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Goal: creation of city networks to promote information and investment of national, international and multilateral entities, creating sustainable and resilient cities with DRR.

Indicator:

Number of mayors associated

5. We pledge to promote the Roadmap for Resilient Cities for Resilience and to broaden the alliance of local governments to identify good practices of urban and community resilience, promoting the transfer of knowledge, expansion of political space, socialization and dissemination of experiences and the monitoring of progress achieved.

Goal: Share successful information, experiences and best practices with other cities

Establish a working group of extra-communal/territorial work with neighbouring municipalities with geographic and institutional similarities to share information relevant to the issue and coordinate action to jointly confront the possible risks in the area.

Indicator:

Number of best practices exported

Number of best practices imported

Extra-communal working group established (annually or semi-annually, depending on the needs and risks of the territory)

6. We pledge to invest in local stocks and protect the most vulnerable people through legal and regulatory frameworks constructed in a participatory and appropriate manner that ensure the recognition and protection of vulnerable people and beings in planning for the development of sustainable cities, addressing risk and increasing the resilience within the framework of Human Rights and agreements between countries to decrease urban inequities.

Goal: establish legislative or regulatory instruments that recognize the vulnerable populations and promote harmonious development

Indicator:

Number of proposed instruments for children and adolescents, women, animals, people with different needs, the elderly, indigenous peoples, people in at risk areas, etc.

Number of instruments adopted

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7. We pledge to incorporate initiatives related to resilience and DRR initiatives into our city budget line, to make it a priority within municipal/local investments.

Goal: Decentralize purchases to facilitate certain investments, adequately review purchase items to verify which are truly priority and which may be managed from other sources in order to prioritize initiatives of resilience and DRR

Indicators:

Budget item defined for DRR

8. We pledge to create a complete source of information with all the projects, initiatives and advances that are being developed related to DRR and resilience in all departments of the municipality in order to strengthen the coherence of municipal management and grant access to this information to all staff and inhabitants of the municipality.

Goal: Create a complete database and socialize through a platform virtual.

Indicators:

Database and virtual platform established and running by early 2015

## Chapter 2.

### **Local sustainable and resilient development focused on DRR**

9. We pledge to design an Agenda for Resilience to implement the paradigm of sustainable development in our cities, which implies that economic development should not be a factor of increased risk despite uncertainties caused by climate change and other disturbances that are inherent in the urbanization model, and that public and private investments seek to generate wealth that is conditional on respect and improvement of the environment, contribute to the prevention of the effects climate change, generate social inclusion, reduce disaster risks and develop a culture of resilience in communities.

Goal: A cultural change through information and awareness, and achieve legislative or regulatory instruments governing the growth and investment so that economic development is sustainable, resilient and decrease disaster risk.

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Indicator:

Number of campaigns and educational efforts

Number of proposed instruments

Number of instruments adopted

10. We pledge to reformulate land use management and local development plans to integrate risk reduction and prevention in all municipal functions, including new institutional arrangements, plans and regulatory systems for the conservation of water sources and water use; the construction and use of land in safe areas' integrated management of solid and liquid waste, inclusive of the recyclers unions; water production, distribution and discharge systems; environmental management of biodiversity and forest reserves, parks and green spaces in the structure Principle Ecological Structure of each city; emergency response and humanitarian assistance; and monitoring of productive development sectors.

Goal: Reconstruct the network of local legislative or regulatory instruments, starting with the general development plans of urban planning and development, raising awareness throughout the community/city.

Build a community resilience policy and institutionalize the policy to serve as a guideline for municipal management.

Indicator:

Planning System that includes DRR and climate change scenarios

Development plan approved and socialized extensively in the population

Number of institutional arrangements and proposed instruments

Number of instruments adopted and socialized

Number of citizens socialized

Community resilience policy generated and enacted in the municipality

11. We pledge to establish a system of internal indicators in our municipality that the enables the evaluation of local management under the post 2015 Monitoring tool established by the United Nations.

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Goal: Build a system of indicators

Indicator:

Identify existing indicators in several cities

Evaluate and adjust indicators

Indicator system implemented in each city

Results report

12. We pledge to identify the risk in our area, allowing citizens to be informed of the risk level where they live, work or study.

Goal:

Generate a risk map in our municipality and socialize with every citizen.

Indicator:

Risk Map to scale and appropriate for decision-making: created, published and socialized

13. We pledge to regularly conduct - in schools and public places – exhibitions of projects on resilience and restoration in high-risk areas, ongoing projects and experiences in other cities to maintain the population informed, raise awareness and develop a culture of resilience in our community/city.

Goal: Massive dissemination of information related to DRR and community resilience and begin to cultivate an awareness of resilience in the community

Indicator:

Number of exhibitions a year

Number of people exposed to the information

14. We pledge to regularly conduct adverse event drills in schools and public places in each locality, according to the characteristics of each area.

Goal:

Conduct adverse event drills at least twice a year, evaluating evacuation systems, damage simulation, simulation of recovery capabilities

Indicator:

Number of drills performed annually.

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15. We pledge to create a Resilience Control Unit to follow up on commitments set out in this document and its advances, which function as watchdogs of all municipal projects, initiatives and programmes.

Goal: Create Resilience Control Unit Resilience Committee comprised of at least one representative from each department/municipality to meet to review all municipal projects, ensuring respect for the concepts of DRR, resilience and sustainability.

Indicators:

Resilience Control Unit operating.

Number of meetings of the unit

Number of resilience projects being implemented

Participation of Unit representatives in project working groups

Chapter 3.

**Integration of the communities. Recognition, strengthening, creation of networks in the framework of the Roadmap, to assess compliance with voluntary commitments of local governments**

16. We pledge to promote and achieve meaningful participation of community and related groups, as well as to create and strengthen networks and their coordination, promote local multi-sectoral platforms/ partnerships and sensitize the population about all efforts in the district in terms of commitments and resilience in general.

Goal:

Sensitize and train the community on issues of resilience and fulfilling commitments underway in the district

Create a multi-sectoral social network, socialized in the subject

Indicator:

Number of communities, sectors, companies, collectives, etc.. Integrated into the local network

17. We pledge our commitment to building an Agenda for Resilience, for establish and subscribe to the monitoring of a declaration of principles,

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which declares a social agreement between the different social sector, the national, sub-regional and local government, academia, the media, and stakeholders, NGOs, companies, businesses, trade organizations and unions, religious groups, schools and generally as many stakeholders in the locality. Such a declaration of principles will include the main tenets of action contained in the post-2015 framework and will constitute a declaration of intent, based on the size and complexity of each city, establishing strategies of inclusion of the society in the construction of urban and community resilience.

Goal:

Prepare and sign the declaration of principles of the sustainable, secure and resilient city

Indicator:

Number of integrated communities

Declaration signed

18. We pledge to develop education programmes that address the cultural diversity of populations, to be implemented in communities, schools and formal education centres, primary or basic education to integrate into the educational process the concepts of biodiversity, gender, peace and reconciliation, territory, sustainability, climate change and the approach of resilience and DRR, and to develop preventive habits in women children and the elderly.

Goal:

Develop and implement continuing education programme in the first three years of education. Annually apply a fun assessment-contest to measure programme impact.

Indicator:

Number of schools in which the programme is taught

Number women and children enrolled in the programme

Result of the Evaluation

19. We pledge our commitment to create the stimulus necessary to highlight the accomplishments of communities that raise awareness and integrate the paradigm of sustainable urban and rural development, resilience and DRR. We will create the local award for "Community Champion" with a system adapted to the local reality of the Resilient Cities Global Campaign promoted by UNISDR in each region of the Americas: High Andean Zone, Amazon, Orinoco, Pacific, Caribbean, Atlantic, Pampa, etc.

Goal:

Develop and implement the local resilient cities campaign and create the "Community Champion" award promote and monitor the Roadmap proposed in 2014

Indicator:

Number of integrated communities

Number of communities evaluated as champions

Others

20. We pledge our commitment to establish mechanisms to conduct social audits as a cross-cutting and strategic aspect of Urban and Community Resilience, prevention and risk reduction and a strengthened local and urban governance; by creating Agendas of Resilience in every city and 'Sustainability and Resilience Groups' (SRGs) in each community, responsible for the social control of strategies, regulations and local and national efforts on the subject. We pledge to recognize the evaluation mechanisms that multi-sectoral and community networks agree to assume.

Goal:

Establish a community system of evaluation and social audit of sustainability and resilience. Having an agreed and common evaluation system at the local level.

Indicator:

Number of SRGs operating