

“The Florence Way Forward”
on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework at the Local Level
Adopted at the High Level Forum on Implementing the Sendai Framework
for Disaster Risk Reduction at the Local Level
Florence, Italy, 16 and 17 June 2016

We, Ministers, National government officials, Mayors, representatives of the United Nations, Council of Europe, European Commission, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, European Union Committee of the Regions, Private Sector, United Cities and Local Government, Non-Governmental Organizations, International agencies, and the private sector

1. Having contributed to the event *“Implementing Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at Local Level”* organized by the City of Florence, the Italian Civil Protection Department and UNISDR,
2. *Recognizing that:*
 - a) For the first time in history, more than half of humanity lives in urban areas, making urbanization one of the 21st century’s most transformative trends, intensifying its social, economic, political, cultural, and environmental opportunities and challenges. Rural areas remain key to providing living space for the other almost half of humanity, with very different challenges and needs.
 - b) Cities are key to tackling local, national and global challenges, such as poverty, social inequalities, risk management and climate change. Well-managed urbanization can contribute to resilient, sustainable and inclusive growth.
 - c) However, the primary urban agglomerations with the highest concentrations of people and economic activity mostly overlap with the areas of extreme or high risk related to disasters such as coastal areas, areas along rivers and flood plains.
 - d) Flooding is the most frequent and greatest hazard that affects cities or urban agglomerations; at least 250 cities are located in or are close to areas with high risk of flooding – potentially affecting 663 million inhabitants.
 - e) There is a need to encourage cities and human settlements to become inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable and to provide and maintain basic societal services and infrastructure.
 - f) Investing in enhancing preparedness and community resilience are the most effective and cost-effective ways to mitigate against the impact and cost of responding to and recovering from disasters.

3. *Recalling that* the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement and the outcome of the first World Humanitarian Summit, all acknowledge the need for strong coordination and action at the local level.
4. *Considering that* the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in Quito, Ecuador from 17 to 20 October 2016, represents an opportunity to promote disaster risk reduction and resilience aspects and to promote integration between the Sendai Framework and the New Urban Agenda, the outcome expected from Habitat III.
5. *Resolve to recommend the following actions* as ways forward in supporting the implementation of the post-2015 Development Agenda at the local level including the principles of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign:

On Coherence

- Establish political recognition for coherence and mutual reinforcement among international agreements
- Link mechanisms for monitoring and reporting of related goals and indicators
- Improve reporting on risk and hazards and their integration at local level in order to increase the availability of relevant information and improve the effectiveness of planning
- Promote collaboration cooperation and knowledge exchanges among all urban stakeholders in implementation.
- Strengthen collaboration with UN Habitat to achieve the outcomes of the Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthen the urban risk reduction and resilience elements of the New Urban Agenda.

On Flooding

- Share good practices among cities and countries on flood prevention and mitigation
- Focus more on improving urban drainage
- Improve flood early warning

On Governance

- Improve stakeholder awareness and participation in DRR, and strengthen/establish coordination mechanisms as local platforms for DRR
- Real actions addressing the challenge of the implementation and achievement of those targets for local authorities with a focus on governance

- Promote and improve DRR accountability
- Promote communication between DRR and climate adaptation stakeholders at local level
- Encourage cities and regions to improve their DRR strategies within their local and regional context and according to their specific situation
- Make full use of the increasing role of mobile technology, the internet and social media in communicating disaster information

On Financing

- Allocate adequate financial resources for DRR at local and regional level
- Improve international cooperation on DRR at the local and regional level

On cooperation with the private sector

- Improve public and private partnership in DRR
- Encourage private sector to understand local risks
- Encourage the private sector to share consequences of disasters on their business and impact upon customers
- Promote DRR as core business of the private sector
- Further collaborate on data management to plan for and mitigate the effects of future disasters

On promoting resilience in cultural heritage

- Recognize the significance of heritage (immovable, movable, and intangible), not only as an asset to conserve, but also one that can contribute to more resilient cities and be a driver for sustainable development
- Promote culturally sensitive policies at the national and local levels which incorporate heritage into planning and development processes, to build resilience and reduce disaster risks
- Ensure that concern for heritage is fully integrated into damage and loss assessment frameworks including the social and economic values of the heritage

On building back better

- Plan to recover from emergencies and build back better after disasters
- Utilize the full potential of heritage as a means of building back better by respecting local cultures, traditions, and contexts

Adopted on 17 June 2016