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**Title of the Session:** Bringing the urban, social and resilience agenda together through collaboration.

**Date:** 03/08/2015 to 09/08/2015

## **Summary**

The urban vulnerability to disasters, both natural and manmade, is one of the most important issues that goes unnoticed or is underestimated in the urban and territorial development with important social and economic impacts. On the other hand, economic and social forces sometimes push the urban development for unwanted conditions. The resilience agenda can be an engaging process of a broad and diverse range of stakeholders that connects government, private sector and civil society, and specifically poor and vulnerable citizens. But more importantly, the resilience agenda can be integrated into the urban agenda leveraging existing plans, actions, and programs.

## **Context**

Cities are getting bigger, more densely populated and quite often concentrate most of the activities necessary for the life we lead today. This continuous physical transformation has exposed more urban areas to natural disasters and potentially harmful. In the coming decades, the major cause of the increase in damages and losses caused by disasters is population growth and the concentration of resources, especially in urban areas.

DRR are becoming central to local governments and the current mechanisms are not delivering the expected results thus innovative uses of the local resources need to be plan for developing urban resilience.

For many urban and social policies and initiatives, despite all integration effort, there are frequently barriers to deal with, public structures working in silos and city departments struggling to integrate their work, rigid mechanisms of participation, government credibility etc. Add to that the common vision of local government being seen as responsible for solving all city problems with one side responsibility only and we have a city unable to deal with new challenges.

Problems are becoming more complex and solutions cannot be build without the collaboration of those ones that are the target of this solutions. The development of a resilience strategy must be based on the principle of aligning and incorporating a wide range of stakeholders to the process gathering the richness and diversity of many points o view. This engagement helps on the consolidation of knowledge and planning overcoming the challenge of bringing to the same table so many interests from individuals from inside and outside government structures.

Engaging stakeholders at a collaborative level can lead to the identification of mechanisms for building city's resilience and its ability to join government, communities and other stakeholders in dealing with complex issues, changes and it will certainly help connect different needs and the social and urban agendas.