



## UNDRR Statement

# **CITIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

[Agenda 3(d), 10 December 2020]

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Distinguished government representatives

Delegates, ladies and gentlemen

Cities continue to remain at the forefront of crises – this year they have faced the dual brunt of COVID-19 also in addition to typhoons and floods, as witnessed in several Asia-Pacific cities, resulting in compounded impacts. Underlying risk drivers, like unplanned urbanization, rapid population growth, and urban poverty, result in cascading impacts adding to the complexity of risk which is now established as being systemic in nature.

These challenges require a common approach across sectors and actors, especially in the context of COVID-19 to pave the way for a sustainable and resilient future. Some of the core elements of this approach include:

### **1. Advocacy**

Cities and citizens are gaining awareness of the value of risk management and resilience but more needs to be done to develop their understanding of localized and systemic risks.

### **2. Knowledge**

Local authorities and stakeholders need to have the appropriate self-assessment and diagnostic skills, along with training and tools, so that they can quantify their risks and exercise informed planning.

### **3. Planning**

When we fail to plan, we have planned to fail. Local authorities need to develop comprehensive resilience plans based on a thorough understanding of risk. And when they develop such plans, it should not only be to prepare for an event, but to embed risk into the development planning so that development processes become risk-sensitive and -responsive.

#### 4. **Financing**

Plans cannot be implemented in an absence of resources. As we have seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions resulted in poor access to resources during the crisis. Decentralisation of finances, from both fiscal and non-fiscal sources, hence is a key enabling factor to ensure local implementation.

#### 5. **Capacity**

Finally, local authorities need capacity development to implement the plans, enhance the resilience of their infrastructure and to integrate nature-based solutions into development.

Ten years ago, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) launched the Making Cities Resilient (MCR) Campaign to generate momentum around urban resilience. Over 4,300 joined the campaign and committed to the implementation of the ‘Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient,’ which were structured around the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

UNDRR also worked closely with partners, including the private sector, to develop a series of tools to enable local authorities to self-assess their levels of risk and resilience. Over 850 cities globally have used our scorecards and other tools to measure their risks and several of them have developed resilience plans.

At the end of this year, the MCR Campaign will end. UNDRR has now launched a new initiative in its place – Making Cities Resilient 2030 – in partnership with a number of partners, national governments, local governments and other stakeholders.

MCR2030 will run from January 2021 until the end of 2030 and will cover the following areas:

- A **resilience roadmap** for cities with defined commitments over time on how to improve local resilience;
- A regional **network of actors** with strong links and implementation experience to connect cities in a movement that can transform vulnerable places and spaces suiting regional contexts;
- Suite of **tools and guidance** that provide enhances cities’ understanding on risk reduction and resilience building;
- An **online dashboard** allowing cities to record and monitor progress along the resilience roadmap;
- A **registry/directory** to find potential specialist service providers who can support implementation of actions.

The philosophy behind the New Urban Agenda and initiatives like Making Cities Resilient 2030 is that good governance is key to sustainable change. As we complete the first five years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and gear-up for the next ten years, aptly called the “Decade of Action” by the UN Secretary-General, let us resolve to use these ten years as a pathway to make cities and communities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.