



## **UN7 Building culture of resilience towards urban sustainable development: learning from the experience of cities from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Americas and Arab Regions.**

**10 February 2020, 14:15-15:45 hrs.  
ONE UN Room**

### **Event Format:**

Panel discussion by representatives of cities in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Americas and Arab regions to share impactful stories and experiences in creating a culture of resilience. The session will be moderated and will highlight the key success factors that help making cities sustainable. The event will include a launch of the “Words into Action: Implementation guide for land use and urban planning”.

### **Event Summary:**

The New Urban Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals and other global frameworks have highlighted the role of local governments in creating a safe and resilient city for their citizens. Urbanization is growing and more than 50% of the world’s population now lives in urban areas. More and more people will be moving into urban areas in the future. It is evident that not all local governments are equipped with the capacity to keep pace with such fast change.

While urbanization brings economics opportunities, it can bring more vulnerability to exposed people and property. Slum dwellings, buildings that do not meet construction standards, inadequate availability of healthcare and education services, contaminated water supplies, improperly disposed solid waste, obstructed waterways, etc., all of these put people in a situation of risk especially during extreme weather or disaster events.

Cities are systems of systems. Managing cities is a complex issue in which collective efforts must be made to address ever increasing challenges. It requires strong commitments from local governments and political leaders, as well as collaboration from different development sectors and stakeholders.

Even though the context may be different in each locality, many issues faced by local governments around the world are similar. This session will promote the use of peer-to-peer learning approach by bringing representatives of cities from different regions around the world including the Asia-Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Arab States to share their experiences of how they created a culture of resilience and strengthened the foundations for disaster risk reduction and sustainable urban development.

Approaches and methodologies used to sensitize and trigger the commitment of multi-stakeholder groups, the realignment of the governance structures and the use of media and technology in resilience building are some of the issues which would be discussed.

The session will last 90 minutes, starting with a moderated panel discussion/dialogue, questions and answers, and closing with the launch of the Words into Actions: Implementation guide for land use and urban planning”.



## Key Objectives

The event aims to showcase the experience of cities in developing countries from around the world on how they have built and are able to retain a culture of resilience, taking into consideration gender balance and the role of women leadership in risk reduction and urban resilience.

It is expected that:

- 1) Cities and urban practitioners learn from the experience of other cities, what was done right, and what challenges/failures were encountered and identify ways to overcome these;
- 2) Stakeholders at the city level become interested to engage in making cities resilient and sustainable;
- 3) Global City-to-city networks are strengthened;
- 4) Women urban practitioners are inspired by women leaders.

## Relevance to the WUF 10 theme and the selected Dialogue(s)

The session contributes directly to Dialogue 2 on Driving Sustainable Change in Cities through Culture and Innovation and the following thematic objectives:

- i. To take stock of emerging approaches and practices in harnessing culture and innovation as a driver for sustainable urban development;
- ii. To provide greater insights into the linkages between urbanization, culture and innovation as a basis for achieving inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements;
- iii. To explore the role of culture and innovation in implementing the New Urban Agenda and achieving urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- iv. To build on the lessons learned of previous World Urban Forums, especially with respect to bottom-up approaches to sustainable urbanization

**Main language of presentation:** English

### Co-organizers:

- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)
- Global Resilient Cities Network, pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation



## Session Agenda



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Jointly organized by  
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)  
United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)  
Global Resilient Cities Network (GRCN), pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation

14.15 – 14.20 (5 min)	<b>Opening and Introduction to the Session &amp; Moderator</b> <b>Esteban Leon</b> , Chief a.i. Risk Reduction Unit - RRR Branch, Head, City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP), UN-Habitat
14.20 – 15.15 (55 min)	<b>Panel discussion</b> <b>Moderated by Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi</b> , <i>Secretary-General UCLG Asia-Pacific</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mrs. Doris Ombara</b>, <i>City Manager of Kisumu, Kenya</i></li><li>• <b>Mr. Rodrigo Corradi</b>, <i>Chief Resilience Officer, Porto Alegre, Brazil</i></li><li>• <b>Dr. Amal Hudhud</b>, <i>Head of Strategic Planning Department, Nablus Municipality, Palestine</i></li><li>• <b>Mr. Mourade Dieye GUEYE</b>, <i>Secretary General, Dakar City, Dakar</i></li><li>• <b>Dr. Umamaheshwaran Rajasekar</b>, <i>Chair Urban Resilience, the National Institute of Urban Affairs in India</i></li></ul>
15.15 – 15.35 (20 min)	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
15.35 – 15.45 (10 min)	<b>Wrap up and Launch of Words into Action (WiA) Guide on Land Use and Urban Planning</b> <b>Sanjaya Bhatia</b> , Head of Office for Northeast Asia and Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), UNDRR

