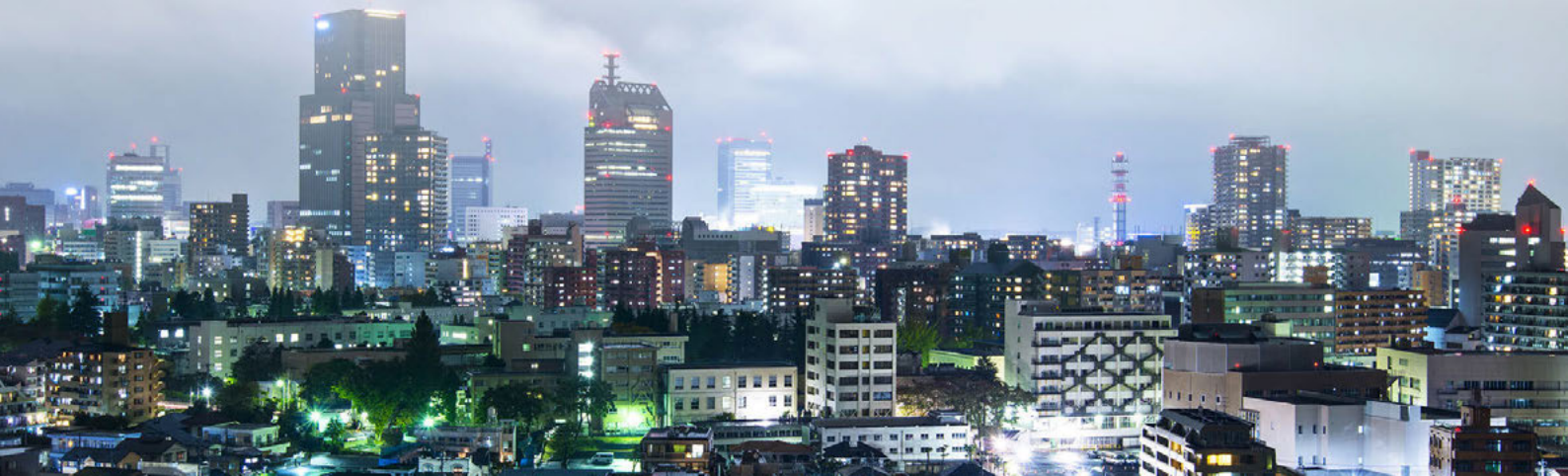
UN-HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UN World Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 Sendai Japan

TOGETHER TOWARDS
HABITAT III

UN-Habitat at the WCDRR

World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 Sendai Japan



INTRODUCTION

The world is predominantly urban and, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Report, 2014, the projected expansion in urban land cover between 2000 and 2030 is in the range of 56-310 per cent. This provides both challenges and opportunities for **building cities that are resilient** to the potential threats from tsunamis, storms, earthquakes and other natural and man-made disasters, including the growing impacts of climate change.

As the lead UN programme on sustainable urban development, UN-Habitat assists governments at the city, regional, and national levels to improve policies, plans, and designs for more compact, socially inclusive, and better integrated and connected cities that foster sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change and other natural and human-induced shocks. In this way, the relationship between the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA), and its successor framework to be adopted in Sendai, and strategic human settlements planning, development and management can be understood across three key areas of work supported by the organisation.

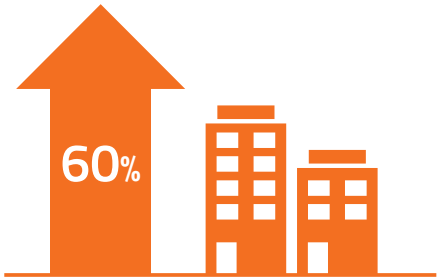
First is the emphasis on a pro-poor, human rights based approach to urban planning that prioritizes the needs of informal settlement populations, and discourages the location of housing in high-risk areas, including in the context of urban poverty reduction and slum-upgrading programmes.

Second is the promotion of access to diversified income options, and ensuring income and assets are not driven by private and public self-interest development policies, which may marginalize certain communities, drive up poverty and inequality levels, and increase people's vulnerability to disasters. Urban planning and design should focus on how to bring people and places together. By focusing on accessibility, optimizing urban densities, and minimizing land zoning, cities can take advantage of the 'urban advantage' by increasing the proximity between urban dwellers and goods and services, and encouraging investment and equitable economic opportunities.

250 to 300
BILLION US$

Average economic losses from disasters such as **earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones** and **flooding** each year.

Future losses (expected annual losses) are now estimated at **US$314 billion** in the built environment alone.



Some 60 per cent of the area expected to be **urbanized by 2030** remains to be built.

Third is the promotion of high density, compact cities as a means to encourage the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and minimize cities' environmental impact. The main goal of expansion and densification plans is the provision of enough land and spatial structures to support sustainable urban development and to attract investments. The co-benefit of high density, compact cities is a cleaner environment with a smaller ecological footprint. High density neighbourhoods with adequate public space and infrastructure that facilitates non-motorized and public transport, encourage walking, cycling, and other forms of eco-friendly mobility, lead to a reduction in carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels.

The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III, in 2016, will set us on the path to a New Urban Agenda for developing socially, economically and environmentally sustainable cities. The outcomes of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will be a vital element to this process to ensure safe and resilient cities of the future.

PUBLIC FORUM SESSION

Harnessing the Urban Advantage through Resilience, including in Fragile States

When: **SUNDAY, 15 MARCH 9:00-12:00**
Venue: **Tohoku University, Kawauchi-kita Campus, room A202**
Organised by: **UN-Habitat in conjunction with the Medellin Collaboration on Urban Resilience**
Moderator: **Dan Lewis, Chief, Urban Risk Reduction and Resilience, UN-Habitat**

Panelists

- **Yunus Arikan,** Head of Global Policy and Advocacy, ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability
- **Kathryn Vines,** Head, Adaptation Research, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group
- **Jerry Velasquez,** Head of Advocacy and Outreach, UNISDR (TBC)
- **Mayors** (invited by ICLEI/C40/100RC)
- **Sameh Wahba,** Senior Manager, World Bank, Social, Urban Rural and Resilience Global Practice
- **Arghya /Or-gho/ Sinha Roy,** Disaster Risk Management Specialist, Asia Development Bank
- **Hajo Junge,** Senior Manager, Good Governance & Human Rights, GIZ
- **Michael Berkowitz,** Managing Director, 100 Resilient Cities initiative, pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation
- **Moa M Herrgård,** Global DRR Focal Point, UN Major Group for Children & Youth

Description:

Rapid, unplanned urbanization--particularly in cities in developing countries and those recovering from conflict, and facing other

chronic stresses--are exacerbating people's vulnerability to disasters and creating new layers of risk. At the same time, urbanization offers solutions to many of the key challenges our time, including climate change, rising levels of urban inequality and food insecurity, pollution, youth unemployment, and availability and degradation of natural resources. Harnessing the urban advantage requires integrated approaches to resilience that considers the interplay between these multiple shocks and stresses, and offers cities concrete solutions over the short, medium and longer-term.

By 2030 it is expected there will be nearly 5 billion urban dwellers, representing 60 per cent of the world population. Through natural growth, voluntary in-migration, and displacement from a range of vectors, it is projected that our cities will house two-thirds of our global population of over 9 billion by 2050. The vast majority of this growth will occur in developing nations in Africa and Asia. The mainly unplanned expansion of urban areas and growth of informal settlements and slums in these cities presents a worrying trend.

The primary aim of this session is to demonstrate how a holistic, urban systems approach to resilience, one that considers multiple shocks and stresses cities face (both natural and human-made), can deliver numerous socio-economic benefits to cities, including those in fragile states. In this way, the session will try to connect the aims of the post-2015 DRR framework adopted in Sendai and broader sustainable development goals related to urban resilience, to be agreed later this year.

PUBLIC FORUM SESSION

Setting Standards on Infrastructure, Strengthening Resilience through Building & Land-use Regulation

When: **SUNDAY, 15 MARCH 13:00-16:00**
Venue: **Tohoku University, Kawauchi-kita Campus, room A202**
Organised by: **UN-Habitat, UNESCO, GFDRR, Virginia Tech**
Moderator: **Mariko Sato, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and Pacific**

Panellists:

- **Dr Tatsuo Narafu,** Senior Adviser, JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) (TBC)
- **Sameh Wahba,** Senior Manager, World Bank, Social, Urban Rural and Resilience Global Practice
- **Dr. Catherine Gamper,** Economist, Risk Management, OECD Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate
- **Garry de la Pomerai,** Chair, Global Task Force for Building Codes
- **Global Earthquake Model**
- **Amod Dixit,** Executive Director of the National Society for Earthquake Technology in Nepal
- **Bret Ahnell,** Executive Director, Factory Mutual (FM) Global

Description:

Rapid urbanization without effective regulation has dramatically increased urban disaster risk throughout the developing world. As the world will witness a massive expansion of urban building stocks in the next three decades, the international community needs to explore new and better-coordinated approaches to regulations and governance within the built environment and land-use.

The mainly unplanned expansion of urban areas and growth of informal settlements in developing countries are of particular concern. There are now some 1 billion people living in informal settlements or slums. By 2020, nearly 1.5 billion people in the developing world will live in slums or informal settlements. Current urban development patterns are contributing to peoples and economies' exposure and vulnerability to disasters. Inadequate urban plans and management are linked to the rising incidence and costs of urban disasters associated with weak or non-existent building codes, regulations and enforcement. Some 60 per cent of the area expected to be urban by 2030 remains to be built.

By 2030, an estimated $25- $30 trillion will be invested in new infrastructure, including urban road construction, water and sanitation, energy and transport systems, and buildings. It is expected that roughly $700 billion a year will be spent on financing new urban infrastructure in low- and middle-income countries over this period. This volume and pace of urban growth anticipated over the next 10-15 years offers a great opportunity to avoid past development mistakes and reflect resilience in policy, planning, design and investment decisions that will ultimately shape the long-term physical, social, and environmental urban landscape.

The main objectives of the session are: to mobilize support for a set of functional mechanisms to build the resilience of nations and cities to natural and human-made disasters by improving the governance and administration of the built environment and land use regulatory systems; to lay the groundwork for the Multi-Stakeholder Session, "Standards for Disaster Risk Reduction, Including built environment compliance", by encouraging a deeper dialogue about the causes and consequences of weak, or failed, governance structures and the mechanisms needed to strengthen these structures, and; to build awareness of the interplay between various parts of the urban system (e.g. physical, organizational, functional, spatial), which can contribute to both the causes of, and solutions to, building and land-use related disasters, with a focus on the world's most rapidly urbanizing areas.

Risk Governance and Resilient Cities

16 March 2015 (Monday) - Sendai, Japan
Sendai Civic Auditorium, 9:30-11:30
Organised by: OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), with support from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (Japan) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Japan).

Description:

What good practices can be observed in the governance of disaster risk? How does good governance make cities, in particular, more resilient? This Public Forum will present two high level panels that aim to address these questions.

Governments have fundamental responsibilities to provide security and safety to citizens and their property, defend the territorial integrity of the nation, and help sustain well-functioning markets. The complexity of managing major risks has increased dramatically over the past 20 years due to the interconnectedness of critical infrastructure and economic interdependencies. In this context, who is responsible, or who owns management of a risk, is not always apparent.

Effective governance of critical risks is key to strategic planning and to preserving future competitiveness and consolidating sustainable economic growth.

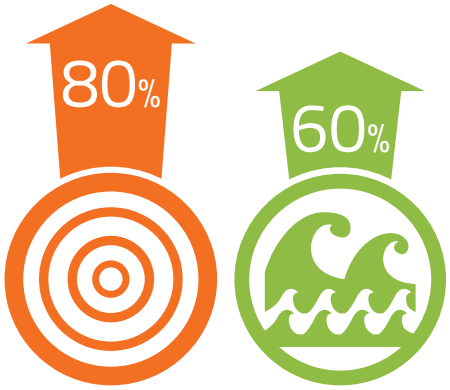
Developing resilience to complex risks requires investment in the full cycle of risk management capacities: from risk identification and assessment, through prevention and mitigation, preparedness and response, to social and financial recovery, reconstruction and policy reform. It is important to foster co-operation between governments and the private sector to build common ground in these areas and to promote continuous improvement in the governance and management of critical risks.

Intergovernmental Segment, Ministerial Round Table

Monday 16 March 15:00 - 18:00
Venue: Sendai International Centre
Room N°: Meeting Room 1 & 2
Speaker: Dr Joan Clos, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Impacts of natural hazards are increasing in urban centres. These include storm surges, heat stress, extreme precipitation, inland and coastal flooding, drought, increased aridity and water scarcity. Urban landslides are particularly devastating and represent a major threat to urban communities in many cities. Cities are complex and inter-dependent systems. Clearer priorities are needed to guide local urban planning.

A major focus of the session will be on implementation mechanisms to address urban risk reduction and resilience and on aligning urban agendas with the disaster risk reduction, sustainable development goals, climate change and humanitarian agendas. The session will also make the economic case for risk reduction in urban areas, for inclusion into budgets, plans and investment decisions of national and local governments.



Globally, 80% of the largest cities are vulnerable to **severe impacts of earthquakes,** and 60% are at risk from **storm surges** and **tsunamis**

From Sendai to Quito, Policy and Implementation on Urban Resilience

17 March, 9:00 - 12:00
Tohoku University
Kawauchi-kita Campus, room B102
Sendai, Japan

Description:

Recent data shows that disasters have increased eight-fold in the last 40 years with a similar growth in damages and losses, as well as number of people affected. In an increasingly urbanizing world, cities and urban agglomerations are facing the highest losses.

Globally, it is estimated that 80 per cent of the world's largest cities are currently vulnerable to severe impacts from earthquakes and 60 per cent are at risk from storm surges and tsunamis; all face new impacts of climate change. Overall, the costs of natural disasters as a percentage of GDP have more than tripled in the last 40 years.

In the world's fast-urbanizing developing nations, poorly planned and managed cities create new risks that threaten to erode previous development gains and can lock people in cycles of poverty. With many urban populations facing multiple hazards, the need to reduce vulnerabilities and risks while strengthening and building the resilience of cities is fundamental to protecting the global economy and reducing loss of lives, damage to assets, and disruption of critical services.

At the conclusion of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, member states will decide a new set of priorities building on the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) to fill previous gaps and address the new risks posed by current development patterns, demographic shifts, rising levels of inequality, and other challenges that exacerbate people's vulnerability to disasters. The commitments made in Sendai will be followed by a series of international resolutions governing sustainable development, climate change, and humanitarian interventions, and will culminate with the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - Habitat III - to be held in October 2016 in the city of Quito, Ecuador.

Habitat III comes at a critical moment in which the world and the United Nations system are calling for a renewed collective effort to tackle chronic

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and new development challenges, including increased poverty and inequality, climate change and other risks related to man-made and natural disasters. To this aim, a Post-2015 Development Agenda, including a set of Sustainable Development Goals, will be endorsed by the end of 2015 after an inclusive process that has been building on the experience and achievements of the Millennium Development Goals.

The main objective of the session is to raise awareness of the aims of Habitat III and the core principles guiding the New Urban Agenda. This session further aims to initiate a dialogue on how to achieve a cohesive and comprehensive set of commitments related to sustainable urban development across all the post-2015 frameworks, including the successor agreement to the HFA.

70%

The estimated increase in the number of people exposed to floods and tropical cyclones in **East Asia and the Pacific** each year since 1980

UN-HABITAT'S WORK ON STRENGTHENING URBAN RESILIENCE

Afghanistan:

UN-Habitat is currently providing technical assistance to the Government of Afghanistan to identify and map key DRR challenges in all 34 Provincial Capitals as part of the 'State of Afghan Cities 2014/15 Programme' which will lead to improved policies and strategies to reduce vulnerability to disasters.

Bangladesh:

UN-Habitat has been supporting the largest urban poverty reduction programme in Bangladesh, Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction (UPPR), funded by DFID, lead by the Government and managed by UNDP and the Ministry of Local Government. In 2014, UPPR was expanded with a resilience component, engaging community groups and community council federations in cities to allocate development funding for slum upgrading on the basis of vulnerability and resilience proofing criteria. UPPR so far reached 23 cities and over 5,000 community development councils and the approach is being readied for national up-scaling.

Indonesia:

UN-Habitat provided policy and planning support and helped rebuilding houses and infrastructure in Aceh and Nias, from 2005 to 2012. After its Tsunami programme, UN-Habitat engaged with the national Government and with cities in Java and Kalimantan to formulate city development strategies and trigger investments to reduce slums and enhance resilience. In 2015, it expanded its initiatives with a pilot on urban planning with strong resilience themes, in relation to long term flood protection for coastal cities.

Japan:

After the Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami, UN-Habitat introduced its community centred approach in disaster recovery and reconstruction to the most affected areas in Japan.

Lao PDR:

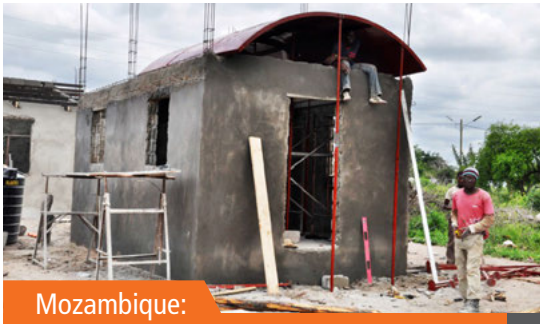
After tropical storm Nock-ten (2011) in Lao PDR, UN-Habitat trained carpenters in affected communities in building back better Shelters.

Maldives:

UN-Habitat supported 3,330 families with permanet houses. In addition, Un-Haqbitat poroveided inputs to the national housing policy that was later adopted.

Lebanon:

Beirut in Lebanon, is a partner city in UN-Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Programme, national and local government staff have been provided with capacity building training in order to launch the tool, which measures and increases resilience to multi-hazard impacts including those associated with climate change. After the 2006 Israeli War, UN-Habitat adopted an approach to strengthening local government and service delivery in Lebanon through establishing Regional Technical Offices (RTOs) at the level of Unions of Municipalities in Tyre, Bint Jbeil and Jabal Amel. RTOs guided local authorities through the emergency response phase; laying the foundation for medium and long-term interventions for recovery and planning.



Mozambique:

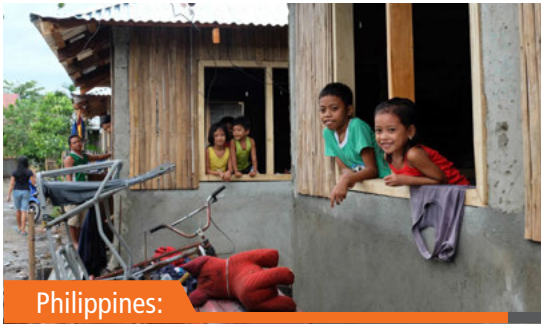
Since 2002, UN-Habitat has provided consistently innovative planning, architectural solutions, awareness materials as cartoons and games, training services, and alternative strategies adopted as preventive measures for floods, cyclones and droughts in Mozambique.

Myanmar:

UN-Habitat supported local communities in building back better after Cyclone Nargis (2008) and Cyclone Giri (2010), and continues to provide strategic support to the Government of Myanmar in legal, policy and instiutional strengthening and enabling vulnerable communities to address disaster and climate change risks»

Pakistan:

UN-Habitat engaged with the Government of Pakistan in an unprecedented and successful programme on rural housing reconstruction, reaching more than 600,000 households after the 2005 Kashmir earthquake. Also a rural land consolidation programme was started, for households left landless or with land exposed to disaster risk. As of 2010, UN-Habitat continued with national recovery programme on shelter and WASH after multiple monsoon floods in 2010, 2011 and 2012. UN-Habitat developed affordabel earthquake-safe building methods and contributed to flood-resistant approaches. It is has also produced a range of hazard and risk studies and atlases, including for critical government buildings. UN-Habitat undertook a vulnerability analysis for Islamabad, as part of a climate change resilience programme with the Government.



Philippines:

UN-Habitat has been supporting local governments on recovery and rehabilitation planning in Tacloban, Guiuan, and Ormoc, and on community-driven shelter construction in 32 communities in Panay Island, since Super Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines in November 2013.

Sri Lanka:

UN-Habitat actively supports the planning and implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction activities in urban and rural communities across Sri Lanka.

Sudan:

In order to break the annual cycle of emergency response and its humanitarian consequences in due to flooding in Sudan, UN-Habitat have delivered training and capacity building on resilience to floods, urban planning management and construction standards to strengthen government and community capacities to achieve sustainable construction of public facilities and infrastructure.

Syria:

In Syria, UN-Habitat have produced Rapid City Profiles to improve information and analysis of multi sectoral needs, identifying gaps in assistance and monitoring emerging urban trends for Homs, Lattakia, Daraa and Aleppo, four cities most affected by the ongoing civil war.

The City Resilience Profiling Programme

In addition to its in country work, UN-Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Programme focuses on providing national and local governments with tools for measuring and increasing resilience to multi-hazard impacts, including those associated with climate change. Working through partnerships with stakeholders including international agencies such as UNISDR, academic and research institutes, private sector actors, and NGOs, the CRPP will develop a comprehensive and integrated urban planning and management approach for profiling and monitoring the resilience of any city to all plausible hazards.

A key outcome from the work done in regard of partnership is the MCUR (Medellín Collaboration in Urban Resilience) announced during WUF7. The nine-member Collaboration includes UN-Habitat, the United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), The Rockefeller Foundation, the 100 Resilient Cities Initiative, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. Collectively, these organizations work in over 2,000 cities globally, with more than $2 billion of existing funds committed annually toward advancing resilient and sustainable urban growth and development. The primary aim of the collaboration is to deliver the technical and financial resources cities need to strengthen their resilience to both natural and manmade threats.

About UN-Habitat

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, is the United Nations agency for sustainable urban development. It is mandated to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities while advocating adequate shelter for all.

UN-Habitat works to expand understanding of inadequate shelter and poverty and to facilitate the tracking of progress in urban development. It also sets out norms and best practice for sustainable urbanization and urban poverty reduction, promoting realistic urban planning as the key to harnessing the economic potential of cities.

UN-HABITAT

www.unhabitat.org

UN-Habitat at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 Sendai Japan

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