

## **Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience**

### **Habitat III Conference**

The Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience (MCUR) hereby reaffirms its commitment to strengthen the resilience of all cities and human settlements around the world. Collectively, the Collaboration supports 4,000 cities globally and commits more than US\$2 billion annually towards advancing resilient urban development.

Our individual and joint commitments are based on the challenges cities face in achieving sustainable urbanisation and reducing exposure to various shocks and stresses. There are nearly 1.4 million people added to the urban population each week and, by 2030, there will be nearly five billion urban dwellers, representing 60 per cent of the world's population. Over the past 30 years, the proportion of the population living in flood-prone river basins and along cyclone-exposed coastlines has increased by 114 per cent and 192 per cent, respectively.

Since its launch at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum in 2014, the Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience has provided knowledge and financial support to help cities become more resilient to natural hazards and disruptions caused by climate change and other risk drivers, including rapid urbanisation. In particular, the Collaboration supports sharing of best practices and strengthening of partnerships between cities.

The Collaboration has produced a guidebook<sup>1</sup> to illustrate how cities - from Eastern and Southern Africa, to Western Europe, to Southeast Asia, to the Southern United States - are responding to current and future challenges by thinking strategically about design, planning, and management, for building resilience. The case studies in this guidebook highlight best practice and lessons learned for enhancing resilience from the perspective of local authorities and communities actively engaged in the initiatives led by signatories to the Medellin Collaboration on Urban Resilience. In addition, MCUR has developed a platform that provides information and guidance on a wide range of urban resilience tools<sup>2</sup>. These initiatives were implemented by the UN-Habitat Cities Resilience Profiling Programme and financed by the Collaboration's newest member, Cities Alliance.

The Collaboration reaffirms its commitment to support cities in achieving the targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk

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<sup>1</sup> <http://resiliencetools.org/content/pocket-guide-to-resilience>

<sup>2</sup> <http://resiliencetools.org/tools-overview>

Reduction, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda. All of these share common ground in seeking to maximise the health and safety, resilience, inclusion, cohesion, sustainability and prosperity of all cities to the benefit of all their inhabitants.

Target 11.b<sup>3</sup> of the SDGs has a deadline of 2020 to develop holistic disaster risk management at all levels for cities and human settlements. This connects it with the other three aforementioned frameworks. The Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience provides an opportunity to scale-up and meet this goal.

In order to achieve this target, MCUR commits to support urban areas to achieve:

- **Good quality, comprehensive city data**, in particular on shocks, stresses, hazards and vulnerabilities. The information base needs to be effective in helping local decision-makers and stakeholders to identify gaps and priority areas for enhanced resilience, working in partnership with the most affected communities.
- **Plans for safer buildings and infrastructure**, in line with realistic, risk compliant building codes and land use regulations. There is an urgent need in most urban centres to identify safe sites on which low-income citizens can build, to upgrade informal settlements and to address infrastructure deficits.
- **Attention to preserving productive and protective ecosystems** that support urban centres, especially water, land management, flood and heat risk reduction.
- **Building local government capacity to respond** rapidly to disasters, conflicts, shocks or stresses, while ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable people are at the centre of such responses.

With a view to meeting this target, the partners within MCUR are launching a collaborative support system for urban centres most at risk, focusing on meeting the investment needs, and identifying opportunities, to ensure urban resilience. The Medellin Collaboration will continue to evolve its work in partnership with others to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for

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<sup>3</sup> 11.b - By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

Sustainable Development, concentrating primarily on local-level strategy and plans in urban areas throughout the world.

### Signatories

- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
- United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
- The World Bank Group
- Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- The Rockefeller Foundation
- 100 Resilient Cities - Pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation
- The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group
- ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability
- Cities Alliance

