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UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
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REPORT

RESILIENCE WORKSTREAM OF GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION ON CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

From the facilitators to the Champions

The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report forecasts more frequent and intense heat waves, storms, and an accelerated rate of sea level rise. These climatic events tend to accelerate with the expected temperature rise of 2.9 to 3.4°C in this century, despite the existing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Climate Agreement¹ and will have increasingly negative impacts on urban areas, including up to 77 million people in cities falling into poverty by 2030 and average annual losses in coastal cities due to sea-level rise exceeding USD 1 trillion per year². While the impacts of climate change are local and regional, multi-level multi-stakeholder cooperation is essential to achieve the systemic changes necessary for resilient urban development, especially given the scale of resources that need to be mobilized to make cities and regions that are low-carbon and climate-resilient³.

In light of this challenge, the Resilience Workstream of the Global Climate Action on Cities and Human Settlements was convened on 10 November 2016 around three critical themes; multi-level, multi-scale partnerships and initiatives; synergy among key global policy frameworks; and finance. The meeting was led by COP21 Champion Ambassador Laurence Tubiana, with the presence of H.E. Mohammed Nabil Benabdallah, Minister for Housing and Urban Policy, Morocco, and H.E. Emmanuelle Cosse, Minister of Housing and Sustainable Habitat, France. The event was a milestone by engaging Ministers of Housing in the climate change debate along the margins of a UNFCCC Conference of Parties. The event was also the first multi-level, multi-stakeholder dialogue after the adoption of Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the New Urban Agenda.

¹ [UNEP 2016 Emissions Gap Report](#)

² [Investing in Urban Resilience \(World Bank, 2016\)](#)

³ [Resilient Cities 2016](#) Proceedings of the 7th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation 2016, Bonn, Germany





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I. Initiatives

The [overview](#) presented at the meeting highlighted a total of 32 national, regional and global initiatives and processes on resilient cities and regions, focusing on awareness, coalition building and multi-sectoral alliances. Prominent examples include:

Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)

In 2016, the Compact of Mayors and the EU Covenant of Mayors merged to form the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), the largest coalition of cities committed to climate leadership benefitting over 7,100 cities from 119 countries and 6 continents, representing more than 600 million inhabitants, over 8% of the world's population. Pursuant to its innovative governance framework, the integrated approach combining mitigation, adaptation and access to sustainable and affordable energy, stronger and global visibility and the transparency framework, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy is an important initiative that the implementation of the Paris Agreement and linkage to NDCs.

RegionsAdapt

The RegionsAdapt initiative is the first global commitment to support and report efforts on adaptation at the state and regional level. This helps state and regional governments commit to collaborate, exchange knowledge and share best practice policy models that foster adaptation and resilience to climate change, pursuing multidimensional and innovative methods, as for example ecosystem-based approaches. 65 members have already joined it, representing more than 280 million inhabitants.

Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA)

Created in 2014, the CCFLA represents a unique multi-stakeholder and multi-level coalition of network of cities and regions, private investors coalitions, development banks, central governments, research centers, foundations and civil society organizations that have come together to propose a set of measures designed to catalyse and accelerate investment into low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure in urban areas.

II. Proposed Policy Option

Supporting NDCs: Mobilizing the potential and power of integrated sustainable urban and territorial development and disaster risk reduction for climate adaptation

As of October 2015, only 50% of INDCs contained references to action at the local and subnational level. Some Parties have also indicated their interest to integrate adaptation actions in their NDCs. Integrated sustainable urban and territorial development as well as disaster risk reduction can help countries to achieve their NDCs. The vast experience through successful policies and practices over the past decades and the newly-adopted global frameworks in these fields can be considered as a huge opportunity to accelerate climate actions to be included new





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initiatives supporting NDCs that may evolve at COP22 and beyond, including the *NDC Partnership*.

III. Proposals for Action

Short term (2017): Ensuring synergy through long-term, structured and regular dialogue and engagement of urban resilience and adaptation community in key processes

Building on the innovative, inclusive and ambitious experience in 2016, GCA can be further strengthened by establishing long-term, structured and regular dialogue and engagement of the local and regional governments and urban resilience community with national and international partners. This would need careful orchestration of multiple tracks in key global policy processes. In 2017, these may include UNFCCC SB46 workshop in June, the UN General Assembly High Level Dialogue on the follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda at the UN-Habitat Governing Council in April, the Global DRR Platform in May, UN Environment Assembly in December 2017, and in 2018 the IPCC Cities Conference in March, and the SDG 11 Review at the High Level Political Forum in July. Elements on resilience in these processes can be enriched with regular inputs from the Resilient Cities Congress in Bonn, Germany.

Medium (2020): Increased flow of global climate finance and other investments to urban resilience initiatives and a Global Action Framework for Localizing Climate Finance

Financing territorial planning and action, which requires a small investment but yields a significant impact on mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development co-benefits can help to ensure coherence of many processes. However, municipal or state-level budgets are not adequate enough to cover increased costs due to climate change. A Global Action Framework for Climate Finance, as an outcome of The Marrakech Climate Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, will aim to mobilize players, catalyze new financial engineering, standards, channels, and coordination, and enhance financing for localised implementation of the Paris Agreement, including a significant increase in the flow of financial resources to local and subnational climate action through the global climate finance instruments such as GCF, GEF, AF to accelerate pre-2020 climate action.

