How vulnerable are cities?

“We have carried out a thorough review of disaster losses at national level and it is clear that direct losses from floods, earthquakes and drought have been under-estimated by at least 50%. So far this century, direct losses from disasters are in the range of $2.5 trillion.”

Ban Ki Moon - March 2015
Reducing vulnerability in the post-2015 agenda

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Jan, 2015
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda, July 2015
- Sustainable Development Goals, Sept 2015
- Paris Agreement COP 21, Dec 2015
- World Humanitarian Summit, May 2016
- Habitat 3, New Urban Agenda, Oct 2016
New Urban Agenda: The Quito Declaration

A new paradigm for the 21st Century transforming cities through:
• Urban planning and design;
• Improved governance through new legislation
• Creating conditions for investment and municipal finance...

Meeting the goal of “...inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities.”
Is resilience an ‘absolute’?

For UN Habitat...yes

UN-Habitat’s City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP), goes beyond conventional approaches to ‘risk reduction’, delivering a forward-looking, multi-sectorial, multi-hazard, multi-stakeholder model for building resilience that recognises the complexities and unique value of cities, and the inherent interdependencies of each part of an urban system.
Comprehensive urban resilience aims at:

- **Providing** urban leaders, planners and developers with tools and information they need to calibrate and measure their resilience in order to make informed governance and investment decisions;

- **Mobilizing** transformational, sustainable improvements to the physical, spatial, organizational and functional elements of cities to safeguard against multiple hazards and ensure continuity of urban processes and services;

- **Empowering** cities to ‘do more with what they have’ and catalyse new finance opportunities by promoting resilience as a criterion for investment, and engaging all stakeholders;

- **Improving** accountability in local level policy and budgetary decisions;

- **Providing** a common, global understanding of urban resilience by contributing to the development of indices and standards;

- **Reinforcing** the principles and goals of the New Urban Agenda
Common ground – urban resilience

Medellin Collaboration on Urban Resilience

- **Fostering harmonization of the approaches and tools** available to help cities assess their strengths, vulnerabilities and exposure to a multitude of natural and manmade threats in order to build their resilience;

- **Catalyzing access to existing and innovative finance mechanisms**, including risk-based instruments to reduce exposure and vulnerability to shocks and increase cities’ adaptive capacity;

- **Supporting capacity development of cities** to achieve their goals by facilitating direct sharing of best practice and knowledge enhancement; and

- **Forging alliances** with urban networks, institutions, and the private sector.
Common ground – resilient recovery

Global Alliance for Urban Crisis: Urban Charter

• **Prioritise local municipal leadership** in determining response to urban crisis that is aligned with development trajectories;

• **Adopt urban resilience as a common framework** to align human rights, humanitarian and development goals;

• **Manage urban displacement** as a combined human rights, development and humanitarian concern;

• **Build partnerships** connecting the city, national, regional and global level, across disciplines and professions, ensure involvement of Local Government and Professional Associations.
Common ground – Understanding resilience

Urban Resilience Institute

- **Leading research** applied research platform disseminating and guiding academic network;

- **Transforming learning** adapting faculty driven tertiary education to trans-disciplinary 21st Century realities;

- **Contributing expertise** drawn from community of practice to ground truth learning based on practical experience;

- **Creating learning/work streams** linking students to applied learning opportunities with community of practice partners.
**Common ground – Making Cities Resilient**

Making Cities Resilient Campaign 2016-20

- **Relaunched in June 2016:** Moving from 3400-5000 city partners;

- **Updating advocacy:** Re-invigorating the role of cities in driving the achievement of the Sendai Framework goals;

- **Linking resources:** connecting cities to the communities of practice (noted above);

- **Creating pathways:** to the commitments of Member States in all post-2015 sustainable development norms including the New Urban Agenda.
THANK YOU!!
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