



RESILIENCE

Resilient Cities Acceleration Initiative Action Statement

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Action Statement

Resilient Cities Acceleration Initiative

List of Supporters

- *Committed Countries and partners*
- *The Rockefeller Foundation*
- *100 Resilient Cities -Pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation*

In a changing climate, people living in cities are faced with new patterns of stress, such as sea-level rise, increased disaster risk and food and water insecurity, to name a few. This situation presents both challenges and opportunities at a time when local governments are charting a course for economic growth and sustainable development in a period of unprecedented urbanization. The foundation of resilience in cities lies in the strengthened ability of urban systems and populations to change, adapt, absorb, and learn from the various events and stresses that had adverse consequences to inhabitants, city structure and the environment.

Rising to the challenge, cities and local governments around the world have made political commitments at home and abroad - through global campaigns such as those launched by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, United Cities for Local Governments (UCLG), the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, and the Making Cities Resilient Campaign (led by UNISDR) and most recently, through the new Compact of Mayors.

Cities are taking action to build the resilience of their populations and fulfil their commitments. Progress has been made, among others, to improve land-use planning, build resilient infrastructure, enhance early warning systems, strengthen governance for resilience and improve the living conditions of the poor. Some cities have developed resilience action plans using information on climate and related risks, which have served to focus and guide local priorities.

In support of local action, national governments and partners in bilateral and multilateral institutions, the United Nations, civil society and the private sector have mobilized to support cities. Most recently, some of the world's leading financial and development institutions agreed to combine their efforts through the *Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience*¹, endorsed during the Seventh World Urban Forum in Medellin, Colombia in April 2014.

Yet many cities still struggle to access support to deliver change at the scale required and to link local efforts and communities with national strategies and commitments. While many cities have moved forward, there are many more that have yet to begin this work.

¹ The Collaboration includes: UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), UNHabitat, the Rockefeller Foundation, the 100 Resilient Cities Acceleration Initiative, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, the World Bank, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and the Inter American Development Bank

National governments, together with partners from bilateral and multilateral institutions, private sector and civil society, have been motivated by the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit to support accelerated local action and boost ambition by:

- Increasing access to and deployment of the funding and technical support to cities through mobilizing bilateral and multilateral institutions, as well as global initiatives undertaken by civil society and other partners;
- Mobilizing political commitments and tracking local progress on resilience actions consistent with national reporting against internationally agreed frameworks on climate change, sustainable development, and disaster risk reduction, as well as the "New Urban Agenda" to be considered at the Habitat III Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in 2016;
- Improving efficiency and impact through coordinated action and instruments for connecting cities to potential partners;
- Translating national policies and investment to impact-oriented action plans at local and community levels.

Specifically, the Resilient Cities Acceleration Initiative (RCAI) will build on existing efforts and will bring the following deliverables:

- Double the number of cities and partners committed to building resilience by the end of 2015;
- Assist 500 local governments to develop resilience action plans by 2020 through partners' respective resilience initiatives, and, where possible, connect these plans to support commitments made by national governments, as well as those commitments made through the Compact of Mayors;
- Using the estimated \$2bn annual urban resilience investment valued through the Medellin Collaboration as a benchmark, catalyze an equal amount of in-kind and direct support for cities' resilience plans by 2020.
- Manage an online 'marketplace' or similar platform, that a) aggregates and profiles the support and services available from the private sector, partner institutions, and others to help cities implement their commitments to resilience, b) provides access to data, information and resilience assessments, 3) helps cities to connect to new partners, and 4) introduces harmonized tools to support local efforts.
- Include and support development of capacity and enhancement of the resilience of communities and community-based institutions in all city and urban-related initiatives and programmes

The overarching objective of the RCAI is to accelerate the design and implementation of integrated strategies that strengthen the resilience of urban systems, thereby reducing vulnerability of cities and their inhabitants to climate and disaster risks and ensuring sustainable, equitable urban development.

Specific organizational commitments to this effort will be documented online and occasional updates on progress will be made as inputs to COP 20 and 21, the Third UN World Conference to Disaster Risk Reduction and the Habitat III Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in 2016, among other forums.

Given the wide range of actions that directly support these aims, impacts can be measured broadly in terms of increased awareness and political commitment, progress in the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to climate related hazards and other stresses (as reported by cities), number of community level programs to enhance urban resilience, and increased availability of funding and technical support to help cities implement their resilience building goals. These efforts are the building blocks of urban systems that are not only resilient to shocks and stresses but also able to grow and flourish in a changing climate.

The initiative remains open to additional commitments after Summit.

Interested countries and partners are invited to contact:

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Committed Countries and partners

Netherlands

(alphabetical)

100 Resilient Cities - Rockefeller Foundation

AECOM

Esri

Global Environmental Facility Secretariat

IBM

ICLEI

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Rockefeller Foundation

UNHabitat

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) /Making Cities Resilient Campaign

World Bank