

ICLEI's views and input on activities under the strategic workstreams of the 5-year rolling workplan of the Executive Committee of Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM)

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The importance of cities and human settlements for the implementation of global frameworks

As centers of population (over 3.96 billion people live in urban centers¹) and economic activity, cities concentrate risks while also amplifying hazards. This is especially true in relation to climate change. 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 and will have increasingly negative impacts on urban areas. It is estimated that by 2030, without significant investment into making cities more resilient, natural disasters may cost cities worldwide \$314 billion each year and climate change may push up to 77 million urban dwellers into poverty².

The urgent need for resilience-building at all levels was reaffirmed in three global frameworks in 2015: the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement. Under the latter, resilience is particularly important because the aggregate effect of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions will not be sufficient for a 1.5°C pathway nor to keep global temperature increases below a 2°C increase. In this context, increasing resilience, adapting to climate change and impacts, and addressing unavoidable loss and damage is imperative to build resilient cities, towns and regions with the capacity to effect global change. Integrated sustainable urban and territorial development as well as disaster risk reduction can help countries to achieve their NDCs.

Supporting local and regional governments to deliver on Global Frameworks

At COP22, ICLEI facilitated the Resilience Workstream of the Global Climate Action (GCA) Day on Cities and Human Settlements (10 November 2016³) where national and local governments, INGOs, NGOs, researchers and the private sector convened to discuss three critical themes: multi-level, multi-scale partnerships and initiatives; synergy among key global policy frameworks; and financing urban resilience. These three topics encapsulate the main challenges and opportunities for cities and regions to deliver on Global Frameworks and accelerate change at the global level.

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), *Population Division (2015), World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, Key Findings and Advance Tables*. Available online at: <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/>

² The World Bank (2016), *Investing in Urban Resilience: Protecting and Promoting Development in a Changing World*. Available online at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/10/12/world-bank-investing-in-urban-resilience-can-save-the-worlds-cities-billions-each-year-and-keep-millions-out-of-poverty>

³ http://climateaction.unfccc.int/media/1099/4-cop22_gca_cities_resilience_report.pdf

One of the resilience-relevant outcomes of the Cities and Human Settlements Day was the importance **to ensure synergy** through long-term, structured and regular dialogue and engagement of the urban resilience and adaptation community in key processes inside and outside the UNFCCC. For example, in 2017 these may include the 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 Platform for DRR 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.

International partners and local government networks, such as ICLEI, support local authorities in achieving their resilience and sustainability goals by connecting them to relevant actors and providing resources for capacity building. To help local governments navigate the growing number of resilience tools and resources available, international organizations like those in the Medellín Collaboration on Urban Resilience have teamed up to streamline their work and outreach. Recently, a new comprehensive platform was launched by the **Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme on Resilient Cities**⁴ to help cities find information and resources on enhancing their resilience. The tools and resources on www.resiliencetools.org have been compiled and produced by over 20 organizations to simplify the process for local and regional governments to find, compare and utilize the array of available tools and diagnostics.

In the beginning of 2017, ICLEI joined forces with UN Environment's Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI), the largest collaborative initiative between the UN and the insurance industry, to create **the largest collaboration between the insurance industry and cities**. The purpose of the partnership is to bring two key stakeholders together and bridge the existing finance and capacity gap to achieve urban sustainability and resilience. On May 5th 2017, ICLEI and UNEP PSI will host the first ever **Insurance Industry & Cities Summit** at Resilient Cities 2017 (4 – 6 May 2017, Bonn, Germany). The outcomes of this summit are expected to benefit other key processes throughout the year leading up to COP23. Through this collaboration, we anticipate to also jointly contribute to consultations on the UNFCCC Clearinghouse for Risk Transfer, which could be useful for local governments.

ICLEI's input on selected activities under the strategic workstreams of the 5-year rolling workplan

- **Actors and stakeholders at different scales** need to be involved in addressing loss and damage, especially as climate change impacts will severely affect urban areas. National governments need to provide the necessary regulatory framework for the implementation of city/municipal/regional action plans. It is important to bring forth those voices to the official WIM process and help create a workplan on loss and damage for the next 5 years that is inclusive and has the potential to effect change. [Workstream (g)]

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- Focus needs to be placed on increasing the **capacity of local governments** in addressing loss and damage. Since local governments have been officially recognized as stakeholders in 3 major global frameworks – Sendai Framework, SDGs, Paris Agreement – it is important to facilitate their efforts to locally implement those. Hence, support is needed to “translate” these frameworks into the local language and context; build the capacity of local leaders who propel changes in the direction of a more safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable future. [Workstream (g)]
- In order to minimize loss and damage, there is need for increased **flow of global climate finance** and other investments to support urban integrated disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainability initiatives. A Global Action Framework for Localizing Climate Finance is crucial. [Workstream (e)]
- Regarding migration and displacement: It is important to understand what “loss” is to local communities and what they consider *valuable*. For this purpose, it is crucial to incorporate **local knowledge** into the process of identifying appropriate means to tackle loss and damage in the next 5 year and beyond. [Workstream (d)]
- Expanding research on **NELDs at the urban level** is required in order to construct a congruent position on the topic. [Workstream (b)]