

Local Authorities Major Group

Informal co-chairs consultations with major groups October 9, 2014

Feedback to Section E and F of the Pre-Zero Draft

Summary of oral inputs delivered 9 October 2014

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We have reached out to all members of the Local Authorities Major Group, the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, and other networks such as ICLEI and UCLG to gather the input of local and regional governments regarding Sections E and F.

As with our previous inputs to section D, we have received itemized feedback for each article and paragraph, but will focus here on overarching themes and the most critical comments.

1. In line with our previous comments and the guiding principle C.a., we request that the role of local and regional governments be recognized and emphasized in the text, by including “in cooperation with local and regional governments” alongside references to States’ actions, and by replacing States with “all governments,” where appropriate in sections E and F.
2. As the world becomes increasingly urbanized, interconnected, and affected by the impacts of climate change, the importance of failing safely and recovering from disasters will become more relevant. We therefore recommend that disaster reduction and resilience be included alongside disaster prevention consistently throughout the text. Likewise, where responses are discussed, integrated, multi-phase approaches should be emphasized.
3. We request to strengthen the language regarding multi-level and cross-sectoral collaboration, with more concrete and actionable suggestions on how to build on and go beyond existing initiatives and progress made under HFA.
 - a. Section E should prioritize action areas for improving international cooperation in disaster risk management , such as through the standardization of operational and institutional procedures and the direct collaboration of governments, global and regional intergovernmental organizations, and the private sector to develop and deliver action plans tailored to the needs of each country or area.
 - b. In addition to improving operational procedures, a more fundamental shift in how all actors and societies perceive disaster is needed to drive forward progress on international implementation. In this regard, specific reference should be made for embedding resilience thinking into the key planning and investment criteria for governments, civil society, and the private sector.

- c. Furthermore, we request to reference existing, ongoing initiatives that will be part of these efforts, and the importance of developing synergies with new multilevel partnerships

We reiterate that Mayors, local governments, and their networks have already committed to improving resilience and adaptation through programs such as the Making Cities Resilient Campaign and commitments like the Durban Adaptation Charter for Local Governments. These existing programs should be strengthened under the new framework and linked to new cross sectoral partnerships and commitments including the Medellin Collaboration as well as the Compact of Mayors and Resilient Cities Accelerator Initiative recently released at the UN Climate Summit.

- d. One weakness of HFA1 was the lack of involvement of partners including local and regional governments. This was recognized in the preamble of the zero draft and we noted it. HFA2 action plan will have to rely on all stakeholders and especially to find ways to realize, to implement and to promote certain actions. For this, the action plan should include a dozen cities to carry out pilot projects that will serve as indicators of progress and implementation of HFA2 at local level. These pilot projects will integrate all active partners (civil society, academia, the private sector, community-based associations, etc.) in the implementation of local strategies for DRR and resilience. They will be replicated and disseminated at national level and also at the regional level and eventually will involve a large number of cities and local governments in the implementation of the action plan HFA2. For this initiative to be a success on the ground, it should be supported by the international community including states and donors. UCLG, ICLEI and UNISDR are willing to put in place a mechanism for the selection of the cities, provide technical assistance and monitor the pilot projects.
4. Regarding the implementation process including the monitoring and reporting procedures, we strongly request an integrated, harmonized approach to the implementation of the HFA2 and Sustainable Development Goals. To increase transparency and opportunities for multi-stakeholder dialogue and course correction, we suggest that the progress reports (section E. J.) be presented via global and national platforms for the consideration of government, civil society, private sector, and other stakeholders.

We note that there are relevant platforms already in existence which convene local and regional governments to discuss challenges, solutions, and new commitments to urban resilience and disaster risk reduction, such as the Resilient Cities congress series.

Thank you for your consideration and for this opportunity to share our feedback on the pre-zero draft.

Additional and more detailed feedback can be found in the table below.

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Sections E and F

Pre-zero draft wording			Ideas and Suggestions	Rationale
Section D. Priorities for Action				
Section E. International partnership in the implementation and follow-up process				
Para 26	(main)	While it is a primary responsibility of States <i>in cooperation with local and regional governments</i> to manage disaster risk, there is a strong expectation on the further strengthening of international cooperation and the forging of an international partnership for disaster risk reduction. Managing disaster risk requires a <i>structured and coordinated effort between all levels of government and all-stakeholders</i> , given the complexity of the task at hand and the relevance for humanity as a whole. In this connection:	<p>Suggestion to emphasize structured multilevel cooperation in section E including local and regional governments</p> <p>Suggest to add here “in cooperation with local governments” alongside “States” and change “all States” to “all governments”</p>	Guiding principle C.a. “each state has the primary responsibility to holistically manage disaster risk including through cooperation”
	a	Developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries, <i>and developing countries impacted by complex humanitarian crises including conflicts and health emergencies</i> , and Africa remain most vulnerable to <i>disasters including those related to</i> climate change and thus require adequate international assistance, through bilateral and multilateral channels, for the development and strengthening of their capacities in the areas of disaster prevention, <i>reduction</i> , and building resilience, including through financial and technical assistance, and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms.	<p>Suggest to include LDCs impacted by humanitarian crises including conflict and health emergencies</p> <p>Suggest to reconsider the wording “impacts of climate change” to something more specific to this context such as “disasters related to climate change”</p> <p>Suggest to include disaster reduction, as full prevention is not possible and may be less so with climate change impacts for example</p>	<p>Takes into account the added vulnerability of states who are or who have recently experienced conflict, and those affected by complex health emergencies such as the AIDs epidemic in preventing and responding to risks</p> <p>Climate change impacts are quite varied and the most vulnerable populations to some impacts may in fact be located outside of developing countries. Rewording may improve the accuracy while keeping to the scope of the Framework. The latest scientific data for climate change impacts can be consulted to see if adding other categories here would be justified (e.g. equatorial coastal cities)</p> <p>Need to consider how to fail safely as well as how to prevent failure</p>
	b	International cooperation efforts should continue giving priority to strengthening countries’ capacity and modalities to manage trans-boundary disaster risk, including potential disaster-related displacement, through the further development of	Suggest to recognize the importance of having a common language in disaster risk management, established in the preparation phase, in order to facilitate national and international cooperation by adding “the standardization of operational and institutional procedures”	The “common language” to be used in disaster risk management in international cooperation includes the operational aspects (for example the use of common symbology, metrics, alerts, open-sources data and systems, technologies, etc) in disaster risk management and the

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		early warning systems and sharing of knowledge, <i>the standardization of operational and institutional procedures</i> , and the availability of climate <i>and meteorological</i> services and other relevant earth observation systems <i>These actions require broad, balanced multilevel, multidisciplinary, and cross-sectoral partnerships. They should build on existing international initiatives with a clear strategy to advance beyond state of the art.</i>	Inclusion of the word “meteorological” in conjunction with climate to cover different hazards. Suggest to include an explicit mention of multilevel, multidisciplinary, and cross-sectoral partnerships here and the aim to go beyond what is state of the art	institutional relationships and procedures both at national and at international level (functioning of the institutional apparatus both in preparedness and in emergency management). Harmonization should be a priority issue in the preparedness phase of the international cooperation. Also helps to address language and cultural barriers in transboundary disasters, displacement All actors and levels of government will be needed as part of the capacity building process. This section can also underline the intention to go beyond what has been done previously.
	c	Intergovernmental organizations of global and regional nature, including international financial institutions , such as the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, and the Regional Development Banks, and the United Nations system’s entities, including funds, programs, and specialized agencies, through its United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, as well as the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement should be called upon to support countries and other stakeholders in the implementation of this framework, including the development of relevant sector policies and standards, monitoring mechanisms and the strengthening of capacities, through clear and focused programs that support in a balanced and sustainable manner countries’ priorities.	Suggest that this paragraph be reframed as a call for IGOs, countries, and local governments to cooperate in order to identify the needs and priorities of each country, differentiated by subnational region and city as necessary, and to develop programs/strategies for how IGOs can best contribute to these priorities. Consider adding a section calling on the private sector to take part as well, for example: "Private sector organizations should be encouraged to play their role, in partnership with the public sector, aid agencies, and civil society in building and maintaining the resilience of the communities in which they operate, thereby safeguarding their own operations and assets".	
	d	Adequate voluntary financial contributions should be provided to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction, in the effort to ensure adequate support for the follow-up activities to this framework. The current usage, <i>publicity</i> , and feasibility for the expansion of this fund, should be reviewed, inter alia, to assist disaster-prone developing countries to set up national strategies for disaster risk reduction <i>and resilience building</i> .	Suggest the text includes a reference to how the fund is publicized, and the importance of establishing resilience as a key criterion for private investors.	More publicity of this opportunity should be performed not only in the emergency phases but also in peacetime in order to ensure good fund provisions throughout the whole process.
	e	The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and other relevant regional bodies and mechanisms for		

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		parliamentarians, are encouraged to support the implementation of the deliberations adopted thus far and advocate for disaster risk management.		
	f	<i>Local government associations, networks, and other relevant bodies are encouraged to carry forward the implementation of the deliberations adopted thus far, and support cooperation and mutual learning among local governments. These efforts should build on existing multilevel initiatives that support the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, and be harmonized with new multi-sector commitments and collaborations (including the Medellin Collaboration, Compact of Mayors, and the Resilient Cities Accelerator Initiative)</i>	<p>Suggest to keep the wording open by saying simply “Local Government associations.”</p> <p>Suggest to reference existing, ongoing initiatives that will be part of these efforts, such as the Durban Adaptation Charter for Local Governments.</p> <p>Suggest to note the importance of developing synergies with new multilevel partnerships, including the Medellin Collaboration, and commitments presented at the UN Climate Summit 2014, including the Compact of Mayors and Resilient Cities Accelerator Initiative.</p>	<p>Naming relevant initiatives begun under the HFA and emerging collaborations /commitments would strengthen their mandate to support the HFA2 and ensure efforts are properly coordinated toward with the HFA2 goals and processes</p> <p>The Durban Adaptation Charter was launched at the UNFCCC COP17. The South African Government, through the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), South African Cities Network (SACN), eThekweni Municipality and the Department of Environmental Affairs partnered with ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability in hosting the Durban Local Government Convention: adapting to a changing climate - towards COP17/CMP7 and beyond. The Charter commits Local Governments to local climate action in their jurisdiction that will assist their communities to respond to and cope with climate change risks thereby reducing vulnerability, with specific reference to protecting the most vulnerable, ecosystems, and to innovative funding mechanisms.</p> <p>The Medellin Collaboration launched at the World Urban Forum 7 aim to facilitate the flow of knowledge and financial resources necessary to help cities become more resilient to disruptions related to climate change, natural hazards, and other systemic shocks and stresses including the socio-economic challenges associated with rapid urbanization.</p> <p>The Compact of Mayors includes an agreement by city networks (ICLEI, C40 and UCLG)– and then by their members – to undertake a transparent and supportive approach to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience to climate change, in a consistent and complimentary manner to national level climate protection efforts. Relevant to sections Eb and Eg, the Compact aims to establish standardized data collection and reporting processes for</p>

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				<p>local climate actions including those addressing climate risks. Under the compact, the leading global city networks have committed to mobilizing cities to register City Climate Commitments for adaptation and risk.</p> <p>The Resilient Cities Acceleration Initiative (RCAI) aims to accelerate the design and implementation of integrated strategies that strengthen the resilience of urban systems, reduce the vulnerability of cities to climate and disaster risks, and ensure sustainable, equitable urban development. Supporters of the RCAI commit to substantially increasing city participation and public and private investment in urban resilience in the short term while building local capacity through increased technical support, funding, and an online marketplace with tools and resources for cities.</p>
	g	<p>The UNISDR in particular is requested to support the implementation, monitoring and review of this framework through: preparing periodic reports on progress in the implementation; generating evidence-based guidance; supporting countries, including through the national platforms or their equivalent, <i>local governments, and civil society</i> in monitoring trends and patterns in disaster risk, disaster loss and impacts; convening the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and supporting the organization of <i>local and regional</i> platforms for disaster risk reduction; and reinforcing a culture of prevention, <i>reduction, and resilience</i> through advocacy initiatives and dissemination of risk information, policies and practices.</p>	<p>Suggest to again emphasize multilevel and multiphase aspects here.</p>	
	h	<p>International regional institutions and organizations should be encouraged to enhance cooperation and mutual reinforcement in policies, strategies, instruments and programs for the coherent implementation of this framework, the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and goals, and the climate change agreement, especially in support of developing</p>	<p>Question on whether this will include a provision on how to specifically involve international regional institutions in the UNISDR mechanism for coordinating, supporting, and monitoring?</p> <p>May also be an appropriate place to mention local governments specifically, for example: "International agencies may come forward in supporting interested local</p>	

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		countries <i>and their respective local governments</i>	governments in Disaster Risk Reduction planning in line with Making Cities Resilient Campaign toolkit and implementing Local Government Self Assessment Toolkits and further disseminating the actions amongst the cities across the globe.”	
	i	This framework is open-ended and will be periodically reviewed by the United Nations General Assembly and the ECOSOC every [X] years, through existing review processes, <i>including of the Sustainable Development Goals</i> , to allow for stocktaking, formulating recommendations for further action, and introducing possible corrective measures.	<p>Recommend that the review period be frequent enough to keep attention at the highest level during the implementation and to allow sufficient opportunities for evaluation and course correction.</p> <p>Recommend to ensure harmonization between implementation of this framework and the Sustainable Development Goals from the beginning</p> <p>Suggest to include actionable language such as: <i>“Fundamental are monitoring methodologies, indicators, tools, and instruments which will be set-up, tested, shared, improved and harmonized under the guidance of UNISDR.”</i></p>	Disasters and resilience is specifically addressed in SGoal1.5 and as well as in Goal 11.5 and Goal 11.b is the only reference to HFA2 throughout.
	j	Periodic report on progress will be provided by UNISDR for the considerations, and to support the deliberations, of the High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development at its sessions under the auspices of the ECOSOC and General Assembly. <i>Progress reports will also be presented via national and global platforms (such as the Resilient Cities congress) in order to inform the policies and practices of national and local governments, civil society agencies, and the private sector, who are called upon to consider these reports in an official capacity as part of the implementation of this framework.</i>	<p>Suggest that the progress reports also be presented via other global and national platforms for the consideration of government, civil society, private sector, and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The Resilient Cities congress series is one such forum that gathers local governments representatives and other stakeholders for exchange and stock-taking in urban resilience and adaptation.</p>	Resilient Cities Congress is the largest annual global forum on urban resilience and adaptation, including hosting launching of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, release of Local Governments handbook, and a history of partnership with UNISDR and patronage from Margareta Wallström.
F. Transition phase				
27		The activities suggested under the HFA priorities remain relevant and for further implementation in order to maintain the positive momentum and because significant systemic change and impact requires the persistence and perseverance of all stakeholders.	Question on whether a deadline (or regionally/country specific deadlines) for the transition will be defined?	
28		UNISDR will continue to lead technical consultations		

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		with countries, <i>local and regional governments</i> , and experts from international organizations, including the United Nations system, and other stakeholders to complete the ongoing work to review and strengthen the current HFA Monitor, including its indicators, while ensuring continuity with, and use of, data collected thus far. In particular, focus will be on its system of indicators, periodicity and modalities of reporting, and the synergy between the global, regional and national monitoring and reporting, as well as its potential synergies with other relevant monitoring and reporting systems, including for the sustainable development agenda and goals and climate change. It will also lead technical consultations in order to update the 2009 Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction; lead the revision of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience; and facilitate the revitalization and transformation of, and providing support to, the Scientific and Technical Committee.		
29		Existing regional strategies, plans and programs may be adjusted, taking into account this framework.		
Other				
Overall comments, now that we have gone over the whole pre-zero draft				