

**DRAFT DECLARATION PRESENTED TO THE UCLG EXECUTIVE BUREAU  
10-11 JULY 2008, QUITO**

**“LOCAL ACTION FOR DISASTER REDUCTION”<sup>1</sup>**

We, local and regional elected and the representatives of local governments organisations (United Cities and Local Governments, Metropolis, ICLEI and CITYNET) jointly with EMI (Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative):

*Whereas* the Hyogo Framework for Action (Kobe, Japan 2005), endorsed by the United Nations, proposes to devise policies and actions that seek to reduce the loss of human lives and material, economic and environmental damage caused by disasters, notably in towns and cities;

*Recognising* that our world is increasingly urbanised and that the concentration of populations in towns and cities has considerably raised the impact of disasters on people and on material assets and the economy in general, as demonstrated by the examples of Bam, Banda Aceh, Istanbul, Kobe, Manila, Mexico, New Orleans and Sichuan;

*Mindful* that good urban and territorial management, founded on the principles of good governance, should encompass a policy to prevent and reduce the risk of disasters;

*Convinced* that successful disaster risk reduction strategies can be only achieved if jointly implemented by all stakeholders at the local level, requesting a strong collaboration with the state level and efforts from all actors, and complemented by the mobilisation of the necessary expertise and finance;

*Recalling* the commitment of local authorities around the world to work to prevent and reduce disasters and to mobilise where needed in the face of humanitarian emergencies;

We, the elected local and regional officials who are members of this initiative, commit ourselves to:

- to rely on the principles and recommendations of Hyogo Framework for Action to develop and put into action local disaster risk reduction strategies in our towns and territories, including the implementation of prevention and mitigation plans ;
- Initiate and strengthen awareness-raising campaigns in order to educate the populace and thereby attain greater resilience in the face of hazards;
- Devote particular attention to reducing the vulnerability of poor populations and avoid that they might be exposed to hazards (e.g., unstable slopes and flood zone areas);
- Enhance our participation in national, regional, and international disaster risk reduction platforms and particularly to the UN-ISDR Global Platform for disaster risk reduction ;

We, the elected local and regional officials who are members of this initiative, ask the States, the multilateral and bilateral agencies and the UN system and particularly the members of the UN ISDR system and all stakeholders to:

- Support local disaster risk reduction strategies and actions and sharing of good practices at the local level;
- Improve the communication and coordination of their actions with our representative organisations;
- Set up capacity building and training programmes for municipal staff and launch awareness-raising and education campaigns in partnership with local authorities and their associations;
- Adapt and develop in partnership with local governments and our representative organisations to adapt and develop a local framework for action which is derived from the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- Set up the Global Forum for Local Governments, as the institutional support for implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action at the local level. The Global Forum for Local Governments will help local governments achieve a better understanding of the issues that confront them, broaden their skills for disaster risk reduction, develop appropriate mitigation measures and knowledge sharing among local authorities and their partners.

<sup>1</sup> Please send your comments and amendments to the World Secretariat **before 15 September 2008** to [m.boussraoui@cities-localgovernments.org](mailto:m.boussraoui@cities-localgovernments.org)