TRABZON RESILIENCE DECLARATION

Safeguard the Unforeseen Tomorrows
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Adopted at:
UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau
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Endorsed by:
UCLG World Organisation
UNDRR ROAS
The devastating earthquake that struck Türkiye and Syria in early 2023 underlines the critical importance of disaster risk reduction and resilience-building efforts. Ensuring the safety and well-being of citizens is now a top priority for cities around the world than ever before, and to achieve this, cities must take the necessary measures to prevent and mitigate the impact of disasters, enhance their resilience and promote the recovery of losses and damages. In response to the recent disaster and in the light of #ResilientMEWA Vision, city leaders gathered at the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau, adopted the Trabzon Resilience Declaration (TRD), a collective roadmap that emphasizes the importance of all aspects of resilience in cities, including global agendas, disaster management, disaster risk governance, social resilience, collective action, cultural heritage safeguarding, policy-making, and data. TRD acknowledges the need for a comprehensive disaster preparedness strategy with precautions, disaster risk reduction plans, emergency action, and recovery plans, and the importance of building cities that are evidence-based and adaptive to changing circumstances. It also highlights the need for partnerships and cooperation among various stakeholders to build resilient, sustainable, and thriving cities. The Declaration lists various commitments, such as prioritizing investment in solid infrastructure and superstructure, promoting energy efficiency, investing in education and awareness-raising campaigns, and promoting policy-making mechanisms and local government-based initiatives that support resilience and disaster preparedness efforts.
Trabzon Resilience Declaration

Pillars

1. **Global Agendas**
2. **Policy Making**
3. **Disaster Management**
4. **Disaster Risk Governance**
5. **Collective Action**
6. **Data**
7. **Social Resilience**
8. **Safeguarding Culture Heritage**
We, city leaders and local governments gathered at UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau, joined forces to draw a regional collective roadmap to address all dimensions of resilience in our cities, and therefore adopted the Trabzon Resilience Declaration as follows ...

We commend

1. **All the historic steps** that were taken at the international level to address the challenges and consequences in times of disasters to ensure preparedness and readiness of our communities, which are as follows:

   - **1979 International Expert Group Meeting**, which was convened by the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator to assess six years’ worth of effort in creating a novel approach for analyzing risks and vulnerabilities.

   - **1990 International Framework of Action**, which was an overall strategy developed for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) to mitigate the impact of disasters worldwide.

   - **1994 Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World**, which was established during the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama, Japan. It is a set of guidelines that focuses on preventing, preparing for, and mitigating the impact of natural disasters.

   - **1999 International Strategy for Disaster Reduction**, which is a framework established by the United Nations to promote and coordinate international efforts in disaster risk reduction.

   - **2005 Hyogo Framework for Action**, which consists of a set of priorities for action and practical measures to be taken at national, regional, and international levels to reduce disaster risks including the integration of disaster risk reduction into policies, enhancing early warning systems and increasing public awareness and education.
We recall

2. **The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**,\(^1\) which outlines a set of priorities and actions for reducing disaster risk and building resilience at the national and local levels through understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance, investing in disaster risk reduction and resilience, enhancing disaster preparedness, and promoting disaster risk reduction through effective communication and cooperation, including at local and regional levels through Target E.

3. **The Sustainable Development Goals**,\(^2\) which aim to address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change, especially SDG 11 which is dedicated to making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Sustainable Development Goals also aim to focus on improving the quality of life of people who live in urban areas, as more than half of the world’s population now lives in cities.

4. **The New Urban Agenda**,\(^3\) which sets out a vision for sustainable and resilient urban development and emphasizes the importance of building resilient infrastructure, promoting social and economic inclusion, and strengthening urban governance and planning.

5. **The Paris Agreement on Climate Change**,\(^4\) which aims to limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

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\(^1\) The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is an international agreement adopted in 2015 at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan.

\(^2\) The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 interconnected goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

\(^3\) The New Urban Agenda is a global agreement that was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016.

\(^4\) The Paris Agreement on Climate Change is a legally binding international agreement that was adopted by the 196 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2015.
6. **Pact for the Future of Humanity**,⁵ which combines commitments concerning the future of People, Planet, and Government, shapes the political perspective of the UCLG constituency, serves as a vital tool for LRGs to contribute within a revitalized multilateral system to achieve global goals, as well as emphasizes resilience-related commitments found in the Planet pillar, of which the aim is to meet the expectations of current and future generations, and facilitate a collective breakthrough.

**We recognize that**

7. A **comprehensive disaster management strategy** including preparedness, disaster risk reduction, emergency action and recovery plans will serve as a milestone in times of disaster and will play a pivotal role in preventing irreparable losses and damages during disasters.

8. **Resilience requires a multilateralism approach**,⁶ including central government, local and regional governments, private sector, civil society, academia, and residents; and by fostering partnerships and launching platforms for dialogue and cooperation, we can build cities that are not only resilient, but also sustainable and thriving.

9. **Cities are on the front lines** of many global challenges, including climate change, economic uncertainty, and social inequality and by working together and taking a whole-of-government approach⁷ and a whole-of-society approach⁸ we can build cities that are prepared to weather any storm.

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⁵ The Pact for the Future of Humanity, also known as The Daejeon Political Declaration, is the key outline from the 2022 UCLG World Congress in Daejeon, South Korea, setting out the strategic goals for the organization for 2022 to 2028.

⁶ Multilateralism is an approach to international relations that emphasizes cooperation among multiple countries or actors to address global challenges, pursue shared goals, and achieve collective benefits. This approach typically involves the use of international organizations, treaties, and agreements to facilitate communication, coordination, and collaboration among participating nations.

⁷ The whole-of-government approach, also known as multilevel governance, integrated government or joined-up government approach, is a method aimed at boosting collaboration, coordination, and cooperation among different government departments and agencies to provide more efficient and effective public policies and services. This strategy seeks to address the challenges posed by conventional siloed or segmented public administration systems, in which individual agencies or departments concentrate primarily on their distinct roles and goals.

⁸ The whole-of-society approach is a collaborative and inclusive approach that involves all sectors of society, including government, civil society organizations, the private sector, and individuals, in addressing complex social issues. This approach recognizes that no single entity or sector can solve these issues alone, and that effective solutions require the involvement and cooperation of all stakeholders.
10. **Resilience requires a deep understanding of the risks and vulnerabilities** that cities face, as well as the effectiveness of different solutions and approaches in a multisectorial approach; and by investing in research, monitoring, and evaluation, we can build cities that are evidence-based and adaptive to changing circumstances.

11. **A resilient city** is not only prepared for emergencies, but also supports the health, safety, and prosperity of all its inhabitants, recognizing and addressing the particular needs, lived experiences and contributions of women, children, youth, migrants, older populations and people with disabilities.

12. **Vulnerable groups are often the most affected** by disasters and disruptions and by engaging these groups in the process of resilience-building and designing solutions that meet their specific needs, we can build cities that are truly resilient, inclusive and just.

13. **Cities learn better from other cities** and can benefit from the innovative practices and lessons learned by their peers, as well as from working through local government associations to bridge governance gaps, build local capacities, and advocate for enabling national and international frameworks and resources that facilitate local resilience building.

**We commit to**

14. **Promote disaster risk governance efforts**, which refer to the set of policies, institutions, and processes that are involved in managing and reducing disaster risk, responding to disasters, and advancing disaster recovery and resilience; as well as encompasses a range of actors, including government agencies, local governments, civil society, international organizations, communities, academia, data centers and the private sector, and contributes to decision-making and coordination across multiple levels and sectors. This includes strengthening risk governance at all levels including the local level, and across all sectors, as well as synergizing with other international frameworks that need to be implemented at local level.
15. **Take disaster risks, shocks and stresses into account and include them at the top of our priorities** in the local policy-making process, building synergies with other international frameworks that need to be implemented at local level in accordance with the realities of our territories, which will play a critical role in preventing loss of lives and reducing devastation rates in emergencies.

16. **Bring multi-hazard disaster risk management to the center of urban planning** for our future cities through harmonizing multi-stakeholder, interdisciplinary and participatory approaches towards an agreed risk by all societal and institutional stakeholders, and encourage the implementation of related approaches that facilitate risk-informed decision-making, such as Tomorrow’s Cities Decision Support Environment.⁹

17. **Prepare for emergencies** by establishing robust emergency management plans, training first responders, and invest in technology and equipment to ensure an effective response to rapid and slow-onset disasters.

18. **Prioritize investment in resilient infrastructure** on the most pressing needs of the city, including repairs and upgrades to existing structures, as well as investments in new projects that will benefit the community in the long term, such as health centers and services, green and blue infrastructure, and multi-purpose social and cultural facilities.

19. **Organize and maintain meeting spots**, such as parks and gardens that play a crucial role in disaster situations for ensuring safety, communication, accountability, comfort, and coordination, as well as help to ensure that everyone knows where to go to reunite with their loved ones and ensure their safety.

20. **Ensure that all residents have equal access to common goods**, such as clean water, food, health services, and shelter during times of crisis, including natural disasters and pandemics, addressing the particular needs of women, children, older populations, and people with disabilities.

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⁹ Tomorrow’s Cities Decision Support Environment (TCDSE) is an approach that advances beyond the limits of current conventional risk models by placing knowledge co-production at the heart of risk-informed decision-making. Through a democratization of the concept of risk, the TCDSE incorporates novel understandings of risk that recognize the life experiences of the poor and most marginalized social groups. By doing so, the TCDSE enables the iterative assessment of different policies, urban plans, and interventions in terms of their disaster-related impact on future economic, environmental, and social objectives cooperatively agreed with relevant stakeholders.
21. **Promote energy efficiency** in buildings and transportation systems, which can reduce the risk of power outages during any emergency case, and contribute to the mitigation of climate change.

22. **Invest in education and awareness-raising campaigns** to inform the public about the risks posed by natural hazards and other shocks, and how they can take steps to protect themselves, their families, and their community.

23. **Encourage the development of local businesses** and economies that are resilient to shocks and disruptions, such as by promoting local food systems and renewable energy, fostering risk-sensitive investment efforts and supporting reforms in the financial system to better consider climate change and the environment in disaster risk reduction.

24. **Encourage sustainable development practices**, such as the use of nature-based solutions, smart growth\(^ {10} \) and transit-oriented development,\(^ {11} \) that help to reduce risk and increase resilience in times of disasters.

25. **Establish communication channels** in order to prevent disinformation and to deliver correct information to the public during a disaster, which will preclude panic and slowing aid.

26. **Prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable**, such as older adults, women and girls, children and youth, people with disabilities, homeless people and refugees and displaced persons in disaster response and recovery efforts.

27. **Safeguard the cultural heritage**\(^ {12} \) of cities by taking the necessary precautions in the contents of disaster preparedness and during the reconstruction process to ensure that no place has been left behind.

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\(^{10}\) Smart growth is a type of urban planning and development strategy that aims to build more livable, sustainable, and efficient communities. It promotes compact, mixed-use development that integrates transportation, housing, and other land uses in a way that reduces dependence on automobiles, preserves open space, and supports local economies.

\(^{11}\) Transit-oriented development (TOD) is a type of urban development that emphasizes compact, mixed-use development around public transportation infrastructure, such as train stations, bus stops, or subway stations. TOD seeks to build walkable and bikeable neighborhoods with a mix of residential, commercial, and office spaces that are easily accessible by public transportation.

\(^{12}\) Tangible cultural heritage refers to physical objects, sites, and structures that have cultural, historical, or archaeological significance and value. These may include buildings, monuments, works of art, archaeological sites, and cultural landscapes, as well as objects such as artifacts, documents, and manuscripts.
28. Develop city-to-city cooperation\textsuperscript{13} with other cities and organizations to learn and share best practices, resources, and knowledge about resilience and disaster preparedness, as well as encourage stronger local government associations and partnerships that can accompany local resilience-building processes and mobilize international solidarity in face of disasters.

29. Develop local evidence-based data collection methods, or amplify and consolidate existing data collection methods, in coordination with national governments, international organizations, and relevant stakeholders to pave the way for rescue operations and to help aid reach the right places without wasting time, which is considered valuable in times of disaster.

30. Advocate for policies and funding at the national and international level that support resilience and disaster preparedness efforts in cities and communities around the world, including through active engagement in the efforts of local government associations at national and international levels.

31. Ensure stronger engagement of our cities, local and regional governments of all types in international platforms and networks which offers an opportunity to make the local realities more visible and align the local government-based initiatives with global agenda.

\textsuperscript{13} City-to-city cooperation, also known as city diplomacy or city networking, refers to the collaboration between cities and local governments across national borders to share knowledge, resources, and best practices in order to address common challenges and achieve mutual benefits. This form of cooperation has gained traction in recent years as cities have become increasingly important players in the global arena due to rapid urbanization and globalization.