



SESSION DESCRIPTION

Session description as of 11 May 2012

G4 Urban Risk Forum 1

Date: Tuesday, 15 May

Time: 11:30 – 13:00

Room: S29-32
Forum

Session language: English

Contact: Alice Balbo, resilient.cities@iclei.org

Organized by: ICLEI, UNISDR and Global Risk

Davos

OBJECTIVE

When looking at cities and risks, two perspectives can be taken:

- *Cities at risk* – looking at the risks that cities are facing due to each city's unique exposure, sensitivity and vulnerability.
- *Cities as risk* – looking at the risks poorly managed urbanization processes and/or lack of sustainable urban development may pose to the society or even human civilization, to national, regional or global development, environment and economy.

Both aspects are intrinsically intertwined.

The Urban Risk Forum will therefore address the various risk factors that cities face and cities' capacity to reduce risk and increase resilience, as well as the risks deriving from "failing" cities that threaten global civil society.

The themes "Cities at risk" and "Cities as risks" are not yet receiving adequate attention. However, short-term, medium-term and long-term actions are needed. Effective risk reduction and integrative risk management require multiple actions ranging from urban planning for resilience via stakeholder empowerment to risk transfer via insurance.

This panel features representatives of different institutions dealing with urban risk. From the international level to the private sector to local governments, the panelists will analyze the various problems at hand and identify sustainable solutions toward resilient cities despite urban risks.

METHODOLOGY

- Theme introduction by facilitator. **(10 minutes)**
- The panelists will contribute individual thoughts and messages, 12 minutes each. **(60 minutes)**
- The facilitator will manage questions and comments among the panelists and between the audience and panelists. **(15 minutes)**
- The facilitator will provide concluding remarks. **(5 minutes)**

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Konrad Otto-Zimmermann, Secretary General, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability; 2011 Chair of the Global Agenda Council on Urbanization of the World Economic Forum; Congress Chair, Bonn, Germany*

Panelist *Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, Switzerland; Patron of Resilient Cities 2012*

Panelist *Walter Ammann, President, Global Risk Forum GRF Davos*

Panelist *Kathrin Mohr, Program Manager, Disaster Response Teams, GoHelp, Deutsche Post DHL, Germany*

Panelist *Violeta Seva, Senior Advisor, Makati City, Philippines*

Atty. Violeta Somera Seva is a Senior Advisor to the Mayor of Makati City, Philippines and concurrently the General Secretary of Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative, an international non-profit organization devoted to disaster risk reduction in megacities. She has extensive experience in disaster risk management, having worked as legal and institutional expert for Amman, Mumbai, Pasig City, Makati City and other municipalities and provinces in the Philippines.

Panelist *Greg Pillay, Head, Disaster Risk Management Centre, City of Cape Town, South Africa*

Further recommended reading

World Economic Forum's *Global Risks 2012, Seventh Edition*
http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GlobalRisks_Report_2012.pdf
