



SESSION DESCRIPTION

C5 **Mayors Adaptation Forum**

Mayors – Practitioners Dialogue-I: Commitments and initiatives on urban resilience and adaptation

Date: Friday, May 30 2014
Time: 09:00-10:30
Rooms: S30-32

Language: English
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Organized by: ICLEI World Secretariat, World Mayors
Council on Climate Change, Durban
Adaptation Charter Secretariat

OBJECTIVE

The political and institutional processes related to adaptation in the context of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention, dates back to early 2000s. Global increase of the slow onset changes in the climatic conditions, together with the increase in the frequency and severity of the extreme events resulted in the intensification of global efforts starting with 2005 onwards.

The global concerted efforts regarding the response of the local community to adaptation have intensified starting with 2010, in particular with “Making Cities Resilient Campaign”, where the first Resilient Cities Congress in Bonn, Germany hosted one of the global launching events. In 2011 at COP17, following the successful process of the Global Cities Covenant on Climate – the Mexico City Pact launched a year ago, Durban Adaptation Charter was adopted as providing a global strategic vision and action oriented guidance to resilience and adaptation to climate change at the local level. As of 2014, the UNFCCC is focusing on National Adaptation Programmes and a global process on loss and damage, whereas a global initiative on improving urban resilience was launched at World Urban Forum 7 in Medellin and a number of initiatives are being planned towards 2014 UN Climate Summit on 23 September.

The Session aims to take stock of the progress achieved and explore opportunities of collaboration in multiple fronts with key partners involved in these processes.

OUTCOMES

- Updates on the progress achieved in global processes including highlights of lessons learned and good practices on how these efforts improve action at the local level;
- Vision for the implementation of the next phases of these processes, including increasing of engagement of local governments at the national and regional level; and
- Address options for synergies, in particular in terms of monitoring, reporting and increasing added value of mutual collaboration.



METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator will open the session with a short introduction of himself and each speaker. **(5 minutes)**
- Each speaker will be given time to describe their work, showing maps or other illustrations as needed. **(3 x 10 minutes)**
- The remainder of the session will be organized around the guiding questions, with each panelist given time to respond to individual questions, and to respond to comments made by other panelists. **(25 minutes)**
- The facilitator will manage questions and answers from the audience. **(25 minutes)**
- The facilitator will conclude with closing remarks. **(5 minutes)**

Guiding questions:

1. What are the key highlights of 2013 Progress Report of Durban Adaptation Charter in terms of new signatories, technical support to existing signatories, global coordination and reporting processes?
2. What are the key achievements of the “Making Cities Resilient Campaign” in its first phase between 2010-2014 within the scope of Hyogo Framework of Action, including the experience of LG Self Assessment Tool and Resilience Scorecards?
3. What are the expectations of Bogota Pact for Resilience of Latin American Cities in terms of vision for implementation and technical guidance at the regional level?
4. How can Medellin Collaboration on Urban Resilience announced at WUF7 and 2014 UN Climate Summit strengthen existing efforts?
5. What are the priority areas to ensure synergy and collaboration among these initiatives in terms practical action at the local level? How can these local focused initiatives can be better integrated with the evolving new institutional and financial architecture of the adaptation work under the UNFCCC?

CONTRIBUTORS

- Facilitator *Yunus Arikan, Head of Global Policy and Advocacy, ICLEI World Secretariat, Bonn, Germany*
- Panelist *Sean O'Donoghue, Manager Climate Protection Branch, eThekweni Municipality/Durban, South Africa*
- Panelist *Jerry Velasquez, Chief of Advocacy and Outreach Section, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)*
- Panelist *Nestor Garcia, Secretary of Environment, Municipality of Bogotá, Colombia*



Further recommended reading

Durban Adaptation Charter:

www.durbanadaptationcharter.org

Making My Cities Resilient Campaign:

www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/

UNFCCC Adaptation :

<http://unfccc.int/focus/adaptation/items/6999.php>
