



Resilient Cities : Re-think, Re-build, Revitalize



## JAKARTA DECLARATION

United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific endorses the following principles arising from its Congress and Statutory meetings held in Jakarta 2-5 October 2012.

We commend the theme of the Congress: Resilient Cities: Re-think, Re-build, Revitalize and urge all cities and other local governments to strive to achieve this ambitious objective.

We are reminded of Charles Darwin's observation in "The Origin of the Species" when he acknowledged that survival is not just dependent on intelligence or strength, but by the ability to adapt. Adaptation is a necessary pre-requisite for resilience and survival and Local Governments need to embrace this principle.

We note that a Resilient City is one that has developed capacities to help absorb future shocks and stresses to its social, economic, environmental and technical systems and infrastructures so as to be able to maintain essentially the same functions, structures, systems and identity. Cities need to respond to crises and adapt in a way that may cause them to change and grow differently; cities require an inner strength, a resolve as well as a strong physical infrastructure and built environment.

We acknowledge that the principle of subsidiarity is central to all effective reforms and strategies for sustainable development across the Asia- Pacific Region. Inherent in this is the absolute desirability of Central and Local Governments entering into COMPACTS to deliver positive outcomes to their shared electors and citizens, the ultimate beneficiaries of such compacts.

We note that COMPACT implies the recognition by each sphere of government of the important role of each and the need to function in the spirit of partnership to achieve shared and positive outcomes.

We assert that the most appropriate sphere of government should carry out the function and be resourced to do so.

We recognize that for many functions close to the people, Local Government is the most appropriate authority to be so deployed.

We clearly acknowledge that many National Governments and the United Nations itself is increasingly recognizing that important campaigns cannot be effectively implemented without the active involvement of Local Governments and we welcome that acknowledgement and assert that shared resources will provide for optimum outcomes.

(The profound leadership by our World President of UCLG Mayor Topbas in promoting this on the World stage at the UN is deeply appreciated.)

We need to promote good governance and enhance the internal capacities of Local Governments and their Associations and ensure support is provided to urban and rural Local Governments in a context of rapid urbanization.

We recognize and endorse the Phnom Penh Record of Principles on Strengthening Decentralization and Local Governance (see attached) and support the active engagement of UCLG with the Association of South –East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other regional bodies to further dialogue, collaboration and action between Nations and National Local Government Associations and their member Local Governments.

We support UCLG ASPAC establishing a Standing Committee on Democratic Local Governance in South-East Asia (DELGOSEA) and providing Secretariat support to engage with the ASEAN Secretariat.

We also recognize and endorse the “Making Cities Resilient-My City is Getting Ready Campaign” and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and urge all Local Governments to endorse the ten point commitment and actively involve their citizens.  
(See attached 10 points.)

We recognize with concern the dismissal of many Local Governments in the Region and call for the speedy return of democratic Local Government where it has been taken away from the people and the steady move towards constitutionally empowered Local Government throughout Asia Pacific and the rest of the World.

We embrace our Asia Pacific Region as one of the most complex in the World reflecting a full range of ethnic, religious, cultural and political diversity and assert that this complexity is a strength to be used to further develop our regional potential.

We look towards community to community interaction in promoting peace, goodwill and understanding and tolerance in a region of cultural diversity.

We acknowledge that culture in all its embodiments is vital to an understanding of people’s identity and values and recognize the need to embrace it as a fundamental pillar of society.

We encourage mutual support in promoting economic development and the sharing of ideas to enhance the well-being of citizens across the region and to overcome prejudice, ignorance and inequalities amongst people.

We assert that the wealth of a nation should be used to raise the living, health and educational standards in our respective countries and promote the desirability of the advanced countries of the region to assist the development of those less advanced.

We welcome the Korean Cities Federation into UCLG to take their seat alongside their other Korean colleagues and others from North-East Asia. We support the growing involvement of Indian and Pakistani and other South and South-West Asian Local Governments and their Associations and pledge to support the involvement of the Local Governments of Myanmar, Laos and other countries actively involved in their development process.

We reflect that 1955 saw the coming together of African and Asian countries, many newly emerging from the yoke of colonialism and standing together as fledgling independent nations. The Late President Sukarno convened this gathering in Bandung and it would be monumental for a new gathering to take place on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bandung.

We urge that the Government of the Republic of Indonesia resolves to call a meeting of African and Asian Leaders to profile the dramatic progress made since 1955 and on this occasion a complementary meeting be called of African and Asian Local Government Leaders in Bandung to consolidate cross-regional relations and for an opportunity for National Government Leaders and National Local Government Leaders to meet and resolve to work together to further enhance the life of their shared constituents and to support a collaborative path for economic development, environmental enhancement, risk mitigation and promoting people-orientated governance.

We place on record our appreciation for the hospitality of our host, the Capital City of Jakarta, and call on all members of United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific to vigorously promote the implementation of this Declaration.

Adopted in Jakarta on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012

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## **The Phnom Penh Communiqué for The Future**

Following the constructive discussions involving UCLG ASPAC, DELGOSEA, KAS and other representatives in the Region, it is proposed that the parties will continue their dialogue, including the ASEAN Secretariat, to work towards common objectives in improving local governance and people-orientated activities and regional integration.

This communiqué was approved at the Phnom Penh Regional Conference on Strengthening Decentralization and Local Governance in ASEAN Countries.

May 4th 2012

## **The Phnom Penh Record of Principles on Strengthening Decentralization and Local Governance 3-4 May 2012**

The regional conference on "Strengthening Decentralization and Local Governance in ASEAN Countries Through a Multi-Stakeholder Approach" jointly organized by local governments and civil society, with the support of two European Union funded projects "Supporting Decentralization in Developing Countries" (led by United Cities and Local Governments – Asia Pacific, (UCLG ASPAC)) and the "Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia" (DELGOSEA) (led by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)) recognizes that:

1. National and Sub-national Governments, including Local Governments' need to work in partnership to achieve the over-riding needs and aspirations of their shared citizens and electors;
2. Compacts, dialogue, constant exchange of ideas and co-operation, between local, national, and regional actors (ASEAN, UCLG ASPAC, DELGOSEA) will promote a sustainable way to local development and to implement reforms and action programmes, as well as developing the capacity of all spheres of Government;
3. Increased citizen participation in the democratic processes and their component at the Regional, National and Local Level is essential as is increased transparency and accountability in all spheres of government;
4. Decentralization provides a road to local development and should be understood as a process and not as a goal in itself; it is a fundamental tool for achieving a reduction in poverty, democratic governance and human development;
5. There should be a direct exchange between cities and other local governments and local government associations across and within countries; inter-municipal co-operation should be institutionalized and promoted sub-nationally, nationally and regionally throughout ASEAN and internationally;
6. Experiences with models and innovation on people's participatory practices; environmental preservation and enhancement; disaster mitigation and risk management; co-operation and coordination in the utilization of sea resources should be exchanged and promoted;
7. Challenges in each local government must be responded to through empowering local government to, create transparency, achieve social cohesion and promote innovation;

8. Appropriate and sustainable arrangements need to be made for financing local government to ensure social, economic and infrastructure development as well as their other mandated responsibilities;
9. Legal frameworks with observatories and mutual learning on decentralization and local finance, periodic monitoring and evaluation of country decentralization programmes, and the development of performance measurements for local governments should be encouraged;
10. Continuing capacity building and knowledge sharing for local government elected members and administrators should be strengthened, in particular through closer links between local governments, the academic institutions and civil society;
11. The Local Government Associations, civil societies and international alliances and networks should be strengthened.

We call for a greater collaboration within the ASEAN framework that embraces National and Local Governments and broader civil society and establishes an ongoing Forum that addresses:

1. Poverty and growing inequality, and risks including disasters and climate change;
2. Weak governance, lack of transparency resulting in inefficient use of resources, the weakening of government legitimacy and social inequalities;
3. A compact between central and local governments in pursuing national objectives through complementary local development in a stable and devolved decentralized structure;
4. The sharing of experiences through genuine cross border initiatives within the ASEAN community;
5. Horizontal and vertical cooperation mechanisms between national, regional and local governments, civil society, academia and research, the media and the private sector.

Such a Forum needs to consider the best and culturally relevant opportunities for people empowerment and involvement in a model of decentralization that is relevant to the cultural needs of South East Asia, and builds on the Asian values and political structures.

The Forum must consolidate the principle of PARTNERSHIP between National, Regional and Local Institutions that provides for opportunities, not threats, to their respective integrity with devolved and funded mandates in a decentralized framework based on which area of governance is best placed to deliver most effectively and cost efficiently to their shared constituents – the people.

Decentralization and democratic ideals for the ASEAN region should be built on people empowerment and participation, and the promotion of a legislative framework to support the reform process, including fiscal mechanisms to improve capacity and motivation of local governments in playing their role in local development.

We acknowledge support of the European Union funded projects in the work undertaken to date and call for their ongoing support to continue this process. In addition we call on other international organizations, such as the UN agencies, the Asian Development Bank and other actors, to join in supporting this process and to share their ideas and strategies to realize these objectives.

This Record of Principles reflected discussions in Phnom Penh and adopted on 4th May 2012.

# The 10 Essentials for Making Cities Resilient

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A ten-point checklist and the building block for disaster risk reduction, developed in line with the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

## Ten-point Checklist - Essentials for Making Cities Resilient

- **Essential 1:** Put in place organization and coordination to understand and reduce disaster risk, based on participation of citizen groups and civil society. Build local alliances. Ensure that all departments understand their role to disaster risk reduction and preparedness.
- **Essential 2:** Assign a budget for disaster risk reduction and provide incentives for homeowners, low-income families, communities, businesses and public sector to invest in reducing the risks they face.
- **Essential 3:** Maintain up-to-date data on hazards and vulnerabilities, prepare risk assessments and use these as the basis for urban development plans and decisions. Ensure that this information and the plans for your city's resilience are readily available to the public and fully discussed with them.
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- **Essential 5:** Assess the safety of all schools and health facilities and upgrade these as necessary.
- **Essential 6:** Apply and enforce realistic, risk compliant building regulations and land use planning principles. Identify safe land for low-income citizens and develop upgrading of informal settlements, wherever feasible.
- **Essential 7:** Ensure education programmes and training on disaster risk reduction are in place in schools and local communities.
- **Essential 8:** Protect ecosystems and natural buffers to mitigate floods, storm surges and other hazards to which your city may be vulnerable. Adapt to climate change by building on good risk reduction practices.
- **Essential 9:** Install early warning systems and emergency management capacities in your city and hold regular public preparedness drills.
- **Essential 10:** After any disaster, ensure that the needs of the survivors are placed at the centre of reconstruction with support for them and their community organizations to design and help implement responses, including rebuilding homes and livelihoods.