

## Guest Column by Professor Ralph Horne

Professor Ralph Horne  
Director, Global Compact  
Cities Programme  
the urban arm of the  
United Nations Global  
Compact



Alongside the strengthening partnership between UN Habitat and RMIT in Melbourne (see right) is a rapidly growing collaboration with the UN Global Compact, Cities Programme. This is the urban arm of the United Nations Global Compact; the UN's flagship corporate social responsibility initiative formed in 2000. The international secretariat is hosted in Melbourne at RMIT and since January this year I have had the honour of taking on Directorship of the Cities Programme.

The fit is a good one – RMIT has the largest and strongest research concentration across the urban and design disciplines amongst Australian Universities, and has a global reach with campuses in Vietnam, a research facility in Barcelona, and a strong network of city relationships across Latin America. RMIT urban research is both global and local; we are currently compiling a global review of state-level urban policy frameworks in a project with UN Habitat; at the same time we are closely engaged locally with the Melbourne 100R project.

RMIT's urban research is focused on public good outcomes for cities; resilience, sustainability, inclusion and good governance. These qualities are also the focus of the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact as they apply to the current 120+ signatory cities worldwide. The Cities Programme country contact points, global advisors, urban scholars, interns and staff collectively work with these signatory cities on progressing the Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti corruption and governance (e.g. see <http://citiesprogramme.com/archives/resource/cities-for-the-future>). Our most recent tool is the City Scan; a self-diagnostic for cities to assess progress across the development, sustainability and good governance, and a baseline setting tool for designing and implementing future initiatives.

A unique aspect of the Cities Programme is that it is based on a platform of cross-sectoral collaboration and is part of a much larger initiative focussed on mobilizing the private sector. We are part of a network of over 8,000 firms globally across some 90 countries, all of whom have committed to advancing the Ten Principles, and as such recognise the need to prioritise sustainability and good citizenship in their operations. Working with this network, we focus on cross-sectoral partnerships in fostering resilience and sustainable development initiatives.

In common with urban networks everywhere, we are in for a busy 2016 in supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in the run-up to Habitat III. As part of these preparations, we are hosting an Urban Thinkers Campus in February 2016, focused on "Ethical Cities", drawing on the expertise of leading Global Compact cities such as Medellin, Porto Alegre and Barcelona and partners, World Vision International. I welcome you all to come to Melbourne and join the dialogue.

With global urban challenges more pressing than ever, it is imperative that we bring our resources, networks, knowledge and experience together across as wide a range of organisations as possible, around common goals to improve the resilience and sustainability of our cities. I welcome the growing collaboration between UN Global Compact, Cities Programme, and the City Resilience Profiling Programme, and our many affiliates, in this endeavour.

Best wishes

## UN HABITAT and RMIT move to improve disaster recovery

On October 6, 2015 UN Habitat's Chief of Risk Reduction and Resilience Mr. Dan Lewis, gave a keynote address to a gathering of RMIT University faculty, students, and partners during the launch of the new Master of Disaster, Design and Development (MoDDD) course starting in July, 2016. This course for the first time brings together faculty from diverse disciplines, to provide advanced learning to students wanting to engage in the complex environment of urban risk reduction, reconstruction and resilience building.

MoDDD is delivered through a combination of online study and intensive face-to-face workshops and field trips. Students have the option to undertake the intensive workshops at either RMIT Melbourne's city campus or through RMIT Europe based in Barcelona.

UN Habitat is one of several organizations associated with this degree, bringing content and learning opportunities focused on how cities build resilience to multiple, often overlapping shocks and stresses.

Find out more on MoDDD and how it can assist your organization and enhance your career development  
[www.rmit.edu.au/programs/mc251](http://www.rmit.edu.au/programs/mc251)



Professor Paul Gough Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice-President College of Design and Social Context RMIT University, Associate Professor Esther Charlesworth Director Humanitarian Architecture Research Bureau RMIT, Dan Lewis Chief of the Urban Risk Reduction Unit for UN-Habitat, Associate Professor Mauro Baracco, Deputy Dean and Head Landscape Architecture RMIT, Martin Bean CBE Vice-Chancellor and President RMIT, Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Research Fellow RMIT.

[www.cityresilience.org](http://www.cityresilience.org)



# CITY RESILIENCE PROFILING PROGRAMME

Volume 8



Paris city



SCEWC © SCEWC Barcelona 2014

- ▶ Smart City Expo World Congress
- ▶ Barcelona Resilience Week
- ▶ COP 21
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JOIN CRPP AT COP21!

8 Dec. (Cities Day), 16:30-17:30, ICLEI Pavilion  
**Launch of Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme on Urban Resilience, online resilience tools platform and Local Governments' Pocket Guide to Resilience**

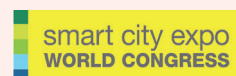
2 Dec. (Resilience Day), 12-13:30, Dutch Pavilion  
**High-level session, Raising Resilience in Urban Areas**

5 Dec. 15:00-16:30, ICLEI Pavilion  
**Medellin Collaboration on Urban Resilience Tools Workshop**



Save the date:  
**Barcelona Resilience Week**  
**14th-18th March, 2016**

1st edition of Barcelona's Experience in Resilience



This information brochure summarizes key aspects of UN-Habitat's new programme producing measurable indices for urban government resilience building efforts.

For enquiries on the City Resilience Profiling Programme and the Urban Resilience Institute please contact Dan Lewis, Chief, Urban Risk Reduction Unit:  
[dan.lewis@unhabitat.org](mailto:dan.lewis@unhabitat.org)

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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME  
P.O.Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya;  
Tel: +254-20-7623120;  
Fax: +254-20-76234266/7 (Central office)  
[infohabitat@unhabitat.org](mailto:infohabitat@unhabitat.org)

CRPP HEADQUARTERS  
Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site, Sant Leopold Pavillon  
C. Sant Antoni Maria Claret, 167  
08025 Barcelona, Spain  
Tel: + 34 933 900 520

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# UN-Habitat and the City Resilience Profiling Programme

As the main UN agency responsible for ensuring the sustainable development of human settlements, UN-Habitat is strategically placed to coordinate the humanitarian and development efforts of multiple actors and policy makers at all levels in the common pursuit of urban resilience. UN-Habitat has committed to implementing the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience; operationally, through its Strategic Policy on Human Settlements in Crisis and Sustainable Relief and Reconstruction Framework, institutionally by creating a new Branch, dedicated to disaster risk reduction and resilience, and a global work programme mainstreaming outputs on disaster risk reduction and resilience. The on-going City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP) will also contribute to the Plan of Action (as per mandate).

The CRPP goes beyond conventional approaches to 'risk reduction', delivering a forward-looking, multi-scale, multi-sectoral, multi-hazard, multi-stakeholder model for building resilience that recognizes the complexities and unique value of cities, and the inherent interdependencies of each part of an urban system.

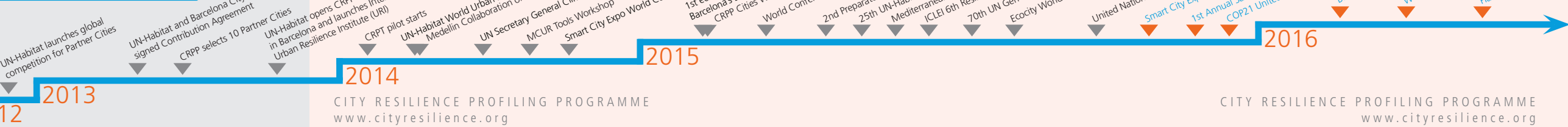
The CRPP's comparative advantage is strengthened through key partnerships founded on integrated approaches to urban resilience, with strategic partners including the UNISDR Secretariat, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, Habitat Partner University Initiative institutions, private sector representatives from the insurance, IT, energy and natural resources industries, as well as city networks including them ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, UCLG, Metropolis, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, and 100 RC.

## CRPP Overview

- The CRPP is delivering the following four accomplishments:
- 1. Research on Operational Framework:** An adaptable urban systems model suitable for all human settlements.
  - 2. Indexing and Profiling:** A set of indicators, standards, and profiles to support cities for calibrating urban systems' ability to withstand and recover from crisis.
  - 3. Tools/Software Development:** Software systems that produce city resilience profiles, from which Resilience Action Plans are derived.
  - 4. Normative Guidance:** Global standards set for urban resilience at different levels from local policies based on the Resilience Action Plans to national policies including the states competences towards new resilience standards.

**Urban Resilience refers to the ability of any urban system to withstand and recover quickly from multiple shocks and stresses and maintain continuity of services.**

## CRPP Events



# Smart City Expo World Congress 2015

The Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC), considered as one of the most important global meetings on urban innovation, gathered more than 200 companies and institutions.

In this fifth edition of SCEWC, CRPP was contributing to several events during the Congress, engaging city representatives and private sector companies interested in UN-Habitat's work on urban resilience.

As agreed in previous editions, UN-Habitat, through its City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP), teamed up with the organisers of the SCEWC to ensure that a focus on resilience and sustainable human settlements was also included in this edition. In this regard, CRPP brought together panelists to a discussion on "How can we achieve more resilient and sustainable cities?"

How to build a livable, sustainable and resilient city? How can we bring into balance population growth and resources? Which measures have been taken to monitor and manage critical infrastructure? How will the infrastructure be paid for to improve a city's resilience? These were some of the issues that emerged in the session from the different backgrounds of the high-level speakers.

In addition, there was a very interesting parallel session moderated by Mr Dan Lewis, Chief, Risk Reduction and Resilience UN-Habitat under the title: Development of resistant cities.

Moreover a key announcement on Urban Resilience was done at the Speakers corner session, where the city council of Barcelona and UN-Habitat joins efforts once again to raise awareness globally about resilience.

On Wednesday, 18 November, a parallel session on Habitat III – Towards a New Urban Agenda, provided an opportunity to highlight the importance of the Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to take place in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016. Considered as one of the thematic meetings which are based on specific and relevant topics, it will issued thematic recommendations for the preparatory process towards Habitat III.



# Barcelona Resilience Week

Building on the success of the International Workshop "Barcelona's Experience in Resilience" held at Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site (Barcelona) in February 2015 it has been agreed by the organizers the City Council of Barcelona, in partnership with UN-Habitat - City Resilience Profiling Programme and BCN Urban Resilience Partnership a public-private alliance, set up in 2013 with a group of companies and high-level research centres based in Barcelona as an integral element in building the city's resilience strategy and constitutes a unique model of public private collaboration all over the world that next year this event will be expanded both in content and in time to fill a complete week of events during the week of 14 – 18 March 2016.

The next edition of the International Workshop will be built around three key themes: The Global momentum on resilient cities: Around 200 participants from more than 30 cities in the first edition is yet a display of the momentum building globally on urban resilience and the importance to act today to reap the rewards of the efforts tomorrow.

Another critical conclusion arising from the event held in February 2015 was that the key to Barcelona's resilience model success was having established a robust partnership with the stakeholders who could contribute towards building a more resilient city in this regard one of the key themes will be the role of the private sector.

Last but not least the Migration impacts on cities will be one of the indispensable subject of the next edition.

For further information see: [www.cityresilience.org](http://www.cityresilience.org)

# Where to find us in COP 21

**The Launch of Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme on Urban Resilience, online resilience tools platform and Local Governments' Pocket Guide to Resilience, 8 Dec. (Cities Day), 16:30-17:30, ICLEI Pavilion:**

The purpose of this session is to engage cities in a new Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme on Resilient Cities (JWP), comprising 15 city and community organizations dedicated to serving local governments' efforts to build their resilience to multiple shock and stresses, including the impacts from climate change. An overarching theme of the city-level panel discussion will be building resilience in informal settlement communities. The session will further serve as a platform to launch a new online platform for resilience tools and a Local Governments' Pocket Guide to Resilience. Speakers include high-level representatives from: Swiss Economic Cooperation and Development Division (SECO), ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance, Slum Dwellers International, and the World Bank. Invited Mayors/cities include: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Mexico City, Mexico; Minas Gerais, Brazil; Quito, Ecuador.

**High-level session, Raising Resilience in Urban Areas: 2 Dec. (Resilience Day), 12-13:30, Dutch Pavilion (hosted by the Dutch government):**

The objective of the session is to give a platform to city leaders to highlight their progress on strengthening the resilience of their communities and economies. Convening a panel of high-level stakeholders across government and financial and development institutions, the session will activate a new platform for knowledge exchange by showcasing how cities across the world are fostering innovative, transformative resilience solutions. The session will further illuminate new opportunities for collaboration among cities and a wide range of partners to turn strategic plans into action and unlock investment opportunities. Speakers include high-level representatives from the Dutch Government, UN-Habitat, World Resources Institute, World Bank, Rockefeller Foundation, OECD, and UNISDR. Invited Mayors/Cities include: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Byblos, Lebanon; Mexico City, Mexico; New Orleans, USA; Paris, France; Rotterdam, Netherlands.

**Medellín Collaboration on Urban Resilience Tools Workshop 5 Dec. 15:00-16:30, ICLEI Pavilion:**

The Medellín Collaboration on Urban Resilience (MCUR), launched at the World Urban Forum in Medellín, Colombia in April 2014, works in more than 2,000 cities globally, with annual investments in urban resilience exceeding USD 2bn. Now in partnership with the Cities Alliance, the MCUR comprises 15 organizations developing a variety of resilience tools and diagnostics to strengthen urban resilience. This session will provide an interactive demonstration of city-level resilience tools and methodologies, followed by an open panel and audience discussion led by city networks and local government leaders. Invited speakers and panelists will include representatives from: UN-Habitat, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, GIZ, OECD, Rockefeller Foundation; World Bank, and UNISDR, among others.

# Joint Work Programme (JWP) on Resilient Cities

The new partnership between the Medellín Collaboration on Urban Resilience (MCUR) and the Cities Alliance (CA) Joint Work Programme (JWP) on Resilient Cities will produce, as a first result, an online platform that will provide city governments access to a wide set of tools and knowledge networks.

- This new online platform will introduce city governments to resilience concepts, terminologies and tools that contribute to three key issues central to sustainable development:
- Improving awareness among local governments to what resilience entails.
  - Promoting the importance of sound urban planning and design to avoid the creation of new layers of risk.
  - Focusing local authorities' attention on how to do more with existing resources, whilst improving their knowledge of how to unlock new revenue streams.

This project will make a direct contribution to the urban-related goals of the post-2015 agreements on Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Climate Change, by fostering the development of city-level strategies that are considerate of multiple shocks and stresses linked to the impacts from rapid unplanned urbanisation, disasters, and rising level of global greenhouse gas emissions. It will further complement the CA JWP on the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), taking place in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016.

# United Nations Seventieth Anniversary

This year the UN turns 70 – the Charter of the United Nations signed on 1945 was the international founding agreement of the organization. Over seven decades, eight Secretary Generals have served as spokespersons for the interests of the world's peoples with the objective of maintaining international peace and security.

Framed within the UN's 70th Anniversary, CRPP – UN Habitat, together with the other UN institutions located at Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site, United Nations University Institute for Globalisation, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM), World Health Organization Office for Health System Strengthening and Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance (GWOPA) UN Habitat organised on Friday, 23 October a special event which was opened by the reading of the Preamble of the United Nations Charter by civil society representatives. The commemoration continued with the concert Uniting Nations Through Music featuring soprano singer Patricia Caicedo, pianist Nikos Stavlas and percussionist Azis Khodari with music from the five continents. Finally the ceremony was closed with the lit up in UN blue of the main facade of Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site, as part of a global campaign to commemorate the UN Day and the 70th anniversary.



# 1st Annual Meeting of Sant Pau Knowledge Centre

The Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site is home to leading institutions in the fields of sustainability, health and education. Organisations like City Resilience Profiling Programme – UN-Habitat develop their own programmes and activities, while establishing partnerships to undertake shared initiatives, studies and projects to find meaningful responses to the major challenges facing society in the twenty-first century.

In this framework "Connecting Actors for Sustainable Development in the Context of the United Nations 2030 Agenda" was the first annual meeting co-organized by City Resilience Profiling Programme – UN-Habitat, ACUP, Casa Asia, EFI, GUNI, WHO, Sant Pau Recinte Modernista and GWOPA UN-Habitat offering a holistic, practical and action-oriented approach to the 2030 Agenda. The open conference and technical seminar held on 10-11 November were designed as a meeting point between Sant Pau resident institutions and members of the local community interested in learning about the UN's new sustainable development framework and its practical applications in the urban context.

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