

The role of Media building Post 2015 Urban Resilience by Ms. Margarita Pacheco

Media and social networks spread daily fragmented news about dramatic displacement population and ecological depletion in different regions and cities of the world, while COP 21 and Post 2015 negotiations are under way. Millions of people are victims of internal conflicts, illegal human traffic, political corruption, confronting unpreparedness to climate changes and natural and man-made disasters. The situation is hurting their health, lack of food and other unpredictable daily facts. Responsible Post 2015 media strategies will be necessary to explain these global changes, alerting public opinion and urging decision makers to offer generous solutions to the current humanitarian crisis.



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Local governments and media have a key solidarity role to play and thus a multi-threat approach needs to be integrated into territorial planning to formulate sectorial policies, to build citizen's resilience and to monitor awareness for prompt and efficient responses.

COP 21 and Habitat III preparatory negotiations will have to include proposals and concrete strategies to reduce CO2 emissions and options to relocate millions of urban and rural displaced and refugee people, coming from a variety of cultures, beliefs and ethnical origins, in search for safer places to live. This becomes an opportunity for our civilization to review urban development expansion trends, population concentration patterns and relocation of vulnerable population in national ecological contexts.

Displaced people destiny is in the hands of politicians and powerful decision makers, who have to probe their openness to solidarity, human rights and climate justice, while combating corruption and greed. Media should play a strong role influencing and monitoring solutions, analyzing obstacles and progress made, playing a significant role building community resilience while informing on a new urban agenda for immigrants and their adaptation to inclusive urban settings.

Local authorities, media and civil society organizations have the responsibility in influencing urban global changes to be discussed in COP 21, urging general public opinion to pressure elected mayors and city councils and national governments diplomats, to take action beyond political parties' priorities. The humanitarian and ecological crisis has no political color and should not be manipulated for votes or to sustain long-term power representatives. The role of independent media and social networks are central for a better understanding of these multi-causality factors generating the current global, regional and local socio-ecological crisis.

In this context, media should urge for new commitments from a variety of stakeholders, including the United Nations system and financial institutions, to focus on reducing social tensions, reduce inequalities and promote clean energy solutions in new postmodern urban agenda. Integration of Displaced Population policies and socio-ecological urbanization patterns are necessary to building community resilience in due timing.

In this context, urban strategies for short and medium term need to be re-edited, to make Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) implementation and Post 2015 a realistic matter.

In the current Global and City Change process, media is central in informing, educating, promoting public debates, and stirring-up a multi-threat approach to better understand reality. Media is also influencing behaviors to induce citizen's rational on the use of water, clean energies, telecommunications to care for more for healthier individual consumption. Media should become a strong tool for building resilience.

National and Local Authorities are under pressure of media and social networks led by young citizens and social organizations. Media is thus playing a role in building resilience and prevention schemes for the urban Post 2015 Development Agenda.

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

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Statement of Cooperation between UN-Habitat, RECNET and IDIGER

On May 12th, 2015, the International Association Recycling Cities Network (RECNET), The Institute for Risk Management and Climate Change (IDIGER), and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) signed a Statement of Cooperation.

Dan Lewis, Chief, Urban Risk Reduction and Resilience Unit from UN-Habitat and Nicolla Tollin, President of RECNET, formalized the Agreement, signed previously by the Director of IDIGER, Javier Pava, which aims to enhance global efforts to reinforce local governments capacity to positively influence international agendas on climate change and disaster risk reduction, and promote transition toward sustainable and resilient cities.

This Agreement directly supports the framework of the Letter of Intent signed by the Executive Director of UN Habitat, Dr Joan Clos, and Sr. Gustavo Petro, the Mayor of Bogotá, on 13 June 2012.



Mr. Nicolla Tollin, President of RECNET and Mr. Dan Lewis, Chief, Urban Risk Reduction and Resilience Unit from UN-Habitat formalizing the Agreement

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CITY RESILIENCE PROFILING PROGRAMME

Volume 7



World Humanitarian Summit © Shipra Narang Suri



Agreement between UN Habitat, RECNET & IDIGER



Built on the success of the Barcelona Experience in Resilience '15
Coming soon: Barcelona Resilience Week
1st edition of Barcelona's Experience in Resilience

- ▶ UN-Habitat, RECNET and IDIGER agreement
- ▶ World Humanitarian Summit
- ▶ Smart City Expo World Congress
- ▶ Guest Column by Ms Margarita Pacheco

JOIN CRPP AT SCEWC!

Tuesday 17th November 14.15 - 15.30
ST 22 Developing resilient cities

Tuesday 17th November 15.45 - 16.45
PL 02 How can we achieve more resilient and sustainable cities?

Wednesday 18th November 16.30
Speakers Corner: Barcelona Resilience Week

Wednesday 18th November 15 -16
GO 35 Habitat III - Towards a New Urban Agenda

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BCN Partnership
URBAN RESILIENCE

Ajuntament de Barcelona



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, 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.

In Preparation for World Humanitarian Summit, a new Global Urban Crisis Partnership

As part of the preparations for the World Humanitarian Summit, nearly 50 representatives of local governments, professional associations, academic and research institutes and humanitarian and development actors gathered recently in Barcelona to develop a common platform for advocacy and action to respond to the growing importance of urban humanitarian assistance. The meeting was hosted by the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and UN-Habitat, with support from Global Communities, USAID and the Department for International Development/International Rescue Committee.

Throughout the consultations, lessons were drawn from local government representatives who are dealing with recent and ongoing urban crises in Senegal, Bangui (CAR), Banda Aceh (Indonesia) and Turkish cities where refugee influx has doubled the population without extra resources to ensure basic services. In addition, participants articulated key principles in a draft 'charter' as the basis for a Global Urban Partnership, pooling knowledge, capacity and resources to take this agenda forward. The consultation ended with a marketplace designed to connect key partners together to help shape these important initiatives.



Participants at the gathering in Barcelona.
© Shipra Narang Suri

Urban October

Launched in 2014, Urban October is a platform where individuals, organizations, cities and governments can engage in activities to address challenges and discuss solutions to urbanization at municipal, city, national and regional levels.

The World Habitat Day celebrated on 5 October under the Theme Public Spaces for All opened the Urban October an entire month of celebrations, events and activities with the aim to raise awareness, promote participation, generate knowledge and engage the international agenda towards a New Urban Agenda.

World Cities Day with the theme Designed to live together promoting togetherness and harmony and making our cities and neighbourhoods inclusive and liveable closed this period of celebration.

This year, the Urban October was partnering with the United Nations campaign Time for Global Action on the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.



Smart City Expo World Congress 2015

The Smart City Expo World Congress considered as one of the most important global meetings on urban innovation is gathering more than 200 companies and institutions.

In the fifth edition of the SCEWC, CRPP is 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), has teamed up with the organizers of the Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC) to ensure that a focus on resilience and sustainable human settlements is also included in this edition. In this regard CRPP will bring 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 the critical infrastructure? And how will the infrastructures be paid for improve a city's resilience? These are some of the issues that will emerge in the session from different backgrounds of the high-level speakers.

Moreover, an interesting parallel session "Developing resilient cities", to be moderated by Mr. Dan Lewis, Chief of the Risk Reduction and Resilience Unit within UN-Habitat, is scheduled for Tuesday, 17.

In addition, a key announcement on Urban Resilience will be done at the speakers corner on Wednesday, 18, at 16.30 where the city council of Barcelona and UN-Habitat will join efforts once again to raise awareness about resilience globally. Don't miss it!

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



Speakers at one of the sessions of the SCEWC 2014 © SCEWC Barcelona 2014

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 to city governments access to wide set of tools and knowledge networks.

This new online platform will introduce city governments to resilience concepts, terminology and tools that contribute to three key issues central to sustainable development:

- Improving awareness among local governments of what is meant by resilience.
- 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 urbanization, 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, eighth Secretary-Generals have served as a spokesperson 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, organised on Friday, 23 October, a special event. The ceremony was opened by the reading of the Preamble of the United Nations Charter by civil society representatives, followed by a concert featuring soprano singer Patricia Caicedo, with music from the five continents. The celebrations came to an end with the illumination of the main facade of Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site with the UN logo.

"The 70th anniversary of the United Nations is an opportunity to reflect – to look back on the UN's history and take stock of its enduring achievements. It is also an opportunity to spotlight where the UN – and the international community as a whole – needs to redouble its efforts to meet current and future challenges across the three pillars of its work: peace and security, development, and human rights."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message for UN70

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



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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