

Melaka Call for Action

Adopted unanimously on the 4th of March 2016 in Melaka, Malaysia

Declared by YAB Datuk Seri Ir. Hj. Idris bin Hj. Haron, Chief Minister of Melaka, Malaysia

We, the representatives of city and subnational governments, local government networks, urban researchers and practitioners, private sector corporations, financial institutions, and the youth and young professionals participating in the 2nd Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific Congress, have gathered from 2 – 4 March 2016 in the historic city of Melaka in Malaysia for dialogues and deliberations to forge partnerships that would lead to implementable solutions that are inclusive, equitable, and which create lasting impacts for sustainable and resilient urban development.

Acknowledging that the year 2015 witnessed an encouraging global willingness to jointly frame and implement efforts and agreements that recognise the critical role of local and subnational governments, and aim to give us a new direction for a more sustainable future;

Expressing our unequivocal support for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals - especially the Goal 11 that calls for making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;

Taking into account the Paris Agreement on climate change that accepts low carbon and climate resilient development as a key objective, acknowledges the need to engage with all levels of governments, and refers to the role of non-state party actors in its implementation, thereby strengthening the inclusive nature of the global climate regime;

Acknowledging the targets set out by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 and that it calls for the empowerment of local authorities through regulatory and financial means;

Endorsing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which provides a global framework for financing development post-2015, and commits to strengthening capacities of municipalities and local authorities, and to support cities in implementing resilient and environmentally sound infrastructure;

Recognising that the United Nations will discuss the issue of urbanisation in its entirety for the first time at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in October this year in Quito, Ecuador, and that the New Urban Agenda that will be agreed upon there, offers governments an opportunity to integrate all facets of sustainable development to promote equity, welfare, and shared prosperity;

Appreciating that organisations such as ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and other local government networks and likeminded institutions have been striving for several years at the global, regional, national and local levels for local and subnational governments to be recognised and supported for the significant and tangible contributions that they make in advancing towards a sustainable future;

Reiterating a main message that emerged from the 1st Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific Congress that *'resilience building is a process that needs to be people-centric, that targets the bottom of the pyramid and which acknowledges and leverages the critical role of women'*;

Emphasising that we now stand at a turning point, a position of significant opportunity for affirmative and transformative action;

Strongly urging national governments to sign the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016, accelerate its immediate ratification, and develop models of collaboration that would enable engagement across all levels of government for its implementation; further, to recognize local and subnational governments as their governmental stakeholders and to extend greater capacity building and technical support as well as financial resources to them;

We commit ourselves to:

1. **Engage** earnestly with national governments that have transformed the global sustainability agenda into a mainly bottom-up process of national decisions and action, to support them in implementing and achieving their related targets and goals;
2. **Adopt** a process of development that promotes green growth, resilience and low carbon development, includes all stakeholders, especially those who are socially and economically the most vulnerable, and actively engages women;
3. **Extend** our support to the youth and young professionals and leaders, who will inherit the consequences of our current decisions and actions, and engage them as active stakeholders for achieving resilient and sustainable growth;
4. **Use** the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11, as a foundation, and not the ceiling, for our ambitions and endeavours of today so that these maybe mainstreamed into the norms of tomorrow;
5. **Focus** on innovative systems-based and green approaches to enable transformation towards sustainable and resilient trajectories of growth;
6. **Build** the capacities of local and subnational governments and supporting institutions, including financial institutions, to appreciate, support, develop and undertake initiatives that have a strong green focus, build resilience, and are bankable;
7. **Create** enabling environments and opportunities for encouraging innovative ideas and solutions, especially for the youth, to effectively address the existing and anticipated challenges of impacts of disasters and climate change, and for transitioning to low carbon, green pathways for growth;
8. **Forge** partnerships between local governments, local communities, financial institutions, research institutes, civil society organisations, and the private sector to develop and implement solutions that are inclusive, equitable, and which create lasting impacts for sustainable and resilient development;
9. **Monitor and report** climate actions at the city and subnational level to verify their efficacy and to contribute to the Global Stocktake in 2023 as proposed in the Paris Agreement;
10. **Connect** urban resilience planning and implementation with existing initiatives, mechanisms, and processes, in particular focusing on the Durban Adaptation Charter, Compact of Mayors, Transformative Action Program, Medellin Collaboration, the Resilient Cities Congress Series, the forthcoming outreach of European Covenant of Mayors, and to the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur in 2018.

Within the scope of the above, we reiterate our appeal to national governments and the global community to empower local and subnational governments through support for institutional and technical capacity building and financial means, and to formulate a New Urban Agenda at Habitat III that integrates all facets of sustainable development to promote equity, welfare, and shared prosperity.