



# UNISDR

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

# Resilient Cities

Fostering Local Action to Achieve Sustainable Development



Date: 20 June 2012  
Time: 9:00-10:30 am  
Venue: Room T-1, Rio Centro  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

In Partnership with:

For more information visit:  
<http://www.unisdr.org/2012/rioplus20/>



## Background

Cities play a dominant role in development as engines of social and economic growth. They are home to over half of the world's population and in the coming years, this number is expected to grow by 70%. While rapid urbanization positively contributes to development, it could also lead to the increase in exposure to disaster risks if cities are not managed properly. In addition, failed infrastructure, environmental degradation and challenges posed by climate change make urban areas vulnerable to hazards. More than half of the world's largest cities, with populations ranging from 2 to 15 million, are currently located in areas of high risk of seismic activities. In addition, almost a billion of people still live in informal settlements without access to basic services and often located in high-risk areas. Addressing these challenges requires concerted effort and commitment from all urban actors to reduce disaster risks and build-up resilient cities and communities which will be explored in this side event.

The event will feature high-level speakers including city mayors, governors, parliamentarians, private sector and other urban actors to share important lessons learnt and pragmatic strategies to ensure effective implementation of disaster risk reduction measures. Different opportunities and benefits of building up resilient cities and communities will also be highlighted based from their experiences. Following the call for pragmatic and clear implementation strategies in Rio+20, the event will also discuss the applicability of the "Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient"- a checklist for building disaster resilient cities, to monitor and advance the implementation of the Rio+20 outcome.

Specific topics that will be discussed include: disaster risk reduction measures such as land-use planning, building regulations, training, education and public awareness, early warning system and ecosystem conservation and public and private financial mechanisms for disaster risk reduction.

UNISDR together with its key partners will also launch in this side event an interactive Resilient Cities and Nations Collaborative Platform.

## Programme

- 9:00 am** Opening Remarks
- 9:15 am** Panel discussion moderated by **Ms. Margareta Wahlström**, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction

## Panellists

- 9:20 am** Governor **Joey Salceda**, Governor Albay Province, Philippines  
Mayor **Graciela Fernanda Ortuzar Novoa**, Mayor Lampa Municipality, Chile  
Honourable **Saber H. Chowdhury**, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh  
**Mr. Guiteau Jean-Pierre**, Director General of the Haitian Red Cross, Haiti  
**Mr. Peter Gruetter**, Director and Distinguished Fellow, CISCO, Internet Business Solutions Group

- 10:00 am** Open discussion
- 10:25 am** Closing Remarks

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