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UCLG CONGRESS  
**WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL  
AND REGIONAL LEADERS**



**MANIFESTO**  
**The Future of Resilience**

**#CitiesAreListening**

UCLG Manifestos

# ***MANIFESTO ON THE FUTURE OF RESILIENCE***

## **A TENTATIVE NEW UNDERSTANDING OF RESILIENCE, THAT LOOKS BEYOND GROWTH**

Humankind has been looking at growth as a paradigm that is inextricably linked to development.

However, growth and development don't go hand in hand automatically.

Growth, unlike development, have negatively affected resiliency when man's settlements became being produced as systemic forms of development, both urban and economic. Similarly, unlike development, growth adopted the meaning of promoting inequality when certain parts of society have their methods of subsistence fulfilled and others do not. Furthermore, growth became meaning favoring consumption over conservation.

Today, this **unsustainable** paradigm of growth does not characterize development. Development is a model of improving the conditions of life and obtaining a system of living and subsistence.

In this manner, to be consistent with today's understanding of sustainable development, growth should be about growing in our system of life, in our daily comfort, and daily methods of subsistence into the limits of what the planet has to offer. It should take into account the needs of future generations, building an equitable future for all, providing for suitable economic situations, and taking care of our past and traditions.

Within this context, risks, disasters, and crises have acted as a first alarm to the planet and humankind that growth and development must go hand in hand in the name of subsistence for all and in leaving no one and no place behind.

This concept of growth and development, linked to solidarity and equity, is the concept that should be the foundation of our understanding of resilience.

### **The existing Global Resilience Agenda**

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) has been an essential step to bring together forces and attention to disaster risk reduction.

The United Nations Agenda on disaster risk reduction has also highlight the important role that local and regional governments play in protecting people, their communities, and their assets, whether economic, social or cultural.

As a concept, the global agenda of resilience has aided in changing global attitudes and raise awareness about the way development, and growth in the same manner, can increase hazard exposure, accentuate vulnerabilities, and affect the adapting and coping capacities of communities. We, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) therefore continue in supporting the making cities resilient campaign.

The 2030 agenda has also brought a transformational spirit by bringing forward "sustainable development" through goals that would bring a kind of equity to the world, based on principles and values that are to be shared by all of us as a collective whole.

### **Beyond our understanding of resilience:**

For future generations' and key ecosystems' ability to survive, we need to overcome the current paradigm of growth that is focused on economic growth. Experts on the limits of our planet's boundaries are preaching to stop the present uncalculated modes of development in order to ensure that it guarantees equity, responsibility and solidarity.

## **A paradigm for humankind**

While the UN agenda for disasters has been launched with the idea of generating a world dynamic around the planet's first signs of emergency, we, cities gathered to ask International Institutions to take into consideration the long run of the planet, knowing that humanity must change its behavior with resources, towards nature, and towards the way the growth is currently brought about.

In view of the increasing impact of climate change, the toll of conflicts, and young generations increasingly calling for action to protect their future, a broader conceptualization of resilience can help local and regional governments confront today's challenges and the protection of common goods.

As part of recent discussions around the relevance of the new Declaration of Humankind Rights for local and regional governments in UCLG's Policy Councils, four principles and values were put forward as being a basis for the Resilience re-definition: intergenerational responsibility, equity, dignity and continuity.

The role of local governments is the missing link that can bring together civil society, citizens, and the private sector, with national and international actors. A life centred approach will help focus on humankind development as one development, in harmony with nature and its resources. The focus is now beginning to be on health and wellbeing as outcomes of values and principles, like the value of cultural and natural assets.

## **The role of cities in the future**

Cities, and their local governments, have been able to materialize a world-spanning mobilization for the 2030 agenda, and it has been widely recognized that without them and their local governments, the implementation of the agenda could not occur.

Local and regional governments are taking the lead in mitigating and adapting to climate change, improving livability of cities and reducing their ecological footprint. "Nature based" management is redefining the value and relationship with natural resources and the linkages between rural and urban areas in the territory.

Local leaders have a significant role to play in driving the added value that cities can bring to the planet's resilience and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

Cities are a key factor in this tentative re-definition of Resilience or the Resilient growth: this falls into the agreement that a transparent management of the resources in respect of the planet boundaries is a critical key to saving the planet.

In this frame, cities have a true role to play, as they are the key space where human life unfolds in the planet, with only 30% of humans living in the rural world in the near future.

The city, as a central place of growth, shouldn't be seen as an extension of occupation of soil, but rather as an intelligent management of production and consumption patterns, directly linked with solidarity, responsibility and equity.

**Therefore**, we, local and regional governments, gathered in the UCLG World Congress 2019,

Recognize and acknowledge the work done by the UNDRR Agenda on disasters and we stay committed to work in the making the cities resilient campaign. We recognize the role of the 2030 Agenda in building a global consciousness that we commit to transform into action for the Planet's resilience and the wellbeing of life on Earth

Call on the International institutions to take this new understanding of Resilience as a key element in the development of public policies.

Call on the new digital paradigm by local governments as tool for smart territorial management to support resilience.

Call on the municipal movement to ensure that solidarity, equity and responsibility are taken into consideration when defining policies at the local, national and international level for the benefit of humankind and resilience.

Call on cities to develop a dialogue between them to ensure that this vision becomes a shared responsibility, generating mechanisms to monitor and follow up on this understanding,

Call upon the Mayors and Presidents of Regions to work together towards amplifying this voice, and making sure that this is heard at all levels of government and through the media,

Call on the local leaders to take up their responsibility and play their role to make their cities and regions an added value to global resilience and articulate the capacity of society to prepare to, respond to and recover from its shocks.

Call for the recognition of the Humankind Declaration by all local and regional governments, and inviting them to lobby for the Declaration, its principles and its values.

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