



United Nations

**HABITAT III**  
ASSEMBLY REPORT

<b>Title of the Assembly:</b>	Children and Youth Assembly
<b>Session:</b>	The Role of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Building Resilience in Urban Settings
<b>Date:</b>	15 October 2016
<b>Time:</b>	14:00 – 15:30
<b>Venue:</b>	Room 10, Casa de la Cultura
<b>Name of leading organizing institution(s):</b>	UN Major Group for Children and Youth
<b>Country/City where leading organizing institution(s) is/are based:</b>	United Kingdom
<b>Contact person</b>	Lo, Sharon, Regional Focal Point (North and Southeast Asia)
<b>Name of organizing partnering institution(s) with their respective base (city, country)</b>	Water Youth Network, France The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI ), India
<b>Contact person from partnering institution(s)</b>	Sakic Trogrlic, Robert, volunteer, Rahiman, Riya,
<b>Approximate number of participants:</b>	16
<b>Number of female participants:</b>	12
<b>Number of male participants:</b>	4

**1. Summary of the Assembly reflecting the structure and format**

The session started with a short presentation given by a moderator giving a background of the importance of the topic. After that, a speaker from Habitat for Humanity gave a keynote speech, after which there was a round of questions from the audience. The session then reformulated into a roundtable, where panelists and participants sat in a circle to discuss CCA and DRR in three aspects: urban governance, spatial planning & design and ICT. A Q&A session was integrated into these discussions.

**Key messages from the discussions**

- An opportunity for mainstreaming DRR and CCA comes from the existence of global agendas (Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris Climate Agreement, New Urban Agenda)
- The three different aspects discussed are interlinked and if an idea of resilient cities is to be achieved, there is a need for an integrated and cross- sectoral approach, led from all levels of governance
- Spatial planning and urban design present an opportunity to create cities that are able to ‘bounce back’ and withstand effects of disasters and negative effects of climate change



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- Urban governance is a main enabler for DRR and CCA
- Young people, due to their ICT knowledge, are a key actor in harnessing the power of ICT for DRR and CCA

#### **3. Action-oriented recommendations/ way forward in the framework of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda [key points only, including specific global, regional and local actions]**

- Good spatial plans and multi-purpose design are an instrument to achieve ambitious targets set by the NUA
- Creating urban governance systems that are facilitating and enabling implementation of spatial plans and urban designs
- Actions should be localised. At the moment, local bodies have limited power in many parts of the world

#### **4. Proposed partnerships, network and synergies with other stakeholders and constituency groups within the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, emerging from the Assembly**

- A collaborative and participatory approach in urban areas should be used to identify the real needs
- Give a stage to young people to excel through offering leadership programmes within the existing institutional setup

#### **5. Any other relevant comments or outcome from the session not covered above**

- Before moving to the next steps in building resilience, it is important to analyse the current urban system
- Local government is one of the most important, if not the most important stakeholder in building resilience in cities.
- Cities in many South American countries have an issue of how the city is built in the first place – done by multiple people themselves, not by the govt. This leads to dysfunctional cities and is harder to build resilience retrospectively. Emphasises importance of strengthening local govt so they have the capacity to organise cities.
- Resilient cities will not be just cities that respond to disasters, but also cities that are prepared.