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CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION TO PROMOTE SAFE, OPEN, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT CITIES

Online Capacity Building Workshop on Planning for Urban Risks and Making Cities Resilient

In partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

On the UNDRR Zoom platform, from October 19 - 21, 2020



2020

"Together for an efficient local Africa"

UCLG-Africa web site
www.uclga.org

UCLG-Africa's ALGA website
www.uclgafrica-alga.org

As part of the celebrations for the United Nation's International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa), through its African Local Government Academy (ALGA), organized an online capacity building workshop on planning, urban risks and resilient cities, from 19-21 October, 2020. This was in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and UCLG, through its UCLG Learning Department,

This Capacity Building workshop, held on the UNDRR Zoom platform, brought together 516 participants from 43 Countries, who are now members of the platform's global community, for the exchange of information and sharing best practices on disaster risk reduction. 157 participants followed the online presentations over the two days and also actively participated in the preliminary dashboard development exercise for their respective cities.

The workshop aimed to educate executives, managers and actors from local authorities and other central actors on the importance of effective adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction through coherent systems, policies, and processes. The workshop also aimed to mobilize local decision-makers and city leaders in promoting the Global Campaign for Resilient Cities, a campaign that encourages local and national governments to commit to risk reduction and resilience in the face of disasters and climate change as a policy priority. This workshop formed part of the support for the implementation and localization of the Sendai Framework.

The opening ceremony was marked by three speeches, that of Dr. Najat Zarrouk, Director of UCLG-Africa's ALGA Academy, an intervention by Mr. Amjad Abbashar, Head of the Regional Office of the UNDRR for Africa and Ms. Sara Hoeflich de Duque, Director of the UCLG Learning Department. Each speech highlighted the importance of this theme for cities giving that urban risk is increasing in record concentration in large urban agglomerations and the megacities of developing countries. This reality implies a need for all countries to combine their energies in order to create a safer world for city dwellers and to develop a series of innovative approaches to meet all challenges; challenges which require new approaches, mechanisms and knowledge and skills, especially in terms of urban planning.

Participants in the workshop stressed the importance for the establishment and consistency of multisectoral strategies for disaster risk reduction that are adequate at the national and local level to make cities more resilient and achieve sustainable development, to which the entire international community aspires. The current example of COVID-19 and the climate emergency has shown the need for clear planning, vision and the need for competent institutions able to act effectively in the public interest.

In addition, the following main points were developed over the two days:

1. **Introduction to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and to the Sendai Framework for DRR:** key concepts, terminologies, trends and barriers in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the link between DRR and adaptation to climate change and sustainable development.
2. **Introduction to the "Make Cities Resilient" Campaign and to 'Tools for Local Governments: The Ten Essentials to Make Cities Resilient' and the Campaign to Make Cities Resilient.**
3. **Application of the assessment and diagnostic tool through the dashboard of Cities' Resilience to Disasters**
4. **Development of local DRR strategies**
5. **Definition of the SMART indicators for the DRR strategy.**

In addition, Ms. Sara Hoeflich de Duque, Director of the UCLG Learning Department, through a special dedicated session, gave an overview of Module 1: “For Resilient Cities and Territories,” developed by UCLG in partnership with UNDRR and UN-Habitat.

This module focuses on the fundamentals of Resilience, and the Localization of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to ensure Sustainable and Inclusive Development based on Resilience.



As part of its future commitments and the consolidation of its partnership with both UNDRR and UCLG, UCLG Africa's ALGA Academy is planning the upcoming launch of a first cohort for Training of Trainers on this topic for members from the various National Associations of African Local Governments.

For more information on this capacity building workshop, we invite you to visit the ALGA website: www.uclgafrika-alga.org.

The Director of the UCLG-Africa’s ALGA Academy, expressed the wish that this first activity lead, in the future, to:

1. The development and dissemination of a Toolkit on DRR and Resilience;
2. The launch of a training of trainers to have a pool of trainers in DRR and Resilience in Africa, able to transmit know-how, methodology, tools, case studies and knowledge;
3. The organization of 5 regional workshops in 2021 whose results can be shared during the UCLG-Africa Africities Summit, scheduled for November 2021 in Kisumu, Kenya;
4. The creation of a community of practice from the database with more than 500 people registered, on DRR and Resilience, which will remain united and sustainable.

UCLG-Africa and its ALGA Academy wish to express their deep gratitude and their most sincere thanks to the UNDRR, to UCLG, to the participants, as well as the facilitators, who made this online workshop such as success.