

Venice Declaration on Building Resilience at the Local Level towards Protected Cultural Heritage and Climate Change Adaptation Strategies

We, Mayors and Local Government representatives together with National Government Officials, representatives of the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the Private Sector, UNESCO, UNHABITAT and UNISDR,

1. Having participated in the event "*Building Cities Resilience to Disasters: Protecting Cultural Heritage and Adapting to Climate Change*" organized by the City of Venice and UNISDR,

2. Recognizing that:

- a) More than half of the world's population now lives in cities or urban centres, which serve as the economic engines of nations, and where around 100 cities are in control of 30 per cent of the world economy;
- b) Cities, including over 200 World Heritage urban properties, are living evidence, a physical store of cultural heritage that represent a source of cultural identity and a non-renewable human asset, and that urban vulnerability to risks are one of the most significant threats to the preservation of such assets;
- c) A well-conserved historic environment, supported by living traditional knowledge and skills, considerably reduces underlying disaster risks' factors, strengthens the resilience of urban communities and saves lives.
- d) Sustainable development must integrate disaster risk reduction and resilience building at all levels through planning across sectors to increase urban resilience to disaster;
- e) Disaster risk is driven higher by climate change particularly in urban areas due to the increased incidence of extreme weather events, such as flooding, flash floods, tropical cyclones, drought, wildfires and heat waves, which affects the growing populations of cities;

3. Recalling:

- a) The World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2015 Making Cities Resilient: "My city is getting ready!" which is aimed at achieving resilient sustainable urban communities based on the principles of the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- b) The Mayor's Statement on Resilient Cities at the Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which calls on UNISDR to work with city networks, UN entities and civil society organizations to sustain local preparations for disaster risk reduction and local resilience-building;
- c) The Strategy for Disaster Risks Reduction at World Heritage Properties, which was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st Session in 2007.

Resolve to:

- a. Ensure the continuation of exchanges of experiences and good practices within communities, cities and local governments on achievements related to disaster risk reduction at the local level;

