

Habitat III open-ended informal consultative meetings

Statement by UN-Habitat

Wednesday 27 April, pm

URBAN RESILIENCE

Allow us to highlight a few points, based on UN-Habitat's own experience.

1) Good urbanization, good urban planning, is a pre-condition for true urban resilience. This requires a proactive approach from governments not to allow construction in high risk or vulnerable areas; a well-planned, well-connected network of streets, public spaces and infrastructure with an inherent redundancy; and a sound regulatory framework with incentives to adhere to appropriate building codes.

2) As was said earlier, the reality of our cities today is that urban risk is accumulating fast, as we failed to plan properly, and an increasing number of neighborhoods and cities are at high risk or in protracted crises. A crisis response often offers concrete opportunities to put cities on a much more resilient and sustainable urban growth trajectory. The use of urban planning approaches to guide key decisions during crisis response is essential.

3) The fastest growing cities are in fragile settings, with their growth fueled by climate-change or conflict induced displacement, often in environments with weak governance, weak rule of law and weak economic base. Managing urban displacement should be seen as a development challenge, fully integrated into urban development strategies, including 'planned city extensions'.

The New Urban Agenda should include the principle of "Leaving No City Behind". The Global Alliance for Urban Crises, to be launched at the World Humanitarian Summit, will offer a platform to help deliver on this in an integrated way, putting national and local governments at the center.