

Summary of Session

Session title: MCR2030 Panel: Climate Emergency and Resilience Finance

Date: 6 November 2024

Time: 10:30-12:00 CET

Number of participants: around 100 + online attendees

1. Executive summary

The panel discussion was divided into two interconnected themes, focusing on urban heat resilience and strategic governance and finance. The discussion explored how cities are coping with these challenges, involving marginalized groups in disaster risk reduction, and leveraging innovative financing and policy frameworks. It also examined how we can create synergies to build resilient urban environments.

2. Key topics addressed

Topic 1: Climate Emergency – Urban Heat and Flooding

- The UN SRSG for DRR emphasized the importance of nature-based solutions, effective water management, and early warning systems for urban flooding, drawing lessons from the Valencia floods.
- Podgorica highlighted the role of youth through its Office for Youth and the Local Action Plan for Youth.
- The importance of disaggregated data for inclusive DRR policies and actions was underscored, with insights from Kazakhstan's experiences in assessing resilience through the perspectives of inclusion and persons with disabilities.
- The Resilient Cities Catalyst stressed the need for foresight to enhance inclusivity in local DRR efforts and the necessity of regulations granting mayors greater authority to implement targeted actions.
- Gender inclusion at the local level was also discussed, with a call to adopt the UNDRR Scorecard for Gender Equality and Intersectionality.

Topic 2: Resilience Finance

- Effective DRR financing should involve the private sector and leverage the role of insurance. For instance, Montenegro and North Macedonia legally require public facilities to be insured, although challenges related to budgets and legal frameworks persist. Broader insurance market penetration was suggested as a way forward.
- Lviv illustrated how extreme contexts, such as conflict, heighten awareness of resilience but significantly influence budgetary priorities. For example, Lviv allocates resources to address the needs of its internally displaced persons (IDPs), who account for 20% of its population.
- Both Lviv and Matosinhos emphasized the value of peer-to-peer learning and city exchanges, which are core to their involvement in the MCR2030 initiative.

3. Solutions

- Use disaggregated data to develop effective, inclusive DRR policies and actions, inspired by Kazakhstan's experiences in incorporating inclusion and disability perspectives.
- Involve the private sector in DRR financing and expand the role of insurance, as exemplified by Montenegro and North Macedonia's legal requirements for public facility insurance. Broader insurance market penetration remains a key opportunity.
- Leverage peer-to-peer learning and city exchanges to share knowledge and build resilience.

4. Results

- Governance structures, such as the Astana Urban Climate Resilience Center, are being established to address urban resilience challenges at the local level.
- Frameworks like Kazakhstan's Greening Charter, which mandates green and blue spaces in new construction projects, are promoting systematic greening and risk reduction measures.
- Collaboration between municipalities is driving urban greening initiatives. For example, Singera (Moldova) is launching a tree-planting campaign in partnership with neighboring municipalities.
- City-to-city collaboration is fostering innovative solutions. Lviv shared how its role as a Resilience Hub provides a platform for Ukrainian cities, while Matosinhos highlighted the importance of its national network of over 70 resilient cities in promoting knowledge exchange at regional and national levels.
- Gender inclusion initiatives are being implemented locally, such as Tel Aviv's creation of a female planning unit and Podgorica's gender equality program, which offers potential for further mainstreaming.

5. Way forward.

- Strengthen collaboration between cities through peer-to-peer learning and joint projects.
- Mainstream and replicate inclusive measures at the local level, focusing on youth, gender, and disability dimensions.
- Address urban heat challenges with innovative greening strategies, including green space initiatives and frameworks that embed sustainability into urban planning.
- Address structural budgetary and legal challenges to enhance DRR financing and explore innovative approaches to expand insurance as a risk mitigation tool across the disaster risk management (DRM) cycle.