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Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for giving UN-Habitat the opportunity to take part in this workshop and share with you the work that we are doing in cities to make them more resilient.

Firstly I must apologise on behalf of my colleague, Amaia Celaya, the coordinator of our technical work.

Unfortunately she couldn't be with you today but I will try to give you a brief overview of what UN-Habitat is doing in the area of resilience and why.

So my name is Craig Laird and I have been working with UN-Habitat for the last four years most communication, advocacy and donor relations.

For those of you who are not familiar with UN Habitat, we are the Agency working within the UN Secretariat on human settlements.

Nowadays this means promoting and enabling sustainable urban development in the growing number of cities around the world.

So firstly I just want to explain why urban development is so important by looking at the bottlenecks to sustainable urban development.

While urbanization in Europe may be reasonable stable, globally it is happening at an extremely rapid rate. In Africa, Asia and to a lesser extent Latin America, the number of people moving to cities is testing the capacity of local authorities, service providers, and all other actors in the city.

The result is risk. More people living in high-risk and vulnerable situations in our cities. We therefore believe that it is essential to manage the growth of our cities right by learning from

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good practice, learning from the past, cooperating and empowering those on the front line.

From that perspective, we work directly with local governments as well other actors on the ground such as NGOs, the private sector and try to enable dialogue with regional and national governments.

We all know that climate change is already manifesting through natural hazards that are both more frequent and more devastating. In cities, the stakes are perhaps higher than anywhere else. Cities punch above their belt in terms of GDP generation and so when they fall victim to hazards, entire economies can be compromised. With many major cities located in coastal areas, sea level rise and flooding is a major risk for over 300 million urban residents today.

Engagement for action in cities can be complex owing to a number of factors: unclear mandates, a large number of players and the added coordination efforts that requires, or simply a lack of awareness. To address this, UN-Habitat's places great importance on outreach and advocacy efforts.

Lastly, local government capacity. As I mentioned, many local governments simply don't have the resources, tools or capacity to address the three other challenges. UN-Habitat therefore works closely with local governments and their networks to support in this area.

So we is a UN agency working exclusively on urban development? Globally agreed development frameworks also call on us to undertake this mission and UN-Habitat's work seeks to align with these frameworks. As you all know, there is a Sustainable Development Goal dedicated exclusively to cities, SDG11 that sets out clear targets for our urban areas. The New Urban Agenda sets out the path for **how** cities can achieve the vision.

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The headquarters of UN-Habitat are in Nairobi Kenya, although there are regional, national and programme office spread across the globe. UN-Habitat's resilience work is focussed in Barcelona where I and my colleagues are based under the Urban Resilience Programme. In 2013 we began asking some pretty fundamental questions about resilience? What is it? How can cities become resilient? Where are the bottlenecks? From these questions, the Programme developed a number of key elements:

Firstly, a working definition of resilience that you can see here

Through our dialogues, we learned that many local governments were not actively pursuing a resilience agenda or were only addressing risk through one department in the city

Those that were made it clear that they did not want to be scored or compared when it comes to resilience

We discovered that many cities already had resilience or disaster risk reduction action plans, they just weren't being implement, or not fully

From these reflections, we came up with the working streams of the programme and I'll go through each one briefly and explain what it entails.

Our technical cooperation work is channeled through the City Resilience Profiling Tool. This is anchored in the local government of the city who, in turn, lead the full implementation of the tool across the entire city. The Tool provides a framework and the accompanying training to gather key data on the city. Once the critical mass of data is collected, UN-Habitat works with the city to define priority actions that will increase the city's overall resilience. These actions are

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then put forward to all the actors that contributed to the data collection for approval and buy-in.

As I mentioned, the aim of the tool is not to index cities by resilience but to create a unique profile for each city of their resilience strengths and vulnerabilities. The recommendations and actions that are extracted from the tool are integrated into ongoing process, plans and programmes within the city. The Tool is currently being implemented in a range of geographically diverse cities, from Yakutsk in Russia to Maputo in Mozambique and Port Vila in Vanuatu.

One of the key principles behind the tool is that it must be able to capture and adapt to the reality of any cities. We are therefore very happy to be working on an initiative funded by the European Commission that allows us to implement in four very different cities across the world and test the robustness of the approach.

The implementation process is relatively simple and UN-Habitat provides support to the city throughout in the form of training, material and visibility to help build the political support from the different actors in the city. Engagement is the first contact with the city and testing if the political support is there to pursue implementation. There is no set time to implement the tool however for a city where limited information is gathered or available, it can take around two years so it is essential to ensure that the support is there for keep the process moving.

Trainign and data collection are the longest part of the process. Much of the data required is not held within the local government and the value of the process is gathering a number of stakeholders together around a common resilience project. This however means that numerous

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training sessions and presentations have to be made to each stakeholder, from the electricity company to the neighbourhood community. In the following slide you we see how the data collection is framed but in developing the tool, we tried to make it as user-friendly as possible for the local government.

Diagnosis can be initiated once a critical mass of data has been gathered. This is done through a modelling system developed by UN-Habitat the sets up visualizations of the data both for the users and to generate graphics of real data than can be used to present findings and eventually leverage funding.

Actions for resilience are the concrete recommendations extracted from the analysis that are put forward to the local government and presented to all stakeholders during a workshop. As I said, the actions integrate where possible into ongoing processes in the city and are based on objective analysis of data.

So I just wanted to show the four sets that we use for data collection. Data collection covers the

1. the general context of the city, historical and cultural factors,
2. a mapping of stakeholders with their roles and responsibilities,
3. Shocks and Stresses based on historical events, previous data, local knowledge and
4. the city itself – what are the elements that make up the city: transport, build environment, public services. This part alone is composed of 140 indicators.

Obviously technology is opening new doors for local governments in terms of gathering data however many of the information required to make an effective resilience analysis requires local expertise and knowledge and so the buy-in of different actors is essential.

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The outputs of the CRPT are not therefore limited to the analysis, the process also contributes to the resilience building of the city through engagement, training and an increased capacity. In addition, a set of actions is also defined and a baseline profile that can updated as actions are completed and risks are addresses.

Awareness among:

- Local governments of the need to ask
- National governments also on the need to address resilience at the local level
- Private sector of the role they must play in building resilience
- Citizens should also be aware of the importance of resilience and the work that is happening in the city
- We are also participating in a number of global partnerships on resilience, most notably the Medellin Collaboration on Urban Resilience that gathers the main global actors from the World Bank to 100 Resilient Cities to coordinate efforts

Because I think I'm running out of time, I invite you all to take a look at our main online platform where you can find much more information about our outreach and advocacy efforts: [urbanresiliencehub.org](http://urbanresiliencehub.org) This space is not UN-Habitat's corporate website but is intended as an online space open to partners and resilience activists who want to share their work, learn from others and find out what cities across the world are doing to build resilience.

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Finally I just want to mention a couple of points about our knowledge work. We try to provide local governments with practical tools that are adapted to their realities. As I mentioned, the CRPT requires a strong commitment from local governments and around 2 years. We understand that not all local governments are in a position to commit to that so we are developing a number of supporting learning products that cities can use to address specific themes related to resilience or cross-cutting issues. To date we have published the Gender Equality Enhancer and the zero draft of the Climate Action Enhancer is currently available with an open invitation for feedback.

These enhancers are as much of an advocacy tool to get the resilience dialogue started at the local level as a technical tool to start gathering and analysing key data about the city.

All of our resources are available online on the Urban Resilience Hub. Thank you very much for your time.