



**European Committee
of the Regions**



Brussels, 27 September 2021

**Action Plan 2021-2022 between the European Committee of the Regions (CoR)
and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster risk reduction and for ensuring synergies with regional organisations on efforts in the socio-economic and humanitarian fields. UNDRR is the custodian of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, for which it supports implementation and monitoring by UN Member States, regions and cities. UNDRR is an organisational unit of the UN Secretariat and is led by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG). UNDRR has five regional offices, including the Regional Office for Europe & Central Asia (UNDRR-ROE) located in Brussels, Belgium. UNDRR ROE is the main regional counterpart for the European Committee of the Regions as part of the implementation of the joint Action Plan 2021-2022.

The Sendai Framework for DRR acknowledges the role of local governments in disaster risk reduction, and the importance of tackling disaster risks in urban areas to reduce the increasing impact of both large and small-scale disasters as urban areas grow and urban populations expand. Of the seven (7) global targets making up the Sendai Framework, the first and primary task is to "increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020", which lays the ground for the strategic engagement between UNDRR ROE and the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

The CoR is the voice of regions and cities in the European Union (EU) consisting of regionally and locally elected representatives from the 27 EU countries. Six thematic commissions, including the Commission for Natural Resources (NAT), cover competences in policy areas based on the EU Treaties, including civil protection and disaster risk management. The aim of the CoR is to involve regional and local representatives in the analysis of and debates on proposed EU legislation, but also invite citizens to participate in various events and debates in the framework of thematic commission meetings and/or the CoR Plenary sessions, discussing the EU legislation from the point of view of the needs and concerns at local and regional level, at the same time aiming to take in and respond to processes, developments and phenomena occurring in the region.

Since 2012, the CoR and UNDRR ROE have collaborated to promote disaster risk reduction (DRR) at local level in European countries. Through a dedicated Action Plan covering the period 2016-2020, the CoR and UNDRR ROE have worked closely on joint actions to strengthen a strategic and long-term partnership aimed at bringing benefits to European countries, regions and cities. This close cooperation has helped enhance the visibility of the Committee of the Regions and its Commission for Natural

Resources (NAT Commission) at international level, while contributing to UNDRR efforts to support implementation of the global DRR agenda in the EU context.

A key dimension of the collaboration between the CoR and UNDRR ROE is the support to advancing the DRR agenda in the region through strengthened partnership around resilient cities and regions. The global Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative, covering the period 2021-2030, works toward building resilience to disasters on the local level. Coordinated by UNDRR as its secretariat, the initiative builds on a decade of global engagement on resilient cities through the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, which, between 2010 and 2020, engaged over 4,300 participating cities worldwide and more than 700 European local and regional governments, in the context of which CoR and UNDRR ROE have collaborated in the past.

At a European level, MCR2030 offers a multi-stakeholder coordination approach through partnerships with and among national and local governments, intergovernmental organisations and civil society, including the private sector, and by its mode of operating through a network of regional partners, including the CoR. Its practical support to cities and regions relies on the range of instruments, processes, tools and activities of its core regional partners in building resilience and capacity at local level. Engagement of both UNDRR ROE and CoR in the coordination of MCR2030 in Europe, as members of the Regional Coordinating Committee, will strengthen the strategic collaboration and joint efforts to support resilience building among regions and cities across the EU and the broader Europe Region.

The overall objectives of the Action Plan are to strengthen the implementation and coordination of DRR actions at local level in Europe, support regional and city level resilience through EU instruments and processes and promote joint engagement in local/regional dimension of the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative. These are in line with the goals and targets set out by the Sendai Framework and broader EU policy on disaster risk management.

To achieve these objectives, the NAT Commission and UNDRR ROE agree upon the joint activities as outlined in the Annex for the period 2021-2022.

A review of the Action Plan 2021-2022 will be conducted after its expiration, and a mid-term light review will be organised in the context of the European Forum for DRR. In addition to the above identified areas for cooperation, more specific plans of action may be developed to implement the indicated joint activities.

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Chief

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Reduction



Ulrika Landergrén

Chair

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Annex

<i>Policy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The CoR promotes the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and its goal to significantly increase the number of cities with local disaster risk reduction strategies and promotes engagement of regions and cities in the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative.• On behalf of the CoR, the NAT commission will discuss the core principles and resilience roadmap of the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative and contributes to setting regional priorities of action for DRR and resilience as member of the Regional Coordinating Committee of MCR2030 in Europe.• UNDRR ROE provides relevant policy guidance including through an annual joint webinar dedicated to local resilience for CoR Members and relevant EU stakeholders; contributions on resilience to strategic CoR policy processes such as the CoR Barometer; and knowledge sharing through key documents, guidance and reviews.• The CoR , through UNDRR support, engages CoR Members in the drafting of at least one CoR Opinion on the DRR agenda, contributing to driving implementation of the Sendai Framework at local and regional level in the Europe region, depending on the interinstitutional agenda and pending the interest of CoR members.
<i>Planning and implementation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNDRR ROE and the CoR organise regular high-level exchanges between the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG) and the CoR President, as well as meetings between both organisations at different levels.• The CoR participates in the Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) of MCR2030 Europe, as regional partner and member of RCC-Europe.• The CoR participates in relevant working groups, meetings, consultations and discussions, organised by UNDRR ROE on resilience-building and DRR.• The CoR contributes where relevant to the build-up, running and follow up of the European Forum for DRR, and coordinates the participation of a delegation of CoR Members in the European Forum for DRR, as part of the overall European Union delegation.• UNDRR ROE participates in the activities organised by the CoR in the field of civil protection, disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and sustainable development.
<i>Advocacy/outreach</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The CoR contributes to raising awareness and region and city membership in the MCR2030 initiative, local level disaster risk reduction activities and to information sharing through various channels such as the CoR website and CoR plenary sessions and Commission meetings.• The CoR and UNDRR ROE organise an annual joint event within the context of the European week of Regions and Cities and the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13 October).• UNDRR conveys CoR activities relevant to disaster risk reduction through its networks and events at regional and global levels.