Summary Report

The Working Session described typical challenges regularly faced by fast-growing cities located in areas highly exposed to natural hazards that at the same time face problems related to poverty, inequality, weak governance, informal settlements, ecosystem degradation and conflict-related issues.

There was a general recognition that land use planning is a key pillar of disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. The complexity of land use planning processes and the broad range of stakeholders involved were recognized as a challenge that should be approached through consultative processes and inclusive participation of all those involved.

The particular situation and needs of rural population as well as of refugees or displaced persons that are frequently not taken into account in the planning process was underlined. Regional land use planning practice was mentioned as a possible answer to tackling these issues. Furthermore the difficulties surrounding no-build zones and relocation programmes were addressed as was the issue of land tenure.

The Working Session outlined that land-use planning should be carried out in an integrated manner within the overall framework of sustainable development. Governments at national, regional and local levels need a robust institutional and normative framework and resources to carry out land use planning in an effective manner. To that end, support for capacity building of local government officials on sound land-use planning practices was highlighted.

Emphasis should be placed in avoiding the creation of new risks and managing existing or accumulated risk. Access to evidence-based information on historic events will help the projections of future scenarios. The environmental assets and the effects of climate change need to be taken into account in land use planning processes.

Private-Public Partnerships are required to enhance capacity to reduce risk. Furthermore, the public sector, the private sector and the communities need to incorporate disaster risk reduction measures in all their development-related activities and initiatives. Cultural considerations and ancestral knowledge need to be taken into considerations.
Commitments

• The International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) will promote the integration of hazard risk and climate change information in city and regional planning through its membership (80 countries worldwide) and partners. This involves developing science material, engaging in research, and introducing disaster risk reduction in its annual Congress.
• ISOCARP will also integrate disaster risk reduction in the technical support it provides to cities, and in its capacity building activities of young professionals and mid-level professionals.

Speakers List

Chair: Mr. Carlos Ivan Marquez, Director of the National Disaster Risk Management Unit of the Presidency of the Republic of Colombia.

Panelists: Ms. Selaima Maitoga, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Lami Town Council, Fiji

Mr. Mathijs van Ledden, Director Business Development Flood Risk Reduction at Royal HaskoningDHV, The Netherlands

Ms. Dienaba Sidibe, President of the Board of Women Pastoralists/herders of Senegal

Dr. Shipra Narang Suri, Vice-President of Technical Cooperation, International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP)