

Closing Remarks

Ms. Lauren Sorkin, Executive Director, Resilient Cities Network

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Good afternoon, everyone.

I am very heartened to be standing in a resilience hub, here in Matosinhos because at the core resilience is about bringing together diverse stakeholders to reduce our risk, to maximize our opportunities. Thank you to the Mayor of Matosinhos for hosting us. And to the governments of Portugal, and Kenya and UNDESA for bringing us together.

Resilient cities network represents 100 cities across 5 regions and it's a pleasure to be here with our sister Networks – with UCLG, with ICLEI with AIVP to use an oceans related metaphor to ensure that cities and regions are rowing in the same direction to channel knowledge and finance to coastal cities to build holistic resilience in the face of a changing climate.

The discussions today have been wide ranging and productive. More than anything I think today's discussion defied expectations. And I want to focus my summary remarks on three key areas where today's discussions have defied expectations and debunked myths or assumptions. And I want to close with a call to action for all of us.

Debunked Myths:

So the first myth that we have debunked is as follows: There are massive silos between the people working on local solutions, urban planning and oceans.

We have spent a day hearing from not one, not two but about a dozen city and regional leaders from 5 continents about what is happening on the ground to deliver climate resilience. From the Coasts of the North America, to South America, to South Asia, to Africa, and here in Europe SDG Goal 14 is alive and well in cities.

At the local level – there is not time for silos. Cities are working across sectors to create coastal resilience.

We debunked a second myth – integrated solutions are lacking:

Data driven decision-making –

-climate change information and modelling is better than ever before. But, while we know how the science can help. The real remaining challenge is bridging that science policy interface and integrating in more cities the science in governance and as a basis for investment.

Nature based solutions – are also an integrated solution that is rapidly scaling up.

Where we can sharpen our focus is by bringing the solutions to secondary cities – in English we say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. And indeed, preservation is more powerful than restoration when we speak of our coastal communities and our ocean.

Collaborative management – governance approaches can be scaled up. As our colleague from Catalunya said. There is no possible maritime policy without collaborative management.

The third and last myth I will speak about is this myth – that there is a lack of interest in investing in financing coastal adaptation.

Yet, today we heard about examples of private finance and blended finance. This conference brought together EIB, UN Fund and a few private sector actors around this topic.

- Yet, if we were – as one of our panelists said this morning – have a Matosinhos Declaration – it should be about finance about financing the real benefits that come from investing in coastal communities. And we heard about a few opportunities for making much more resourcing available for cities by
 - o Interfacing and interacting to enable communication and finance to be channelled effectively
 - o Quantifying the return on resilience value while supporting financing that can produce Revenue or savings
 - o Boosting the role of insurance and reinsurance in funding and finance
 - o Combining of philanthropic and grant finance to instigate, incentivize and innovate

RCIFund – you heard from us that the Resilient Cities Network is launching a grant fund for cities oceans and coastal resilience to prepare investments in coastal resilience and just economic transition in line with decarbonization in our ports and coastal cities. We welcome partners to join us at the Resilient Cities Network and our partners like the seed funders of the RCIFund – Z Zurich Foundation, Bank of America and others.

So I am committed to bringing this message to Katowice, to the World Urban Forum in Poland to continue this discussion and raise the important messages we have co-developed here today.

So as I prepare to turn the word over to our esteemed Special Envoy for the Ocean

- How do we take today's lessons and activate them?
- How do we keep this dialogue going? And activate the private capital in this discussion?

I can say that from the Resilient Cities Network perspective, and I think from the perspective of the other city networks that have voted today with our feet, to travel to Matosinhos, we are committed to growing this discussion on the road to Katowice this week, to COP27 in Sharm el Sheik, to the World Water Conference in 2023 and other international forums and what's more to working with local governments to drive implementation on the ground.

I want to close by reflecting on this moment. Noting that just one year ago a meeting like this one felt impossible. We were still, in so many places restricted from traveling to be together. We must not take this time together for granted.

Thank you for your attention and may we use the connections we've made, so extraordinarily – in person – today- to deliver on these shared priorities for ourselves, for our children and for the oceans.

Thank you again.

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