



UNITED NATIONS & USAID HONOR SERBIAN COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE UPGRADED THEIR DISASTER RESILIENCE

BELGRADE – Thirty Serbian municipalities and cities will receive certificates from the United Nations for their commitment to disaster resilience and join a United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UN DRR) global campaign called “Making Cities Resilient – My City is Getting Ready.”

Margareta Wahlström, the United Nations’ Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, will award the certificates on Wednesday at the Palace of Serbia in New Belgrade.

To earn the certificates, the Serbian municipalities worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Preparedness and Planning Program to improve safety and disaster resilience. Each has received USAID Enhanced Disaster Resilient status.

On Wednesday, five more municipalities will also receive USAID’s Enhanced Disaster Resilient status bringing the total number of USAID-certified resilient municipalities to nearly 70. The U.S. Embassy’s Chargé d’Affairs Earle Litzenberger will honor those municipalities.

Not all communities will join the UN’s global campaign. Approximately 50 have qualified, making Serbia is one of the campaign’s leaders in Europe.

Communities that have earned USAID’s Enhanced Disaster Resilient status have gained advanced preparedness and planning skills to protect residents and property from natural and manmade disasters. Joining the UN DRR campaign makes them part of a network of municipalities that are dedicated to reducing the risks of disaster and improving their disaster management skills.

WHO: **Margareta Wahlström**, the United Nations’ Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

Earle Litzenberger, the U.S. Embassy’s Chargé d’Affairs

Predrag Maric, Serbian Assistant Minister of Interior and Head of the Sector for Emergency Management

WHEN: Wednesday, September 7 at 11:00 a.m. Journalists covering the event should arrive by 10:45 a.m.

WHERE: Palace of Serbia, New Belgrade

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Please confirm your attendance by 5 p.m. September 6 by sending your identification and contact details to one of the contact persons listed above.

For more information about UNDP Serbia, please visit <http://www.undp.org.rs/>.

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