Open-ended Informal Consultative Meeting

27 April 2016

Women's Partners Constituent Group of GAP

Intervention on Panel B: Urban Services and Technology

Good morning Chair and distinguished delegates. I would like to appreciate the opportunity to take the floor and share our recommendations and highlight some priorities.

My name is Katia Araujo. I am Director of Programs with the Huairou Commission and I am here speaking on behalf of the Women's Partners Constituent Group of GAP.

As rights-holders and stakeholders in the implementation of the NUA, we want to ensure the role and views of all women are recognized and recommendations are integrated. **This integration can only take place through development of policies that are gender-responsive in particular on essential elements of sustainable urban development.**

In line with recommendations from Policy Unit 9, we recommend that the NUA and its aim to humanize urban services, pays special attention to **meaningful engagement of stakeholders, partnerships and localization.** There are three key topics to be addressed by establishing an action framework sustaining a process that reinforces PU9 recommendation of **localization and role of local actors that could support local processes to which stakeholders subscribe AND has at its core a rather uncompromising set of performance indicators. In this sense, each indicator area accounting for grassroots women's livelihoods, security of tenure, women's asset base, and others of the nature.**

A gender-responsive approach to urban services and technologies policies and projects requires a paradigm shift that recognizes women's human rights and women's empowerment in its core as well as the recognition of women's contributions. This approach promotes the development of new opportunities for women.

In order to facilitate women's engagement in these sectors, in particular in technology, it is necessary that technology transfer and development ensure greater skill-sharing and knowledge opportunities for all women. It also demands greater recognition and integration of the traditional and indigenous knowledge, innovations and practices of women in actions and policies.

New technologies are more than just devices. It comes from the collective intelligence of societies, the repetition and accumulation of behaviours, and their selection over time. Within this context, it is imperative that urban services and technologies approaches provide for:

- Open and Free information access to enhance meaningful engagement in decision-making for sustainable urbanization;
- Ensures access to quality public services and social protection floor, including food, water, sustainable energy, transportation, decent, adequate and affordable housing, child and elder care, among others

- With special att to Technology, **it is essential to ensure that all technologies transferred cause no harm to either the environment or the human communities to whom such technology is transferred.** No technology that might reasonably be considered high risk should be permitted to be transferred, including, inter alia, geo-engineering and nuclear energy. Human rights and environmental conservation, in the light of gender equity, must be the minimum standards applied to all technology transfers;

- Take into account and support women's traditional and indigenous knowledge, adaptive measures, and practices, including indigenous knowledge

- Analysis and expansion of equitable technological capabilities, social network capacities addressing particularly the **digital gender divide with an emphasis on the development of appropriate, safe, affordable and gender-responsive technology;**

- Free and open provision of **disaggregated** data (including in real time) to facilitate new services and solutions that are gender-responsive;

- Technology should be appropriate and assessed for its level of accessibility and particularized benefits to a community. It should be implemented at affordable costs and introduced in a clear and simple manner which enables communities to take ownership and adapt the technology in order to ensure effectiveness;

Technology Facilitation Mechanism and Technology Assessment
- An enhanced interpretation of the mandate for the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, should cover a broader spectrum of work that develops action plans for technology, specially associated with health and the environment to be more easily accessed for proactive and preventative measures.

- At the same time it should develop guidelines for national level technology assessment mechanisms that use community based approaches to assess the social, environmental and economic impacts of a technology to ensure appropriate, purpose-driven, and context-specific change.