



**ORAL STATEMENT PLAN INTERNATIONAL
HABITAT III, Ecuador
20.10.2016**

The New Urban Agenda and Girls' Rights to the City

This statement is made on behalf of Plan International.

Taking girls' perspectives and voices into account is essential for creating safer, accountable, and inclusive cities. We strive to amplify girls' and young women's voices in urban development.

In 2030 there will be more than 700 million girls living in cities. Girls need to be included in the development of urban policies and the planning processes of cities. This is the only way to ensure girls enjoy the right to the city and the benefits of city life. Millions of girls and women in cities are 'invisible' to governments and policy-makers because they are not being counted in official statistics. Even though, we now have the tools and methods some of them develop by civil society organizations such as Plan International, these tools are not been systematically used by cities and governments. Therefore we do not have clear picture on the lived experience of girls in the urban environment.

The New Urban Agenda promises to leave no one behind. However, unless we have more gender-sensitive data to inform the decisions and investments, the voices of millions of girls will continue to be invisible and excluded.

Implementing the New Urban Agenda with a gender approach and girl focus can help cities around the world better address the specific situation and of priorities girls in sanitation, education, participation, public spaces, transportation, and city services. We have available models to effectively address this gap such as the Safer Cities for Girl developed by Plan International, UNHABITAT and Women in Cities.

Plan International is committed to work with all actors to promote a global movement for girls' rights and safe cities for girls.

We call for governments and other stakeholders to put girls at the centre in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, build partnerships with girls and allocate sufficient resources so that the bold plan for action promised in the New Urban Agenda, SDG 5 and SDG 11 delivers for them, allowing them to live in cities where girls can lean, lead, decide and thrive.