



United Nations

**HABITAT III**  
ASSEMBLIES  
**WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY DECLARATION**  
(Condensed Version)

On Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> over 1,000 participants representing the diversity of the stakeholders groups: grassroots women, indigenous peoples, farmer's groups, youth, academia, researchers, local government representatives, NGOs, and UN agencies attended the all day Women's Assembly at Habitat III. These representatives of more than 40 countries came together to celebrate women's contributions to the framing and finalization of the New Urban Agenda and to focus their collective attention on how women's groups lead efforts to ensure gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment are measurably advanced in the 2030 Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda (s). As participants of the Women's Assembly, we:

1. Welcome the shared vision of the NUA, aligned with SDG 5, that envisages cities and human settlements that achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls;
2. Validate and will ensure the formulation of gender-responsive policies in urban planning and sector development and the ratification of women's and girls' rights in relation to infrastructure basic services, food safety and security; and
3. Recognize inclusive safe public spaces and transport increase women's mobility and social status; and
4. Acknowledge that women's work in the informal and care economy and the need for livelihood opportunities are particularly important to the world's women and girls, and as active leaders in our cities and communities we commit to ensuring that concrete actions in these areas are implemented.
5. Nevertheless, we are concerned that the New Urban Agenda's Means of Implementation are general and broad, and that the policy framework fails to position women, in our diversity, as partners and leaders of gender just, urban development. We reject the notion that women are one of a number of demographic groups who will be beneficiaries of government action.
6. To advance our responsibilities in localizing the NUA commitments, the afternoon session of the Women's Assembly brought together more than 300 participants to collectively plan our commitments to implementation. Breakout groups were organised around 10 key thematic areas critical to improving the political, social, and economic well being of women and to ensuring gender responsive urban development:
  1. Women's Political Agenda and Representation in Urban Decision-Making
  2. Women's Economic Empowerment, Decent Job Agenda Unpaid Care and Domestic Work and Women in the Informal Economy
  3. Cities Safe for Women: Safe Public Spaces Free from Violence
  4. Promoting Grassroots Women's Leadership and Agenda in Slum and Informal Settlement Upgrading & Development
  5. Recognizing & Resourcing Rural – Urban Links
  6. Securing Access to and Control Over Land, Property and Housing
  7. Taking Leadership on the Environment, Climate Change and Resilience



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8. Designing, Planning and Monitoring Gender Responsive Cities
9. Securing Women's Lives and Opportunities in Post-Conflict Context – Including Refugees
10. Supporting Ecuadorian Women's Leadership in NUA Implementation

In these thematic breakout groups, we inventoried good practices, advocacy gains, and effective partnerships the women's movement has led, committing to sharing our tools, knowledge and experience to build the capacities of urban actors, from grassroots women to municipal and national governments, to build on the collective work and achievement in urban development and governance to support implementation. Further, the breakout groups developed collective commitments to implementing the NUA to ensure an inclusive, locally relevant New Urban Agenda is realized.

**Here in Quito we declare a range of plans and voluntary commitments to ensure gender equality is measurably advanced and that urban public policies and political leadership are transformed by our focused and widespread participation.**

Collectively, and across our unique contexts and areas of expertise, we commit to working together to

- Foster Women-Led Generation of Disaggregated Data and Information
- Center Stage the Leadership of Grassroots Women's Organizations in Upgrading Informal Settlements and Protecting and Improving Informal Sector Livelihoods
- Promote Gender Responsive Urban Development (by transferring the effective tools, practices and gender responsive public policies the women's movement have led),
- Mobilize Constituencies and Partnerships to Accelerate Progress for Gender Equality and Inclusive Urbanization
- Engender and Expand Women's Leadership in Governance and Public Decision Making

Furthermore, we commit to undertaking actions, relevant to our situations and contexts that include the following subset of actions:

- Developing and making available to all cities knowledge, tools and lessons from successful practices as part of promoting comprehensive rights-based approaches, that recognize women and girls as change agents in order to support governments to implement for gender transformative and inclusive safe cities for women and girls
- Monitoring taxes and levies that are collected to facilitate rural-urban links and ensure women's needs are met through tax collection and allocation.
- Promote initiatives that recognize women and girls as essential agents of change in a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral and multi-level partnership informed by existing global frameworks on safe cities free of violence against women and girls that can be adapted to city and country context.



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- Sustaining advocacy and vigilantly monitoring laws and policies intended to promote inclusive, gender responsive land governance and a human rights lens as a means to measurably secure and protect women, their homes and livelihoods.
- Continuing to promote holistic sustainable, resilient development through an integrated approach linking the conservation of natural resources, disaster and climate resilience to building sustainable livelihoods for urban and rural communities, based on women's (indigenous, grassroots, professionals) local knowledge and practices.
- Advising governments on policies and programs to ensure gender responsiveness through community led processes and financing gender-aware research programmes to expand evidence and knowledge relevant to gender responsive urban governance.
- Establishing women's platforms and networks to exchange best practices on resilience building in conflict and post conflict situations between women's groups as a means of transferring of knowledge, building on good grassroots practices and creative problem- solving.

Recognizing the essential role of governments in leading implementation efforts, and as co- implementors of the New Urban Agenda, we call upon Member States to:

- Formally recognize women's organizations, particularly grassroots women's organizations, as key stakeholders with a strong track record of delivering practical, scalable results that are critical for the effective implementation of the NUA.
- Acknowledge the economic value of women, particularly the grassroots, for their unpaid contributions to transforming their communities including through the care economy.
- Resource the upscaling of gender responsive best practices and community solutions through targeted funds and participatory budgeting.
- Establish plans in country charters to ensure equal rights for women and men in housing and land ownership and access to housing.
- Formally assign the role of women's organizations, particularly grassroots women and informal workers, to establish indicators and participate in disaggregated data collection, using tools such as safety audits and community mapping, and through the use of technology.
- Foster partnerships with women's organizations including grassroots and informal settlement groups recognizing their community expertise and capacity to manage and effectively employ resources. Partnerships with local governments that include the increased participation of women in decision-making are imperative to successful implementation and should be institutionalize with binding agreements.

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