

Side Event: A Gender Equality Approach to Urban Development	
ORGANIZATION (PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS)	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Government of Indonesia UN-Habitat Huairou Commission
DATE/TIME	26 July, 6:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.
VENUE	Crystal 5
DESCRIPTION	<p>Creating safe and inclusive spaces which respond to the needs of women and men is imperative for increasing social cohesion and sustainable development. Equally importantly, empowering women and girls is a human right. It increases safety and fuels thriving economies. Yet gender inequalities remain deeply entrenched in every society. Women lack access to decent work and face occupational segregation and gender wage gaps. They are too often denied access to basic education and health care. Women in all parts of the world suffer violence and discrimination, including the fear and experience of sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence. They are under-represented in political and economic decision-making processes. Urban development processes must address these inequalities and ensure that women can equally contribute to and benefit from urban development.</p> <p>The objective of this side event is to speak to gender equality principles that must inform urban planning, policies, and programs in the process of redesigning and redeveloping urban areas, in particular the urban housing and its basic services, to be more gender-sensitive, inclusive, and responsive to everyone's needs.</p> <p>The session is expected to identify the key gender inequality challenges encountered in the work on inclusive cities, along with strategies and approaches developed and implemented in addressing those challenges. Using a talk show approach, the panellists, coming from a range of governmental, civil society and inter-governmental backgrounds, will reflect on innovations and speak to key messages that should shape the Habitat III Conference.</p>

