



United Nations

HABITAT III

ASSEMBLIES

WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY CONCEPT NOTE

Women's Assembly¹

Saturday, 15 October 2016

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Agora, Casa de la Cultura

Key Words

[Women, girls, partnerships, female empowerment, gender-responsive, gender-inclusive, stakeholders, engagement, major groups, implementation, sustainable urban development, General Assembly of Partners (GAP), New Urban Agenda]

Women and the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda

The Women's Assembly is designed to celebrate the contributions to and leadership of the Women and Human Settlements' movement in championing sustainable and women inclusive urban development. The Assembly follows a participatory framework that promotes dialogue and engagement through ten thematic breakout sessions complimented by two plenary sessions. The Assembly will end with consolidation of participants' recommendations and commitments for insuring an empowerment-focused, gender-responsive New Urban Agenda.

The two opening plenary sessions will highlight the diversity of the women's constituency and show the different development priorities across the women's movement. The session will engage women from local authorities, parliamentarians, professionals, research and academia, civil society organizations, youth, indigenous, grassroots women leaders, business and industries, farmers, and older persons. They will help to set the context for the thematic afternoon breakout sessions by providing a review of the gender-responsive recommendations within the final New Urban Agenda Draft and addressing the prevalent gaps for women's equality against the backdrop of the Sustainable Development Goals framework.

The afternoon breakout sessions will engage participants in dialogue over actionable recommendations and successful partnership building strategies for the New Urban Agenda implementation in all of the areas essential for women's equality: women's political leadership and participation, women's economic empowerment in formal and informal economy, cities safe for women and girls, grassroots women's leadership in informal settlement upgrading, the urban-rural nexus, access to and control over land and property, environment and resilience, gender responsive city design, women's lives in post conflict context.

¹ In collaboration with the coordinating Partner Constituency Group: Women, General Assembly of Partners (GAP). More information on the GAP Executive Committee is available [here](#), and the GAP contribution to the Habitat III process and the New Urban Agenda, "Partnerships for the New Urban Agenda," can be read online [here](#).



United Nations

HABITAT III

ASSEMBLIES

Guiding Questions

- How can women and women's networks consolidate the practical and strategic policy and implementation priorities that the women's movement/ platform has forged to ensure that the New Urban Agenda empowers women and engenders city and community development?
- How can women and women's constituencies be positioned as players in the settlements movement/ platform across the stakeholder groups (local authorities; parliamentarians; professionals; research and academia; civil society organizations; youth; indigenous; grassroots women leaders; business and industries; farmers; older persons; etc.) in promoting the sustainable urban development paradigm?
- What are the strategic policy and programme priorities, entry points, and strategic partnerships necessary to ensure the gender-responsive implementation of the New Urban Agenda?
- What frameworks, systems, or platforms can be engaged to secure forward-moving plans and commitments from stakeholder groups as well as their partnership strategies for delivering key outcomes?

Assembly Follow Up

- How do you propose to monitor the outcomes of this session in order to report back on progress at the 9th Session of the World Urban Forum (2018, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)?