Gia Gaspard Taylor

Trinidad & Tobago

Network of Rural Women Producers

The Zero draft of the New Urban Agenda identify social and spatial vulnerability from Global North to South but there are multiple issues connected to urbanization.

Urbanization success in the under developed and developing countries depend on effective planning when cities become overcrowded and suitable rural areas are identified for development. It is imperative that the Zero draft describes how it will address the issues of farmers and their families, and in some cases an entire community; who stand to be displaced in the event of urbanization, especially in the Caribbean region where cities have moved into rural areas. This Draft needs to specifically address issues like housing for displaced women who do not have alternatives for existing residences, arable agricultural lands that are utilized for housing, and the risk of further losing lands due to climate change which weaken the opportunity for economic growth and food production.

Research has evidenced that some cities that have been established in rural areas have experienced severe environmental hazards from mining and other industrialized development without redress. This will impact the sector of agriculture by stagnating growth and quality of products within a radius of these issues.

Communication mechanism should be established to inform citizens of all status via varied methods to include the man on the street, using a language which is adaptable to ensure full participation.

Urban Policies should speak to repatriation as sometimes National governments make errors which cannot be reversed.

In closing, there are three key points that the Zero Draft should include

- Repatriation
- Communication/Public Awareness
- Urbanization of Rural areas