

**UN WOMEN STATEMENT AT THE SECOND
MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
HABITAT III**

15th April, 2015, Nairobi.

On behalf of UN Women, I would to thank the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat and the Habitat III secretariat for their leadership in this process towards the definition of the new urban agenda. Our heartfelt thanks to them and to the great number of member states represented in this gathering, for stressing in their interventions, the centrality of integrating gender equality as a priority concerns in the new urban agenda and the post 2015 development framework.

As you have rightly highlighted, gender equality, the realization of women's rights and the empowerment women are a prerequisite for sustainable development and any other goals that may be established as part of the post-2015 development framework, including goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. This is in line with Goal 5 on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

From the legislation and norms settings, policy making, financing and accountability, all of the different processes

and decisions of a successful new urban agenda have important gender equality dimensions. But beyond that, gender equality is a critical component on building a model of urban development that uses national planning as a driver for economic development and poverty elimination, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, peace and security, the elimination of violence and discrimination, and for the full enjoyment of human rights for all.

Therefore, it is critical that women are granted opportunities on equal bases as men to influence their lives and future, participate in decision-making and voice their concerns, if sustainable development is to be achieved.

It is also important to ensure that women have equal access to and control over all the benefits of the new urban agenda, including access to productive and financial assets, decent employment, and urban services — like technology, innovation and credit, banking and financial services, for example. With women's voice and participation and the recognition of the various roles women play in society, it will be possible to support the ambitions of the new post 2015 Development Agenda as the global arch of equitable growth and shared prosperity, where no one is left behind.

This is in light of spirit of the outcome of the 20 year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for action undertaken in March in the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Through the adoption of the Political Declaration, Member States committed to use all opportunities and processes in 2015 and beyond to accelerate and achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in order to achieve concrete results in each review cycle, and strive for the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women by 2030.

UN Women remains committed to continue to advocate for the outcome of Habitat III to address the gender dimensions of sustainable urbanization and sets the fundamental basis for eliminating the persistent inequalities that are still prevalent in many cities in developing countries.

It is our belief that Equal Cities promote accelerated, peaceful and sustainable prosperity for all.

We count on all of you and your strong support to champion gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment in the way forward. We must continue to strive together for sustainable patterns of urbanization that

seek to achieve people-centered, inclusive, and sustainable global development.

Many thanks.