

Statement by UN Women to the general debate on the Draft New Urban Agenda (25 July 2016)

In the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, to be held in Quito, Ecuador from 17 to 20 October 2016, UN Women has been actively engaged and proposed language for the intergovernmental negotiations of the outcome document bringing to the attention of Member States the importance of incorporating gender equality and women's empowerment as a central objective of and precondition to achieve sustainable urban development.

UN Women commends that the draft of the New Urban Agenda commits to contribute to the achievement of gender equality and empower all women and girls in alignment with the 2030 Agenda, including Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on "achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls."

To further support the integration of gender equality perspectives throughout the document UN Women would like to propose some few new paragraphs and references that are critical in order to achieve concrete results and strive for the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by 2030:

Quito Declaration for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All

6. ... **We also reaffirm the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits which have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development, including the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. [Based on A/RES/70/1, para 11]**

15 bis. **We recognize that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to the realization of the New Urban Agenda and we call for the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Agenda. [Based on paragraph 20 of the 2030 Agenda]**

Quito Implementation Plan for the New Urban Agenda

A. The Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development

22. We commit to ensure that no one is left behind and to promote equally-shared opportunities and benefits that urbanization can offer, enabling all inhabitants, with temporary or permanent status, whether living in formal or informal settlements, to lead decent, dignified, and rewarding lives and to achieve their full human potential. **We further commit to ensure that all women and children living in poverty and those in vulnerable situations benefit from inclusive urban development strategies. [Based on A/RES/70/219, para 6]**

24. We commit to strengthen the coordination role of local governments in the provision of **age and gender-responsive** social and basic services, including generating investments in communities that are affected by recurrent and protracted humanitarian crises. We further commit to provide adequate services, accommodation, and opportunities for decent and productive work for crisis-affected persons in urban settings, working with the local communities and local governments to identify opportunities for engaging and developing local, durable, and dignified solutions, while ensuring that aid flows also to affected persons and host communities to prevent regression of their development.

33 bis. **We commit to implement comprehensive multi-sectoral measures to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in public and private spaces, build on achievements and scale up holistic human rights and evidence based initiatives, such as the Safe Cities Initiative of the United Nations. We urge for the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, as well as the provision of universal access to comprehensive social, health, and legal services for all victims and survivors, to ensure their full recovery and reintegration into society. We also recognize that the treatment of women and girls can be a broader reflection of societal norms, and we commit to using education and public awareness campaigns as a further tool against abuse. [Based on Habitat III zero draft, para 40 and CSW57 agreed conclusions, para 34 zz]**

35. **We commit to promote institutional, political, legal, and financial mechanisms in cities and human settlements to broaden inclusive democratic platforms that allow meaningful participation in decision-making, planning, and follow-up processes for all. We commit to promote women's full and equal participation in urban political and economic leadership and decision-making through the removal of any barriers that prevent women from being full participants in political and economic life. [based on Addis Ababa Action Agenda, para 41 and A/RES/70/219, para 39]**

51. **We commit to recognize the working poor in the informal economy, particularly women, as contributors and legitimate actors of the urban economies, including the unpaid and domestic workers. We also commit to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies.** We further commit to develop a gradual approach to formalization with a view to facilitating the transition from the informal to the formal economy, extending access to legal and social protections to informal livelihoods, as well as support services to the informal workforce.

52 bis. **We commit to support legislative and administrative reforms at the sub-national and local levels to support women's equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology. We commit to support removing legal and regulatory barriers to women's equal participation in the urban labour market and commit to promote, decent work, equal pay for equal work or for work of equal value, as well as eliminating discrimination and abuse against women in the workplace. [based on Addis Ababa Action Agenda, para 41]**

69 bis. **We commit to integrate a gender perspective in environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction strategies, financing, policies and processes, towards achieving the equal participation of women in decision making in urban areas on environmental issues, acknowledging that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change and other environmental issues. [Based on paragraph 14 of CSW 60 Agreed Conclusions]**

B. Effective Implementation

79. **We will strengthen the capacity of sub-national and local governments to implement effective local and metropolitan multilevel governance, beyond administrative borders and based on functional territories, ensuring the involvement of sub-national and local governments in decision making, providing them with necessary authority and resources to manage critical urban and metropolitan concerns. We will promote metropolitan governance that is inclusive and encompasses legal frameworks, and reliable financing mechanisms, including sustainable debt management. We will take measures to ensure women's full and equal participation at all levels of decision making in local governments.**

93. **We will foster the realization of the right to adequate housing, as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, by all appropriate means and to the maximum of our available resources, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical measures and capacity development. We will also enhance the public supply of land for affordable housing, including land in central and consolidated areas of cities with proper infrastructure, and encourage mixed-income development to promote social inclusion. We will empower women by increasing their public leadership in upgrading housing, basic services and public space in their communities [Based on Pretoria Declaration]**

94. We will develop **gender-responsive** policies, tools, mechanisms, and financing models that promote access to a wide range of affordable housing options and consider shifting from a predominantly private ownership to rental and other tenure options, including cooperative solutions such as co-housing, community land trust, and other forms of collective tenure, in order to improve the supply of housing, especially for low-income groups and to prevent segregation. This will include support to incremental housing and self-build schemes, with special attention to slums and informal settlements upgrading programs.

119 bis. **We will ensure that financing of all sustainable urban development policies and strategies are gender-responsive, and include targeted actions for the promotion of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in urban areas. We will take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources including public and private resource mobilization and allocation** [\[Based on CSW60 Agreed Conclusions, paragraphs 23z and 23 bb\]](#)

140. We will support capacity development initiatives to empower and strengthen skills and abilities of the women and girls, children and youth, older person and persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, as well as persons in vulnerable situations for shaping governance processes, engaging in dialogue, and promoting and protecting human rights and anti-discrimination, to ensure their effective participation in ~~urban and territorial development decision-making~~ **the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of urban and territorial development policies, strategies and programmes** [\[Based on A/RES/70/219, para 7\]](#)