



Habitat III Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meetings
Public Spaces, Informal Settlements, and Civic Engagement
25 April

Women's PCG Statement
Ms. Quazi Baby

Good morning Chair.

Thank you for this opportunity to take the floor.

I am Quazi Baby from Bangladesh, Director of PDAP and member of the Huairou Commission. Today I am speaking on behalf of the Women's Partners Constituent Group for Habitat III.

- We support the Policy Paper on Housing Policies for its adoption of an inclusive approach to housing, including support for participatory processes and fair housing policies, the promotion of security of tenure with gender equality and within the consideration of the continuum of land rights. In addition, we support the approach that aims to eradicate housing discrimination, and the prohibition of forced evictions, particularly for widows.
- Women's rights for housing and urban land must be strengthened. Initiatives to promote land tenure for women, and to secure women's access to accessible and adequate housing, services, and resources, go hand in hand with the implementation of positive policies to advance gender equality and empower women.
- The New Urban Agenda must ensure access to quality public services and social protection, including decent, adequate and affordable housing, among others.
- Housing should be designed for use by residents of all ages and abilities, and should be designed for use across the life course so that older persons can remain in their homes. The World Health Organization's Age Friendly Cities and Communities initiative launched in 2006 offers specific recommendations of how to make cities work for all ages.
- There is a need to include safe, multi-use public spaces within housing communities to avoid social isolation.
- A range of stakeholder partnerships should be established to empower community based women's groups to:
 - Produce data and qualitative information documenting their access to and control over land and housing; and
 - Assume formal public leadership roles in upgrading their informal settlements by improving housing, basic services, public space and livelihoods in their communities.