



Habitat III Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meetings

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Statement from Women's PCG

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Good afternoon, any thank you for this opportunity to speak.

My name is Marling Haydee Rodríguez Cerro, I come from Nicaragua, I am President of the Union of Cooperatives Las Brumas, a member of the Huairou Commission. Today I am speaking on behalf of the Women's Partners Constituent Group for Habitat III.

When we speak about Urban Ecology and Resilience, it is crucial to consider the role of women and girl children, because in Latin America and the Caribbean we are experts in community resilience.

Within cities and communities, often there is only a limited participation of the diverse local actors in the political process associated with urban ecology and resilience. We see limited contributions by women, people of few resources, young and older people, indigenous people and others, who generally are those most vulnerable to disasters and climate change, and for that reason have important priorities and perspectives. Without the mechanisms to enable inclusive participation, especially of women, an urban agenda runs the risk of failing in implementation.

For this reason, it is important to identify policies to combat those vulnerabilities to natural disasters and climate change based in gender inequalities. In accordance with UNISDR (UN Office for Disaster Risk reduction), women in developing countries are most affected by the consequences of climate change. It is central to build capacity to promote activities of adaptation and mitigation that have a gender perspective.

The New Urban Agenda must address the following:

- Establish urban policies are intentionally climate-resilient and ensure sustainable management of natural resources.
- All cities should have local policies for climate change and disaster resilience to achieve equality amongst women and men and environmental health.
- Guarantee the equitable sharing of benefit from the sustainable utilization of natural resources, with indigenous people and local communities who manage and own these resources.
- Ensure urban planning happens within planetary boundaries to avoid exacerbating environmental degradation both within city limits and in the peri-urban and remote areas where the resources are being exploited
- Recognize the connection between gender and the consumption of resources, as well as the connection between women and water scarcity. Access to water has a profound impact on women's livelihoods and our responsibility to care for dependents.