



**WOMEN'S PARTNERS CONSTITUENT GROUP (WPCG)
OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PARTNERS
RESPONSE TO HABITAT III ZERO DRAFT**

May 17th 2016

KEY PRIORITIES

The New Urban Agenda has the potential to create a new global paradigm for sustainable urban development. The Women's Partner Constituent Group (WPCG) for Habitat III has been part of the process to help devise a transformative agenda that is able to address new and emerging challenges regarding the ways cities and human-settlements are planned, developed, governed and managed, while promoting a rights-based and gender equality approach that puts people, particularly women, at its center.

We, the women's group welcome the inclusion of many key recommendations of the Women's Partners Constituent Group in the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda, in particular in relation to the recognition of full respect of human rights for all to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, and the recognition of women's participation in decision-making in its vision. Finally, we hope that such commitments will continue throughout the entire process based on inclusiveness and transparency. At the same time, we, express the need to strengthen the commitment to gender equality throughout the New Urban Agenda.

On the eve of the Informal Intergovernmental Session on the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda of May 18-20, the WPCG is releasing **#Key Priorities** to highlight areas that need to be strengthened in the Zero Draft to achieve the transformative change we envision.

Key Priorities

1. To integrate the human rights framework and gender equality as cross-cutting principles to enable the success of the New Urban Agenda.

Human rights must be guaranteed for all persons, women and men, throughout the life span and bearing in mind all conditions of human diversity. An intersectional approach in guaranteeing human rights must be inherently included in every policy and action in order to guarantee leaving no one behind. To achieve gender equality, women's human rights must be considered crucial in every step of implementation. This would mean to review the urban mechanisms of planning, evaluation and follow-up so that these are fully integrated, especially in urban and territorial planning, governance, budgeting, developing and managing. The gender perspective for equality must also be incorporated to the legal, programmatic and budgetary frameworks at the national and local level.

2. To recognize, value, reduce and redistribute unpaid domestic and care work as a responsibility between the State, private sector, communities, families, men and women.

The global challenges require of all actors to fully engage in the ambition of a just and healthy world. Women are more than half of the population, and the burden of unpaid domestic and care work is the greatest obstacle for them to exercise their rights, achieve autonomy, improve their income and engage in all spheres of life. The New Urban Agenda needs to commit to redistribute unpaid domestic and care work in every city and human settlement through the provision of public services, infrastructure



and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the families, assuming care work as public and collective.

3. To recognize the rural-urban inherent mutual relation and to promote dynamic and equitable rural economies and communities that are secure and resilient for women and men.

The rural and urban dynamic are crucial for the subsistence of the human networks in the current world. The quality of life in both settings depend in such way that an unbalance between the two results in the enhancement of inequalities for both. Rural settlements and ecosystems provide cities with all sorts of resources to guarantee quality of life and wellbeing of people, and thus its role in the New Urban Agenda must be recognized and protected as a legitimate alternate mode of life. The wellbeing of rural and the peri-urban population should be procured by all means possible. Particularly it is of utmost importance to assist rural women and farmers to protect their ecosystems, scale up their access to markets and diversify their agricultural production through equitable access to credit, information, technology and adequate rural infrastructure. Besides, it is central to encourage the use of their traditional knowledge in the production, conservation, and distribution of food in order to increase women's levels of production and earnings and to improve and stabilize the supply of affordable and nutritious food and women's income. It is decisive to control urban growth over farming territories that contribute to food security in the cities and generate jobs.

4. To establish a coherent economic dynamic in which people, not the circulation of capitals and goods, is at the center of the actions, ensuring that government policy decision-making processes and implementation are gender responsive. Particular focus should be made in strengthening municipal finance mechanisms that bring local communities, specifically grassroots women's groups, to the table in decentralized planning and budget allocation processes.

To this end, the gender perspective should be mainstreamed in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policy. In the budgetary field, it is a priority to enhance transparency and equal participation of men and women in budgeting process and well as promoting gender budgeting process and monitoring mechanisms. We suggest to identify and apply fiscal incentives with affirmative actions for women, given that inclusive and productive cities call for equal usufruct of capital gains. Along those lines, reforms to the intergovernmental fiscal systems need to include the principle of progressivity to improve the redistribution of income and patrimony, eliminating the gap between men and women and local markets are strengthened. We strongly suggest to facilitate the collaboration between women, local authorities, and technical experts to build the capacity of women's groups to understand and participate in budget collection, planning, allocation and monitoring, through mechanisms like local gender desks and participatory budgeting fora. We welcome collaboration which develops national-level finance tools, such as national climate funds and climate finance readiness strategies in order to help countries manage, coordinate, implement and account for international and domestic climate finance.

5. Establish policy targets and revenue streams to reduce gender disparity in women's positions and earnings in the formal and informal urban economy, and adapt social protection mechanisms to address women's unique needs and over-representation among the urban poor.

Recognize and resource the solidarity economy and other forms of collective resource pooling to support women's groups to strengthen all women's income generation, fair trade, promote financial innovation and redistribute social and environmentally sustainable economic opportunities. Women's leadership in organizing economically in cooperatives and associations should also be recognized as a



means to drive social and economic inclusion and equity. All people should be paid living wages for their work. It is essential to create municipal mechanisms for rewarding grassroots women's contributions to neighborhood and community development, through their unpaid, "volunteer" work such as community grants, stipends, etc. to underwrite their collective contributions to improving housing, infrastructure, education, health, safety, disaster risk management and social relations in the city. Also, it is necessary to make child care widely available and affordable and delivered in culturally inclusive social and educational settings to informal settlement residents, migrants, and other diverse children and families.

6. To enhance innovations such as logic of the proximity of services and decisive measures to avoid the inequalities that people face in slums and by means of social segregation such as gentrification.

We welcome the inclusion of these matters in the document and we believe these are the type of proposals that should be maintained across the process. A people and rights-based approach is, from the gender perspective, to recognize that women have specific and different demands from men, especially for their role as caretakers. This calls for an urban development holistic plan for addressing the differential needs based on gender, culture, age, etc., of all people, beyond the expansion of hard infrastructure. The logic of the proximity of services is an approach to urban development that focuses land uses around affordable services, in order to guarantee that housing, education, jobs, health services, water and sanitation, energy, safe and accessible transportation etc. are provided for all people in all human settlements, social segregation, creation of new risks and displacement is avoided, and the inefficient use of resources is prevented.

7. The monitoring mechanism should be integrated to the national follow up and review mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda, including by enhancing participation and strengthening indicators related to the engagement of civil society.

Data collection for both, qualitative and quantitative indicators, should be participatory. Indicators accounting for economic development should include grassroots women's livelihoods, security of tenure, women's asset base, and others of the nature. To this end, it will be crucial to generate information systems with progress indicators measuring the advancement of human rights that are georeferentiated and disaggregated by sex, age, social status, and that yield results on closing the gap of social and gender inequalities.

8. To ensure transfer and development of safe, affordable, socially and environmentally sound technologies.

Technological learning and innovation capacity is critical to enable the provision of essential amenities to all women and men, hence, it is fundamental to ensuring overall sustainable development. Thus, safe, affordable and socially and environmentally sound technological solutions have to be developed and disseminated widely, so that the measures reorient current unsustainable development trajectories and tackle inequalities. Likewise, technological transfer mechanisms should be put in place for ensuring local and community-driven sustainable development processes. A gender-sensitive approach to technology policies and projects requires a paradigm shift that recognizes women's needs and interests and their contributions, as well as promotes the development of new opportunities for women in the technology sector. Women have a right to be active participants in the value chain of technologies and beneficiaries of economic opportunities that may arise from them.



9. To ensure small-scale, technologically appropriate and locally driven energy projects, with direct multiple social, economic and environmental benefits.

Considering that sustainable energy - that respects local processes- is a basic precondition to reach sustainable development and eradicate poverty in human settlements, last year was decided that there should be a specific energy goal in the 2030 Agenda. In order to achieve “access to energy for all” goal, it is necessary to contemplate not only how much energy is needed but what kind of energy is offered, how this energy is provided and to whom. This means, to ensure that human rights and environmental conservation, in the light of gender equity, must be the minimum standards applied to all energy technologies; to change domestic policies and norms in order to internalize environmental and social negative impacts based on “do-no-harm indicators”, and; to exclude inefficient energy approaches that have proven to be inequitable, ineffective, dangerous and otherwise unsustainable.

10. Homeless strategies based in human rights, cross cutting themes to provide multiple low cost and adequate housing option for the homeless are developed with a view to eliminating homelessness

Given the context of strong cultural barriers, particularly to widows, poor governance and lack of legal recourse for women in many countries, the definition of property for women needs to be expanded within national reviews. It needs to include housing, land and ownership of assets as primary resources as well as other productive resources that provide security of tenure and assist in creating and maintaining community networks. Homelessness is the result of a number of inter- related economic, political, social, environmental and individual factors and must be addressed through inter- linked strategies. National Homelessness Plans need to be developed and implemented to ensure suitable and safe housing options in conditions to provide: social housing, accommodation for women and children experiencing violence and abuse, low cost private rental options, overnight shelters, cheap and easily accessible transport and case management services for rehabilitation of homeless people through employment, education and training.

Information and contact

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