**Recommendations to Habitat III Issue Paper on Public Space from the perspective of the Urban Poor - Slum Dwellers International**

The role of the urban poor in this exercise has to be clearly understood, both in terms of its potential and limitations. Since it is a new topic there has to be an exploration of what that responsibilities could be.

1. The pro poor component in the design of public spaces is not taken into consideration in formal planning.
2. Formal and informal market places are not really considered as public space and have no basic services, e.g. they don’t have toilets. There is no formal involvement of people and communities in the design of these spaces.
3. Even where investments are made in the creation of public space, finances for their management and maintenance are seldom made available.
4. Climate change often affects the poor and they often have strategies to adapt which needs to be understood.
5. Resources need to be identified and allocated towards the maintenance, operations and management of public facilities and of communities and local governments need to be involved.
6. Bylaws and zoning regulations define the shape and form of the city and need to be modified so as to make them compatible with the physical, social, gender related issues and economic realities of the poor groups in the city.
7. For making a more equitable city, the very strong anti-poor bias in policy and planning needs to be understood so as to be eventually removed.
8. The nuance between public and community spaces needs to be recognised.
9. It has to be understood that the quality of life and economic values of properties increases with the creation of public spaces within or adjacent to these settlements.