

# ENGENDERING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

Report of the Expert Group Meeting

29-30 September, 2015



**HUAIROU COMMISSION**  
*Women, Homes & Community*



Towards  
Habitat  
III

## **Acknowledgement**

---

We thank Ford Foundation for their generosity in providing the venue.

We also thank our keynote speakers and resource persons - Saskia Sassen and Jeb Brugmann.

This Expert Group Meeting was made possible with financial support from the Habitat III Secretariat, and support from the Huairou Commission.

## Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Context	2
Mandate and Methodology	9
Summary of Main Points: Gaps and Gains – the Context	11
Recommendations	13
A. Recommendations on Crosscutting Themes	
I. Ensure equal, informed, and effective participation of women in urban policy, planning, and budgeting decisions at the local and national levels	
II. Increase local government accountability and gender-responsiveness, and create mechanisms and participatory processes for monitoring and evaluation	14
III. Create a knowledge and information base for women’s empowerment and for monitoring progress.	
B. Recommendations for Policy Areas	15
1. Social Cohesion and Equity	
2. Urban Frameworks	
3. Spatial Development	16
4. Urban Economy	
5. Urban Ecology and Environment	17
6. Urban Housing and Basic Services	
Indicators	19
Conclusions	24
Appendices	
Appendix 1	Policy Paper review from A Gendered Perspective
Appendix 2	Suggested Good Practices and Tools
Appendix 3	Meeting Agenda
Appendix 4	List of Participants

## INTRODUCTION

### Context

#### I. The Strategic Interface Between Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Urban Development & Cities

Over the past forty years, the development community focused on fostering sustainable human settlements and inclusive urban growth has been among the most visionary and progressive in establishing holistic, people-centered policy agendas. In 1976 for example, participants at the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I) held in Vancouver, Canada included Mother Theresa, Margaret Mead, Buckminster Fuller and Paolo Soleri. The policy document produced at the conference remains relevant today, emphasizing at the outset that:

*"international cooperation has to provide solutions for world problems and create an international community based on equity, justice and solidarity. ...(and that).. "the circumstances of life for vast numbers of people in human settlements are unacceptable, particularly in developing countries... and will worsen if decisive action is not taken." Highlighted problems included: "social, economic, ecological and environmental deterioration; uncontrolled urbanization; rural backwardness and dispersion." ...which emanated from: "the wide disparities in wealth which now exist between countries and between human beings and which condemn millions of people to a life of poverty, without satisfying the basic requirements for food, education, health...shelter....water and energy."*<sup>1</sup>

From the beginning leaders from the women's movement in the North and South ensured gender and women's empowerment were central issues in this problem solving – explaining why housing, flexible transport and appropriate basic services and urban planning are women's issues<sup>2</sup>. Leaders emphasized how sexual divisions of labor have assigned women disproportionate responsibilities for children, family and home care and how economic survival requires women to perform these roles in tandem with other essential economic and social activities: income generation, brokering resources and support services from public agencies (schools, clinics, etc.), organizing for community development and the like. The Habitat I agreement confirms that women activists have pressed and garnered support for gender-responsive approaches to settlement and community development and for insuring women are organized and represented in public decision making to represent and secure their plans and priorities.<sup>3</sup> For more than four decades, networks of researchers, planners, architects, local

---

<sup>1</sup> See the **Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, from the report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, Canada 31 May to 11 June 1976** pp. 2-5 available at [http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/The\\_Vancouver\\_Declaration\\_1976.pdf](http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/The_Vancouver_Declaration_1976.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Women leaders, well known for pathbreaking organizing, social action, and development advocacy in the field of pro-poor, women-led housing and human settlements work included: founders of GROOTS International (global), Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers (SPARC-India), and feminist activists working within Habitat International Coalition (HIC-global)

<sup>3</sup> Important examples in the 1976 document include General Principles # 18: "All countries, particularly developing countries, must create conditions which make possible the full integration of women and youth in political, economic and social activities, particularly in the planning and implementation of human settlement proposals and in all the associated activities, on the basis of equal rights." And, in the Guidelines for Action section of the Recommendations, Section E on:

**Participation in the Planning Process**...(arguing that) "To obtain a democratic process with maximum participation, special attention should be paid to the organization of planning and the implementation of plans. This can be achieved by:

iv. Seeking the participation of women in the conception of shelter, infrastructure and services and in the provision of transportation and access to community services; " and...

**New forms of participation** (require that) "the people and their governments should establish mechanisms for popular participation that contribute to developing awareness of people's role in transforming society...**Areas for special attention include:**....

iv. recognition of the changing role of women in society and encouragement of their full participation in development."

authorities, grassroots women, slum dwellers and informal workers groups have actively contributed to building political will and accountability for ensuring inclusive and equitable human settlements and urban development become realities.

The contributions and diversity of the human settlement community pressing for policies and investments that empower women, measurably improve their living and working conditions through gender-just approaches, and that significantly upgrade housing, basic services and economic opportunities in poor communities, has been particularly impressive over the past forty years. Researchers and scholars such as Caroline Moser and Ana Falú have sustained analysis and data collection focused, respectively, on understanding and investing in asset accumulation strategies that are gendered – taking into account women’s roles and positions in the family, community, economy and wider society – and on understanding cities and urban policies from the perspective of how they operate and are governed in a manner that fosters or reduces women’s “Right to the City” by promoting women’s safety and security or tolerating public and private violence against women<sup>4</sup>.

Globally recognized leaders and networks organizing the urban poor, such as federations of slum and pavement dwellers – Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI), or informal sector worker organizations such as StreetNet, Homenet, and their support organization Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO,) also have worked for decades to foster women’s leadership in information and data collection and urban advocacy in large and mid size cities across Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. Their focus has included ensuring that slum upgrading, resettlement, regulations, budgets and services affecting informal street vendors, waste pickers, home based manufacturers, reflects women’s needs and are collaboratively implemented so that women benefit from, implement, and monitor their local government’s programs and investments. Both constituencies have brought their good practices, lessons learned, and priorities into global policy fora to promote recognition and investments in constituency-led settlement and urban development, require governments to support them and to name and track the dynamic, accelerated changes taking place in cities that are reflective of global economic and governance trends. The UN-Habitat Scroll of Honor - recognizing visionary and effective change makers in the field since 1989 - further attests to the role of women in framing and advancing gender-just, inclusive settlements. Honorees include the Mother Center’s Network (Stuttgart), the Women and Peace Network, Sheela Patel, Jackie da Costa, Caroline Pezzullo, Ruth McLeod, Rose Molokoane, Jan Peterson and Edith Mbanga.<sup>5</sup>

An abbreviated and select review such as this is intended to broaden our understanding of who has been defining, documenting, implementing and evaluating gender-equitable human settlement policy and programming. It suggests that a multi-stakeholder approach, engaging diverse actors working for inclusive and just cities, is needed to drive the demand for empowering women socially, economically and politically to function as equal contributors to and beneficiaries of the development of their cities and communities over time. The subsequent sections augment the policy review and contextualize the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) report

---

Ibid pp.33-35

<sup>4</sup>Moser, Caroline O.N., Editor, 2015. *Gender, Asset Accumulation and Just Cities: Pathway to Transformation*. London: Routledge Falú, Ana, Editor, 2010. *Women in the City: On Violence and Right*. Santiago de Chile: Latin American Women and Habitat Network ediciones SUR

<sup>5</sup>The individual honorees spent decades supporting poor communities and women in them to organize to improve housing, basic services and employment options and to build governmental and institutional relationships to support and affirm women’s leadership. Organizations they founded and developed include: SPARC (India) and Slum Dwellers Intl (global), GROOTS International (global), the Jamaican Women’s Construction Collective and CRDC in Jamaica; South African Federation of the Urban Poor; the Huairou Commission (global) and National Congress of Neighborhood Women (USA) and Shack Dwellers of Namibia.

and its contributions to establishing the political and institutional will that is required to implement these commitments at scale.

## II. Gender-Just Urban Policies: Twenty Years of Women’s Activism in Driving the Demand for Housing, Communities and Cities that Meet Women’s Needs and Foster Economic/Social/and Political Empowerment

The 1996 UN Habitat II City Summit (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, produced ‘the Habitat Agenda’, a political document signed by 171 governments containing more than 100 commitments and 600 recommendations to foster sustainable cities and human settlements worldwide. Habitat II also featured an unprecedented level of organizing and leadership by women activists from diverse networks around the world who collectively focused on ensuring that gender differentiated roles and needs, and practical and strategic actions to empower women as full participants, were center-staged in the settlement and urban policy outcome document. The success of women’s’ advocacy is attested to by the Habitat Agenda’s 133 references to women and gender issues and by *Paragraph 46* where the Goals and Principles, Commitments and the Global Plan of Action, expressed member states commitment to:

- Integrating gender perspectives in human settlement related legislation, policies and programs;
- Developing conceptual and practical methods for incorporating gender in human settlements planning, development and evaluation, including the development of indicators;
- Collecting, analyzing and disseminating gender-disaggregated data;
- Integrating a gender perspective in the design and implementation of environmentally sound and sustainable resource management mechanisms, production techniques and infrastructure development in rural and urban areas; and the
- Formulation and strengthening of policies and practices to promote the full and equal participation of women in human settlement planning and decision-making.

The Women, Homes and Community Super Coalition<sup>6</sup> and Huairou Commission went home determined to publicize, model and drive the demand for implementing the Habitat Agenda. Committing to immediate and sustained action in their own countries and areas of influence, leaders produced and locally disseminated Habitat Agendas highlighting the sections focused on empowering women and poor communities in settlement and urban development. They lobbied and educated government officials on implementing these commitments and showed women’s and community groups how to use the agreement to secure public recognition and government support for participatory planning and programming to improve their living conditions and the quality of city life.

The women and human settlements ‘movement’ continued to lead efforts to realize the Habitat Agenda—actively participating in the regular assessment meetings held, Millennium

---

<sup>6</sup> The Women, Homes and Community Super Coalition linked women’s networks active in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, South Pacific, Africa, Europe and North America who had diverse memberships—grassroots and professional (researchers, planners, architects, NGO facilitating and policy advocacy organizations)—for joint action to engender policy and empower women as leaders in sustainable human settlements and cities. The coalition ran 55 workshops in Istanbul and the first childcare center ever offered at a global UN policy conference; and it built relationships with member states and other urban activists to gain their support for a policy agreement with strong gender equality provisions. The Super Coalition advocated for specific policy provisions in conjunction with ‘the Huairou Commission’—then a prestigious and expert delegation of 50 women with decades of experience on urban, housing, women’s empowerment, gender and policy issues, appointed by Dr. Wally N’Dow, Secretary-General of the HABITAT II Conference to raise the profile of women’s leadership in global policy. Jointly the two groups spearheaded advocacy with member states that resulted in one of the strongest pro-poor, women and partnership-centered development policy agreements produced during the UN global thematic conference series held in the 1990s.

Development Goal (MDG) implementation processes and in framing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (nationally to globally). Working in active partnership with national and international policy makers and like-minded civil society groups, this movement promoted the implementation of the 4 strategic areas outlined in para 46 of the Habitat Agenda by leading a range of initiatives, among them:

- 1) Launching an international “Women and Safe Cities Campaign” in 2002 focused on naming, measuring, opposing and creating solutions to the public and private violence women and girls experience in cities due to gang violence, wilding, social conflict, unsafe or sub-standard infrastructure (transport, public lighting, dangerous pathways, abandoned buildings) and/or lax policing and law enforcement. Women’s groups around the world have led safety audits, urban observatories and launched public awareness campaigns in diverse contexts such as Jamaica, Guatemala, Argentina, Chile, India, South Africa, Tanzania and Russia—producing community maps and other data enumerating gender violence and establishing and pressing comprehensive response plans to eliminate it. Three international conferences have been held to date to share and expand the campaign, transfer good practices and build strong institutional support for this effort; and UN Women and UN Habitat have incorporated this movement-led initiative into their agency work plan and publicized it with member governments.
- 2) Global and national organizing to increase women’s access to and control over land and housing (tenure security) and demonstrate how these assets are essential to empowering women economically, socially and politically in cities and towns across the developing world. In Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, grassroots and professional women have been producing city and provincial data documenting the scale and nature of women’s tenure insecurity, analyzing the consequences (for women and family and local economies), actions that are and can be taken, and educating their cities and elected officials on the issue. They have campaigned, and in many cases succeeded in: negotiating access to public lands, getting land titles issued to women, and expanding basic services and public amenities (commercial markets, street/lane demarcations etc.) that improve living conditions in informal settlements in central and peri-urban areas for women and the broader community. The women and settlements movement has also lobbied to bring these gains and lessons learned into global policy-making and practice-sharing venues—establishing the Gender Evaluation Criteria initiative within the UN Habitat sponsored Global Land Tools Network so that land professionals would be educated and assisted in and required to incorporate gender and women dimensions in land use planning and enumeration. Dedicated women activists living the problems and solutions have been engendering the World Bank Land and Poverty conference—by outlining the practical and strategic links between security of tenure for women to poverty reduction and inclusive and equitable development and the good practices and tools (such as social tenure domain mapping) that can be used to increase women’s access to and control over these essential assets. These and related efforts have positioned land titling at the center of transparent and accountable governance (local to global) and created a momentum where more housing and urban professionals, activists and policy makers are working together to promote equitable rights to the city through inclusive and secure housing and tenure security. These approaches are now being scaled up through national pilots and also by data and information collection efforts/tools that are strengthening technical capacities to establish people-centered indicators and measurements of equitable implementation.
- 3) Community- and urban-focused women’s groups and networks have also sustained implementation of the Habitat Agenda commitments and recommendations by forging



strong relationships and advancing proactive action plans with local governments (and other authorities) in relation to:

- slum upgrading and relocation planning,
- 'regularizing' informal sector activities (by decriminalizing/licensing, providing support and in some cases offering municipal contracts to these workers) and
- protecting community and public well being and assets from loss and damage due to geophysical and climate/weather associated disasters.

This implementation work has been featured in global conferences tracking progress and obstacles to realizing equitable human settlements and cities, realizing MDGs related to poverty, gender equality, and housing/water access. It has also influenced and been explicitly referenced in framing the SDGs (5 and 11) and policy agreements such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction (DRR).

The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which will be held in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016, is taking place at a critical juncture in global development marked by deep fractures in economy and society; and a new sense of urgency and dynamism which has thrust the informal economy, grassroots and women-led organizations into the centre of a growing international debate on sustainable communities, inclusive urbanization and the fate of planet earth.

Among the persisting challenges are poor leadership, bad governance, lack of accountability and corruption which have, in many countries, exacerbated conflict over resources, militarization of society and insecurity putting poor people, especially women, at risk and threatening the gains already made. Second, the credibility of the state is being called into question as an institution with the capacity to deliver equality, safety and security to its citizens. While in some states, citizens have secured political space to engage in more intensified democratic struggles, other states have been completely destroyed, and still others have become failed states and rogue sponsors of unethical practices including drug trafficking, piracy and terrorism. In addition, states globally are now facing a number of ecological crises that have risen from early warnings on climate change that have hitherto been ignored. These now threaten community resilience and stability. Third, the failure of the market to level the economic playing field for all has deepened poverty, hunger and homelessness with the result that families have lost land and property with vast numbers driven out of their homes and communities and internally displaced while many more are forced to flee to uncertain futures taking dangerous voyages of flight to other countries sparking off a dangerous international migration trend. Among the most vulnerable are women and girls from all walks of life who are frequently trafficked, violated and prostituted

On the positive side, a new sense of urgency and dynamism is emerging which is challenging class, gender and caste ideologies and perverse ethnicity that fuel poverty and perpetuate social exclusion and discrimination. As government shrinks, the informal economy takes centre-stage. The city and urban centres have become hotly contested space. Many poor and middle class women and men are moving their families from rural to urban spaces bringing their visions of democracy, expertise and skills to the city. They are working to remake the city to suit their needs for essential services including housing security, livability and mobility. This movement strongly suggests that the diversity of people and new urban issues demand greater innovation in approaches and strategies in which to achieve sustainable, inclusive urbanization.



### III. On The Road To Quito: Habitat III Consultative Process And Collaboration With The Huairou Commission

Against this background, the Habitat III Secretariat has established a consultative process to allow stakeholders a voice in defining policies that recognize all facets of sustainable urban development and promote equity, welfare and shared prosperity. Included in this process are Expert Group Meetings (EGM), Thematic and Regional Meetings<sup>7</sup>, Urban Thinkers Campuses<sup>8</sup> (UTC) and the Policy Units<sup>9</sup>. These processes provide opportunities to stakeholders for input into the policies, strategies and practices that will eventually inform the New Urban Agenda<sup>10</sup>. The Huairou Commission has been partnering with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) for over 20 years in bringing women's perspectives into the Habitat III process starting with Habitat II<sup>11</sup>. On the road to Quito, the Habitat III Secretariat is working closely with the Huairou Commission, deepening the partnership in engendering the New Urban Agenda.

Since none of the ten (10) Policy Units, as defined by the Habitat III Secretariat, was specifically dedicated to addressing women and gender issues, and because references to gender and/or women were only sporadically found in the 22 Issue Papers<sup>12</sup> that constitute the framework of the debates, the Habitat III Secretariat and the Huairou Commission agreed to co-sponsor an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) dedicated to engendering the New Urban Agenda. The EGM was to focus on the key issues and challenges important to women in human settlements development, identify the gaps, and recommend policies to be included in the New Urban Agenda. The Huairou Commission was given the task of facilitating that EGM and producing agreed upon policy recommendations and indicators that would strengthen the impact of gender equality and women's empowerment on the Policy Units and the other processes of Habitat III.

Prior to convening the EGM, the Huairou Commission circulated the Issue Papers through its global network of grassroots women's advocates, academics, professionals and activists. Their responses and comments are incorporated in the report recommendations. A two-day EGM followed on September 29-30, 2015 at the Ford Foundation in New York, involving more than 40 participants from Africa and the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and North America. Participant expertise, reflected in their 10-30 years of work to promote effective, inclusive, gender equitable urban development, included civil society activists working to support slum dwellers, informal workers, and grassroots women's community development organizations; national and international urban policy experts; INGO human rights campaigners; researchers; local authorities; and architects and planners. Most

---

<sup>7</sup> Regional and thematic high-level meetings involve a wide range of participants that will debate priorities for the New Urban Agenda and policy recommendations in the form of a final participants' declaration. The final declaration from regional and thematic meetings will be considered official inputs to the Habitat III process. Thematic and regional meetings have both an international scope, although the regional meetings may identify and address the topics based on regional considerations and prioritize regional and geographical participation.

<sup>8</sup> The Urban Thinkers Campus is an initiative of the World Urban Campaign conceived as an open space for critical exchange between urban actors who believe that urbanization is an opportunity and can lead to positive urban transformations. It is also intended as a platform to build consensus between partners engaged in addressing urbanization challenges and proposing solutions to urban futures.

<sup>9</sup> The Habitat III Policy Units bring together high-level expertise to explore state-of-the-art research and analysis; identify good practice and lessons learned; and develop independent policy recommendations on particular issues regarding sustainable urban development.

<sup>10</sup> The New Urban Agenda will be the outcome document agreed upon at the Habitat III conference in October 2016. In turn, it will guide the efforts on cities of a wide range of actors — nation states, city and regional leaders, international development funders, United Nations programmes and civil society — for the next 20 years.

<sup>11</sup> Habitat II, the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, popularly called the "City Summit", was held in Istanbul, Turkey from June 3–14, 1996, twenty years after **Habitat I** was held in Vancouver in 1976.

<sup>12</sup> The Habitat III Issue Papers are summary documents that address one or more research areas, highlight general findings, and identify research needs on topics related to housing and sustainable urban development.

significantly, the EGM tapped the experience of a large number of grassroots leaders – anchoring large national and global federations of slum dwellers, founders of urban poor housing and land trusts, innovators in responding to and reducing the impact of disaster and climate threats on their communities and rural grassroots women leaders working to create viable local economies that stem the tide of urban migration. Deliberations were organized around the six thematic areas that frame the upcoming New Urban Agenda, i.e. Social Cohesion and Equity, Urban Frameworks, Spatial Development, Urban Economy, Urban Ecology and Environment, and Urban Housing and Basic Services (Figure 1).

This summary report highlights the main points that came from the EGM meeting and the review of the Policy Papers (see Appendix 1 for the full gendered perspective review of the 22 policy papers).



### ISSUE PAPERS AND POLICY UNITS MATRIX

#### THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

AREAS	ISSUE PAPERS	POLICY UNITS
<b>1. Social Cohesion and Equity – Livable Cities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inclusive cities (a.o. Pro-poor, Gender, Youth, Ageing)</li> <li>2. Migration and refugees in urban areas</li> <li>3. Safer Cities</li> <li>4. Urban Culture and Heritage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Right to the City and Cities for All</li> <li>2. Socio-Cultural Urban Framework</li> </ul>
<b>2. Urban Frameworks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Urban Rules and Legislation</li> <li>6. Urban Governance</li> <li>7. Municipal Finance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. National Urban Policies</li> <li>4. Urban Governance, Capacity and Institutional Development</li> <li>5. Municipal Finance and Local Fiscal Systems</li> </ul>
<b>3. Spatial Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Urban and Spatial Planning and Design</li> <li>9. Urban Land</li> <li>10. Urban-rural linkages</li> <li>11. Public Space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Urban Spatial Strategies: Land Market and Segregation</li> </ul>
<b>4. Urban Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Local Economic Development</li> <li>13. Jobs and Livelihoods</li> <li>14. Informal Sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Urban Economic Development Strategies</li> </ul>
<b>5. Urban Ecology and Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Urban Resilience</li> <li>16. Urban Ecosystems and Resource Management</li> <li>17. Cities and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Urban Ecology and Resilience</li> </ul>
<b>6. Urban Housing and Basic Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18. Urban Infrastructure and Basic Services, including energy</li> <li>19. Transport and Mobility</li> <li>20. Housing</li> <li>21. Smart Cities</li> <li>22. Informal Settlements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Urban Services and Technology</li> <li>10. Housing Policies</li> </ul>

Figure 1



## MANDATE AND METHODOLOGY

*‘Much of social and economic life in cities is based on women: it’s important that the voice of women in Habitat III be clear.’ (Dr. Joan Clos, Secretary General of Habitat III)*

*‘I am interested in bold, transformative ideas’ (Ana Moreno, Coordinator of Habitat III Secretariat)*

Habitat III has created a number of different processes to allow for civil society’s input to become an integral part of the New Urban Agenda. They include Urban Journalists Academies, Policy Units, Urban Thinkers Campuses (UTC), National and Regional Urban Forums, the Global Citizenship Survey, Regional and Thematic Meetings, and Expert Group Meetings (EGMs).

### **Mandate:**

ENGENDERING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA was the title of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) jointly organised by the Huairou Commission and the Habitat III Secretariat, to identify the critical issues specific to gender equality and women’s empowerment for inclusion in the New Urban Agenda. The meeting was also to identify policy priorities and develop relevant indicators of change. The EGM mandate was very clear: review and analyze, from the perspective of gender and women, the 22 Issue Papers that are the foundation of the Policy Units’ work, and propose/recommend engendered strategies that will transform the New Urban Agenda.

### **Methodology:**

The experts worked in six groups, representing the six focus areas of Habitat III, i.e. 1) Social Cohesion and Equity – Livable Cities, 2) Urban Frameworks, 3) Spatial Development, 4) Urban Economy, 5) Urban Ecology and Environment, and 6) Urban Housing and Basic Services.

Each group followed the same format for their deliberations: They started with a recap of the issues that have emerged since Habitat II, an evaluation of progress, particularly as it relates to women and gender, the identification of the critical gaps as well as opportunities in existing approaches in terms of gender and women’s perspectives. Then they made recommendations for engendered policies with appropriate indicators to measure impact and progress. The EGM recommendations would become an integral part of the Policy Units’ deliberations, in the preparation of the Habitat III New Urban Agenda Zero Draft. The special emphasis on gender and women’s perspective leads to recognizing the importance of interrelations and crosscutting issues and creating the qualitative, as well as quantitative indicators, which can measure impact and progress.

In preparation of the Expert Group Meeting, a survey was sent to members and partners of the Huairou Commission, asking them to identify, based on their expertise and experience on the ground, the Policy Areas, as defined by Habitat III, that are critical to their work and to the Policy Units’ Issue Papers, and that impact their work. They were also asked to suggest the indicators that would measure the impact of applying these new policies on women. The indicators, which the survey respondents were asked to suggest, mostly consisted of quantitative, rather than qualitative, indicators for measuring changes in women’s participation in all levels of governance, increase in budgets for development, lessening of incidences of violence, etc. Their responses shed a light on their shared priorities and the relevance of the proposed policies for their work on the ground, as discussed in the textbox below.

## SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS FROM THE SURVEY:

Of the six (6) Policy Areas outlined by Habitat III, **Social Cohesion and Equity-Livable Cities**, was the one most respondents defined as critical to women and gender issues. Policy priorities in **Inclusive Cities** included: gender responsive public services and strategies to engage grassroots women in policy making and budgeting. **Safer Cities** focused on ensuring women's Right to the City, by ending violence in public spaces and promoting a safe transportation system to access all services. The need to extend protection from violence and abuse to refugee and migrant women and girls was a priority in **Migration and Refugees in Urban Areas**. Access to media for women to spread cultural messages, information and opinions, as well as share experiences and resources was a priority in **Urban Culture and Heritage**.

**Urban Housing and Basic Services** generated the next largest number of policy recommendations. In **Housing**, priority was given to women's right to housing, thorough alternatives to eviction, new approaches to tenure, and micro-financing or incremental affordable solutions. The qualitative aspects of housing were emphasized, so that it is not just a shelter, but also a place to nurture a family, to work, to heal. Development of the peri-urban area, publicly owned land, and post-disaster reconstruction are opportunities for sustainable development. Recommendations about **Urban Infrastructure and Basic Services** focused on gender-responsive services ensuring the safety of women and girls, with sanitation as a priority, and **Transport and Mobility** re-emphasized the need for an affordable, secure and regular transportation system, to make access to work, education, health and economic development possible. **Smart Cities** recommendations reinforced the importance of access to media for gathering and disseminating knowledge. Oddly enough, the **Informal Settlements** paper suggested only one priority policy: the need for women to own land in informal developments.

**Urban Frameworks, Urban Economy and Urban Ecology and Environment** were the next policy areas. Of the three, the **Urban Ecology and Environment** papers were most often cited, particularly those related to **Urban Resilience** and **Climate Change and Disaster Management**. The policy priority of **Urban Resilience** was the involvement of women in knowledge sharing and the geographical focus was the peri-urban area. Women's voices have to be heard in the evaluation and monitoring of climate change, in **Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management**. There should also be gendered community participation from assessment of risks to design remediation, including information, education and training. The experience of grassroots women with disaster should be the basis of disaster management and preparedness. Resources have to allow for research on gender and climate change, as it relates to processing, storage and management of natural resources, food in particular.

Under **Urban Economy**, the references were mostly to **Jobs and Livelihoods** and a few to **Local Economic Development** but none at all to the **Informal Sector**. Priority should go to policies guaranteeing women sustainable, living-wage livelihoods. This implies the creation of support services from credit, capacity building, skills and leadership training, affordable transportation, childcare, etc. It also necessitates women involved in participatory gender budgeting at all levels of government: from national to local.

**Urban Frameworks** appeared to be the most controversial policy area, as it deals with grassroots participation to governmental processes. **Urban Rules and Legislation, Governance** and **Municipal Finance** offer many avenues for ensuring women's participation to decision making. Policies should prioritize the empowerment of women to enter in partnership with the State, so that poor urban women are the center of development strategies. Training will enable participation at all levels of governance. Policies should also ensure a process of accountability to the grassroots. Another priority under **Municipal Finance** is policies controlling the privatization of public services.

Of the six policy areas, **Spatial Development** was least addressed. Most references to policies were in **Planning and Design** and **Public Space**. **Planning and Design** policies should ensure the participation of women at all levels of the development process, and emphasize the healing of the environment, climate-appropriate technologies and the use of local materials and technologies. As for **Public Space**, policies should foster a broad definition of such spaces, from recreational to economic activities. They should also ensure their safe accessibility and use by women and children. The issue of **Urban-rural Linkages** was barely addressed.

## SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS

### Gains and Gaps and the Context:

Previous UN resolutions provide a strong legislative framework for incorporating women's empowerment into the New Urban Agenda. The Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) outcome document, the Habitat Agenda Goals and Principles, Commitments and the Global Plan of Action, is committed to empowerment of women and marginalized communities and to sustainable development. It contains specific references to women and gender.

*In Paragraph 46 of the Habitat Agenda Goals and Principles, Commitments and the Global Plan of Action, governments committed themselves to:*

- *Integrating gender perspectives in human settlement related legislation, policies and programmes;*
- *Developing conceptual and practical methods for incorporating gender in human settlements planning, development and evaluation, including the development of indicators;*
- *Collecting, analysing and disseminating gender-disaggregated data;*
- *Integrating a gender perspective in the design and implementation of environmentally sound and sustainable resource management mechanisms, production techniques and infrastructure development in rural and urban areas; Formulating and strengthening of policies and practices to promote the full and equal participation of women in human settlements planning and decision-making*

In the two decades since the Habitat Agenda Goals and Principles, Commitments and the Global Plan of Action was adopted, well-organised and extremely diverse women's movement, aided by institutional activists dedicated to insuring public policy have advanced women's empowerment and gender equality.

A non-binding agreement, the implementation of the Habitat II resolutions has been lacking. MDG 7, attempting to limit the growth of slums, did not reflect Habitat's multi faceted view or achieve its targeted objective.

Now, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals provide a more comprehensive and transformative framework, especially with Goal 5 on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and Goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The meeting began with emphasis on the fact that it is critical that these goals and targets are included in Habitat III. The key issue still is to ensure their implementation. The development of indicators is important but only one way to monitor progress. Accountability and transparency in government decisions, and allocation of adequate funding to ensure implementation at the local and community level is also essential.

During the small group discussions at the EGM, several common themes emerged, in terms of gains and opportunities, and gaps and challenges, which can be summarized as follows:

### Gains and Opportunities (and offsets)

- Associations of informal settlement and slum dwellers have grown and exercised collective power to improve housing and living conditions and formalize their claims to essential basic



services, tenure security and citizen rights. Resident women's groups have been at the forefront of this trend in major cities and peri-urban areas across the developing world. (Nonetheless, evictions and male domination in settlement negotiations and decision-making are pervasive realities.)

- Informal sector worker organizations have gained collective strength in recent years – successfully bargaining for market and credit access, the right to vend, pick waste, etc.; and to legally challenge displacement (from gentrification or government action). Meanwhile, trade unions and other formal sector organizations have gotten weaker and segregation between formal and informal sectors has persisted.
- International recognition of the important roles women can play in disaster management and in reducing the impacts of climate change has continued to grow and garner validation in policy agreements, creating opportunities to formalize women's leadership in these spheres. (Local and national government support for grassroots women's community resilience initiatives to date remains scant).
- Since Habitat II, women's representation in government and other decision-making arenas has continued to grow (highlighting that a larger number of female representatives is not sufficient to ensure that a collective urban women's agenda will be represented and advanced).

### **Significant Challenges and Gaps**

- Prevailing economic models of urban growth have increased the power and influence of fewer actors, accelerated the privatization of public services, land and other public resources and slashed subsidies protecting the poor. Growing inequality and contested 'rights to the city' are among the results.
- Land grabbing and mega-urban development projects (via multi-nationals, real estate, government and other actors), now common to many cities, have increased evictions – particularly in informal settlements – and displaced low income communities with devastating impacts on women's lives.
- Climate change related extreme weather events and disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity, destroying lives, livelihoods, buildings and productive activities. Too often, aid fails to reach those who need it the most. Relatedly, food security is a growing concern, and requires careful planning for the urban nexus and development in peri-urban areas.
- Conflicts and wars are on the rise, displacing thousands of people from their homes as refugees and devastating their lives and livelihoods, promoting mass migration.
- Violence, especially against women, is increasing in cities. Security measures and policing often are lax and existing laws against violence commonly are not enforced., Young, immigrant and refugee women are particularly vulnerable.
- The current dominant urban planning and design paradigm, with its Eurocentric, technical, rigid, and gender-blind focus, discriminates against women and marginalized communities. Many of its current regulations and tools cannot allow for designs appropriate for diverse households or home-based work; and they exclude women's activities (street vendors, markets, etc.) from public spaces; zoning and urban design practices do not take into account the

linkages between home, work, basic services and transportation that are critical for women's everyday lives.

- The importance of the care economy is increasing in the context of an ageing population, health epidemics, and impacts of climate change. It is an important employment area for both men and women. Yet efforts to institutionalize caregiving activities fail to recognize its multiple dimensions and relationship, not only to healthcare, but also to social welfare, security of tenure, and community resilience.
- Efforts to regularize or institutionalize informal sector activities, in terms of access to land, housing, and work, fail to understand their complexity and to develop solutions that would not harm these communities.
- Much of the data that is available is still not gendered or properly analysed. Although there are increased links between government and information technology, much more is needed in terms of design of information and communications technology (ICT) and apps to enable women and marginalized communities to access necessary information and services.
- Most local governments lack the authority and financial and technical capacity to deal with the growing development pressures and services needs of their low income residents.
- A majority of women still do not have security of tenure to access, own, control and inherit land and housing.
- Women are particularly affected by the increasing income-based and spatial segregation in cities

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Discussions highlighted strong inter-linkages among the six policy areas. They also acknowledged the importance of government policies at the national and global, as well as the local level, for women's empowerment in cities. Three crosscutting themes or priority areas emerged as critical to ensure development of gender-responsive practices and implementation at the local, national and international level: I) women's participation in policy, planning and budgeting decisions, II) government accountability, and III) knowledge and information. The recommendations around these crosscutting themes are summarized first before going into recommendations around the six policy areas.

### **A. Recommendations for Crosscutting Themes:**

- I. Ensure equal, informed, and effective participation of women in urban policy, planning, and budgeting decisions at the local and national levels:**
  - a) Establish participatory processes and structures at the local, national and global level:
    - i. Create political commitments and participatory structures to enable women to participate in local and national government budget allocation decisions.
    - ii. Implement participatory gender budgeting system that includes allocation of 50% of total budget (capital budget and recurrent budget).



- iii. Establish national legislation requiring engendered participatory budgeting as a legally binding obligation for local authorities by 2022.
  - iv. Require local authorities and local government associations to organize a schedule of ongoing multi-stakeholder forums to engage women, the grassroots and marginalized social groups in the planning and evaluation of development policies and budget decisions. The New Urban Agenda should be used as a reference document.
  - v. Formalise engagement and partnerships with grassroots women's groups and leaders to sustain collective planning, implementation, financing and monitoring of housing and urban development initiatives.
- b) Support, resource, and provide spaces for women's organizing and capacity building to effectively engage decision makers and other stakeholders.
- i. Provide capacity building and training for women and marginalized communities in terms of policies, technical and broader policy and planning issues, and improve their access to information and new technologies.
  - ii. Build on grassroots-developed models to inform capacity building and training of grassroots women
  - iii. Support the creation of community based grassroots information centers that provide women-led training, organizing and leadership building;
  - iv. Create an urban grassroots women's development fund that delivers flexible funds to grassroots organizations, networks and movements to innovate, demonstrate and scale up practices, engage local, national, and other stakeholders to build partnerships and organize peer exchanges.
  - v. The international community should also support national training and capacity building institutions to help strengthen the capacity of women's groups.

## **II. Increase local government accountability and gender responsiveness; create mechanisms and participatory processes for monitoring and evaluation.**

- i. Promote and continue to increase women's representation in administrative and technical positions in local, regional and national decision-making bodies.
- ii. Train officials and government staff, both men and women, on gender responsiveness and the benefits of including women's perspectives in development policy, planning and implementation.
- iii. Create a structure to sustain these mechanisms across political transitions.
- iv. Create municipal taxation and financing systems that correspond to the lifecycle needs and changes.
- v. Facilitate partnerships between women's groups especially from marginalized communities, and academia, professional associations and research institutions for increased resources, support and communication.
- vi. Underwrite through the international community the creation of mechanisms for grassroots women to monitor the local implementation of global policy agreements – Sendai Framework for DRR, Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

## **III. Create a knowledge and information base for monitoring progress and women's empowerment**

- i. Collect, analyze, and disseminate geographically based gender-disaggregated data.
- ii. Recognize and include local and indigenous knowledge, as well as formal technical knowledge in planning and policy development.

- iii. Clarify concepts and data key to understanding how to engender urban policy and programming – with participation of women involved – (e.g. women’s position in the informal economy, the care economy and caregiving, community organizing and/or ‘volunteering’) to develop implementation strategies.
- iv. Produce gender annual reports at the national and city level, supported by geographically based gender-disaggregated data that reflect the diversity of women’s needs.
  - v. Train planners and local government staff to use these types of information and data.
  - vi. Increase access to and knowledge mechanisms to access public services, funds and budgets for women and men in marginalised communities.
- vii. Gather case studies of good and innovative practices for use in trainings.
- viii. At the international level, establish a global platform (especially UN Habitat, ILO and UN Women) for the exchange of lessons learned from innovative practices, especially in implementing the engendered participatory budget.
- ix. For information dissemination, create new tools using open source technologies, and enhance existing ones.
- x. Use not only quantitative but also qualitative indicators for monitoring change.

## **B. Recommendations for Policy Areas:**

### **1. Social Cohesion and Equity – Livable Cities**

- i. Reconfirm all international responsibilities of member states in terms of the Right to the City.
- ii. Enforce existing laws to meet the needs of different groups in terms of safety, security and universal accessibility, and ensure violent incidents are reported to the police and adjudicated by gender-trained judiciary.
- iii. Ensure that women with a diversity of skills and expertise are participating in the design, development, maintenance and operation of public spaces.
- iv. In designing public spaces, ensure the universal accessibility to safe public spaces, which can accommodate the needs of women economically, socially and politically.
- v. Support women to create safe spaces for their leisure such as special parks and for children to play.
- vi. Provide secure, safe, regular and cost-effective transportation for women and improve urban and rural linkages.
- vii. Improve accessibility to infrastructure, particularly in the areas of transportation, public spaces and housing for older persons.
- viii. Provide services to new rural migrant women in cities, including credit, agricultural extension services, inputs and marketing facilities etc., and support urban-rural linkages.
- ix. Secure rights to public lands such as as public markets with facilities. Allocate public land and urban spaces including storage and marketplaces to support women’s economic activities

### **2. Urban Frameworks:**

- i. Recognize, institutionally support, and finance grassroots women and organized groups for their leadership capabilities and as drivers of sustainable urban development. Concurrently, facilitate and empower them to share decision-making and financial accountability with local elected officials.
- ii. Decentralise decision making to go hand-in-hand with decentralisation of resources to ensure that grassroots women and organized groups have the knowledge, technical

- capacity and resources to enable them to actively participate in decision-making and budgeting processes.
- iii. Guarantee political and economic support for collective organizing and raising awareness to promote transparency and accountability in all spheres of the governance process.
  - iv. Institutionalise mechanisms for grassroots women and organized groups to map, design, and monitor government programmes, services and budgets, integrating the visions, concerns, and strategies of communities into local development agendas.

Please also see Recommendations I and II under Crosscutting Themes on pages 13-14.

### **3. Spatial Development:**

- i. Develop a gender-responsive planning paradigm and practices. Ensure gender equality in planning decisions, increase research using gendered research tools, and use of gender-disaggregated data.
- ii. Ensure that women's concerns are incorporated in urban planning especially in safety, housing and infrastructure needs.
- iii. Control/limit urban expansion and sprawl and prioritize sustainable development of peri-urban areas to ensure food security and sustainable livelihoods for women, and integration of housing and services.
- iv. Provide secure access and control over serviced and affordable land for women in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas.
- v. Strengthen urban-rural linkages by:
  - Providing safe, secure, regular, and cost-effective transportation between urban, peri-urban, and rural areas.
  - Designing and managing municipal markets to make them user-friendly and safe for women.
  - Encouraging mutually enriching cultural exchanges between urban and rural areas.

### **4. Urban Economy:**

- i. Create opportunities and provide resources to support women's business development and employment by providing safe and affordable transportation, flexible support services, access to new technologies, and access to public spaces for markets, etc.
- ii. Recognize the increasing importance of the care economy and provide supportive conditions for caregiving activities, including adoption of care economy plans.
- iii. Recognize blurred boundaries between formal and informal activities, and provide supportive conditions and policies in formalizing informal activities and women's nonprofit organizations.
- iv. Provide resources for training women in non-traditional jobs such as construction, infrastructure development.
- v. Recognize, resource, and support women's unpaid labor to improve their neighborhoods, including activities such as solid waste management, etc.
- vi. Recognize and support women's home-based work, and adopt mixed-use zoning to legalize these activities.
- vii. Dedicate a percentage of urban economic development, enterprise funds, business loans and technical support to diversifying and strengthening women's share of middle- to top-earning jobs in the informal urban economy.
- viii. Fund livelihood, basic services, infrastructure and natural resource management approaches that are community-driven and foster local knowledge and adaptive problem solving.

## **5. Ecology and the Environment:**

- i. Support, resource, and provide spaces for the creation and use of local community knowledge for disaster risk reduction and support adaptation initiatives of grassroots women's groups.
- ii. Prevent international investments that harm local communities by organizing global/regional awareness and advocacy campaigns, creating spaces for observation of human and women's rights, and creating seats for grassroots women leaders in international organizations.
- iii. Allocate resources for research on gender and climate change as it relates to conservation of biodiversity, processing, storage and management of resources.
- iv. Facilitate partnerships between grassroots women's organizations and other bodies, especially local government agencies, and research institutions to develop solutions for disaster risk reduction and impacts of climate change.
- v. Ensure that women's groups are involved in the development of strategies to manage and mitigate the effects of climate change, such as the evaluation and monitoring of emissions, and mapping at-risk areas.

## **6. Urban Housing and Basic Services:**

- i. Implement measures to ensure security of tenure to women and marginalized groups in formal, informal and customary systems.
  - At the global level, disseminate and incentivize the use of existing global land tools and link and entrench human rights in land ownership and housing policies.
  - At the national level, adopt and recognize institutionalized human rights instruments and promote social and territorial inclusion of the city.
  - Enforce positive legislation to protect women from eviction and mitigate risks of land grabbing and displacement, enabling women to sustain their livelihoods.
  - Ensure that resettlement projects are located in safe and accessible areas and involve organized communities from the planning phase.
  - Recognize that land/housing security of tenure includes protection against impacts of climate change and other environmental threats to guarantee access to it for future generations of women.
  - Recognize the "use value" of housing and ensure that subsidies reach those who need it the most.
  - Recognize the continuum of ownership rights – customary, communal, statutory etc.
  - Develop adequate rental housing and adapt flexible norms and regulations for social housing.
  - Allow incremental building strategies that enable people to expand housing as their income increases and encourage self-help arrangements.
- ii. Adopt policy and processes (design, finance, implementation and management) that recognize the diversity of households, women, and particularly the needs of marginalized groups.
  - a. Ensure that policies and regulations allow for flexibility to accommodate diversity of households and women's multiple roles and responsibilities:
    - Design strategies that enable women to work in their homes.
    - Develop zoning and urban design strategies to allow mixed-use neighborhoods.
    - Ensure that social centers for accessing core basic services (e.g. education, health, water) are creative in terms of their accessibility at the neighborhood level, and in terms of hours of service.

- Support adaptive designs so that older persons can stay in their homes for longer periods of time.
- b. Prioritize communal strategies and input from women in design and implementation of infrastructure services to address safety and security of women and other gender issues. Relatedly, provide adequate and safe access to infrastructure services (clean water, sanitation, energy, etc.) to all, including those who live in informal settlements.
- c. Ensure that development heals the environment and supports public health, maximizes the use of local materials, encourages climate appropriate technologies, and integrates natural processes of ventilation, etc.
- iii. Ensure that women have adequate information in a range of areas, including housing finance and design. This can be done through designing ICT and apps for those needing services.

### **Indicators**

The suggested indicators presented in Table 1 mostly consist of quantitative measures such as: percent increase in budgets for gender-driven development, number of women in elected positions at all levels of government, lessening in the number of incidences of violence, percent change in amount of land owned by women compared to men, percent increase in public spending on gender-responsive services, measures of wage equity and so on. Some of the qualitative indicators suggested include recognition of and resources provided for grassroots women-led surveys, community mapping initiatives, improved communication and collaboration between women and government representatives and traditional leaders, improved access by women and marginalized communities to services and information, and more.

These suggested indicators are grouped by policy areas and crosscutting themes in two categories. First, there are those that monitor whether the proposed measure was implemented (Input Indicators), followed by a look at change as a result of implementation of the recommendation (Output Indicators). There are relatively more qualitative indicators in the Output category. This demonstrates the importance of creating and promoting more qualitative indicators.

**Table 1- Suggested Indicators** (Qualitative indicators are shown in *italics*)

Recommendation by Policy Areas	Input Indicators	Outcome Indicators
<b>I. Equal, informed, and effective participation of women</b>		
A. Support, resource, and provide spaces for women’s organizing and capacity building by:		
Implement participatory budgeting (PB)	PB initiatives conducted; PB legally required	
Create political spaces/structures to enable women to participate in local and national government budget allocation decisions	Formal positions created for women's participation in budget decisions	
Organize multi-stakeholder meetings and forums to engage women and grassroots groups	Multi-stakeholder meetings held with strong representation by women and marginalized groups	
B. Create mechanisms and participatory processes for monitoring and evaluation by:		
Provide capacity building and training for women and marginalized communities on policies, technical & planning issues, and to access information and new technologies		<i>More effective and informed participation by women and marginalized groups</i>
Support/create community-based grassroots information centers that provide women-led training, organizing and leadership building; Create an urban grassroots women's development fund to deliver flexible funds to grassroots groups to innovate and scale up practices, build partnerships & organize peer exchanges	Number of new community information centers created that are owned and managed by grassroots women • Grassroots women's fund created; • Amount of money allocated to such funds by local/national governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in number of peer exchanges conducted by women's groups;</li> <li>• Number of grassroots initiatives resourced and adopted by governments;</li> <li>• Number of MOU's signed between grassroots groups and government agencies;</li> <li>• <i>Recognition and resources provided for grassroots women-led surveys, community mapping initiatives, capacity building programs</i></li> </ul>
Build on grassroots-developed models to inform capacity building and training of grassroots women		
Provide international support to national training and capacity building institutions to help strengthen the capacity of women’s groups	Amount of international funding and technical support provided to local governments and nonprofit institutions	<i>More effective and informed participation by women and marginalized groups</i>

Recommendation by Policy Areas	Input Indicators	Outcome Indicators
<b>II. Increased Local Government Accountability</b>		
Promote and continue to increase women's representation in administrative and technical positions in local, regional and national decision-making bodies	Increase in number of female representatives as percentage of total	
Train officials and government staff, both men and women on gender responsiveness	Number of political and technical staff and traditional leaders trained	<i>Improved communication and collaboration between women and government representatives and traditional leaders</i>
Facilitate development of partnerships between women's groups, and academia, professional associations and research institutions for effective monitoring	Number of Memorandum of Understanding's (MoUs) signed between women's groups and such organizations	
Provide international support for creation of mechanisms for grassroots women to monitor the local implementation of global policy agreements	Amount of funding and technical assistance provided for creation of such mechanisms	<i>Principles of global policy agreements incorporated into local policy, program and practices</i>
<b>III. Knowledge, Information and Technology base for monitoring progress</b>		
Collect, analyze, and disseminate geographically based gender-disaggregated data	Urban observatories created to develop baseline data and monitoring	
Use not only quantitative but also qualitative indicators for monitoring change		
Produce gender annual reports at the national and city level, supported by geographically based gender-disaggregated data	Gender annual reports prepared by national and local governments	
Recognize and include local and indigenous knowledge, as well as formal technical knowledge in planning and policy development		<i>Grassroots women's groups and indigenous groups involved in data collection, knowledge creation, and planning and policy formulation processes</i>
Clarify concepts and informal activities, such as the care economy and caregiving, with participation of women involved to develop appropriate policies and programs		
For information dissemination, create new tools using open-source technologies, and enhance existing ones	<i>Information and communications technology (ICT) and apps developed to improve access to information</i>	<i>Improved access by women and marginalized communities to services and information</i>
Train planners and local government staff to use these types of information and data	Number of planners and staff trained	<i>Gender responsive and more inclusive plans prepared</i>
Gather case studies of good and innovative practices and use them in trainings	A global platform created for collection and dissemination of good practices	



Recommendation by Policy Areas	Input Indicators	Output Indicators
<b>1. Social Cohesion and Equity</b>		
Enforce existing laws to meet the needs of different groups in terms of safety, security and universal accessibility; ensure violent incidents are reported to the police and adjudicated by gender-trained judiciary		Decline in number of violent incidents against women in public realm
In designing public spaces, ensure the universal accessibility to safe public spaces, which can accommodate the needs of women economically, socially and politically	Trainings provided to those who operate public spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Better accommodation of economic &amp; service activities in public spaces;</i></li> <li>• <i>Number of young, elderly and disabled persons with access to public space and ability to use it for cultural practices</i></li> </ul>
Ensure that women are participating in the design, development, maintenance and operation of public spaces	Women-led groups & committees formed and participating in operation and design of public spaces	
Provide secure, safe, regular and cost-effective transportation for women and improve urban and rural linkages		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in number of violent incidents reported to police</li> <li>• Change in number of traffic accidents</li> <li>• <i>Availability of women- friendly and affordable public transportation services around the clock</i></li> <li>• <i>Improved urban-rural mobility</i></li> </ul>
Improve accessibility to infrastructure, particularly in the areas of transportation, public spaces and housing for older persons		Increase in number of older and disabled persons with access to and using public spaces and transportation facilities
Provide services to new rural migrant women in cities, including credit, agricultural extension services, inputs and marketing facilities etc., and support urban-rural linkages	Increase in number of services available and extended to rural migrant women	
Secure rights to public lands as public markets with facilities	<i>Priority given in planning and design to utilization of public lands for public markets with facilities</i>	
Give urban women increased access to media and other channels of information to express opinions, attitudes and cultural messages	Increase number of incidences of access to media	
<b>2. Urban Frameworks</b>		
<b>3.Spatial Development</b>		
Develop gender-responsive planning paradigm and practices; ensure gender equality in planning decisions, increase research using gendered research tools, and use of gender-disaggregated data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in women's professional associations and women's interest groups active in the field</li> <li>• <i>Gender analysis of plans are encouraged</i></li> <li>• <i>Engendering of planning education is incentivized</i></li> <li>• <i>Local knowledge is recognized and incorporated into plans through effective participation of grassroots women's groups in the planning process</i></li> </ul>	

Recommendation by Policy Areas	Input Indicators	Output Indicators
Control/limit urban expansion and sprawl and prioritize sustainable development of peri-urban areas to ensure food security and sustainable livelihoods for women, and integration of housing and services	Percentage of urban expansion built with access to all necessary services	
Provide secure access and control over serviced and affordable land for women in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas		<i>Increased in the number of women with security of tenure and access and control over serviced land</i>
Strengthen urban-rural linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of urban-rural cultural exchange events</li> <li>• Number of municipal markets created that are safe and user-friendly for women</li> <li>• Availability of safe, regular, and affordable transportation between urban, peri-urban, and rural areas.</li> </ul>	
<b>4. Urban Economy</b>		
Promote the right of female workers to organize in trade unions (with full right to negotiate)	Increase in number of female workers registered as trade union members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Improvement in women's income levels</i></li> <li>• <i>Wage equality between men and women for same work</i></li> </ul>
Create opportunities and provide resources to support women's business development and employment, by providing safe and affordable transportation, flexible support services, access to new technologies, and access to public spaces for markets, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Increase in number of services available and extended</i></li> <li>• <i>Baseline data created on women's livelihood conditions/opportunities for continued monitoring</i></li> </ul>	<i>Improved access for women to credit for housing and livelihoods</i>
Recognize the increasing importance of the care economy and provide supportive conditions for caregiving activities	Plans created for the care economy with the participation of women in this sector	
Provide supportive conditions and policies in formalizing informal activities and women's nonprofit organizations		
Provide training for women in non-traditional jobs such as construction		
Recognize, resource, and support women's unpaid labor to improve their neighborhoods, including activities such as solid waste management, etc.		
Recognize and support women's home-based work	Mixed use zoning is adopted to allow and enable such activities	

Recommendation by Policy Areas	Input Indicators	Outcome Indicators
<b>5. Urban Ecology and Environment</b>		
<p>Support, resource, and provide spaces for the creation of local community knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and support adaptation initiatives of grassroots women's groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Types of support and amount of funding provided for creation of women's community centers, to support community resilience initiatives, basic services provided for women's leadership &amp; engagement in such initiatives, etc.</i></li> <li>• <i>National level policies/legislation to support scaling up of local women's community resiliency initiatives</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of local initiatives scaled up to urban, regional and national levels</li> <li>• Number of women's groups trained on DRR and climate change and started their own community resilience &amp; adaptation initiatives</li> </ul>
<p>Prevent international investments that harm local communities by organizing global/regional awareness and advocacy campaigns, creating spaces for observation of human and women's rights, and creating seats for grassroots women leaders in international organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of seats for grassroots women leaders in international organizations</li> <li>• Number of meetings, workshops and events debating these issue</li> <li>• <i>Innovative data creation applications through social media (for disaster impact, land grab reports, etc.) developed and disseminated</i></li> <li>• <i>National policy measures created to prevent such harmful investments</i></li> </ul>	
<p>Allocate resources for research on gender and climate change, and facilitate partnerships between grassroots women's organizations, local governments, research institutions to develop solutions for DRR and impacts of climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of investment for such research</li> <li>• Number of MOUs for such research partnerships</li> </ul>	
<p>Ensure that women's groups are involved in the development of strategies on climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of participatory initiatives for evaluation and monitoring of emissions</li> <li>• Number of participatory, women-led community disaster risk mapping initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of gender sensitive community resilience and disaster preparedness plans created, resourced and implemented that take into account socio-economic conditions and livelihood opportunities</li> </ul>
<b>6. Urban Housing and Basic Services</b>		
<p>Provide safe, secure, regular and cost-effective transport for women</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in number of violent incidents reported to police</li> <li>• Availability of women-friendly public transportation services around the clock</li> <li>• Decline in number of violent incidents reported to police</li> <li>• Change in number of traffic accidents</li> </ul>
<p>Provide security of tenure to women and marginalized groups, in formal, informal and customary systems; recognize the continuum of ownership rights, the "use value" of housing, and that security of tenure includes protection against impacts of climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Proven successful tools implemented by local governments – such as GLTN tools for gender equality in access to land, etc.</i></li> <li>• <i>Incremental, affordable housing solutions that address the needs of women are allowed and encouraged</i></li> <li>• <i>Strategies adopted to ensure subsidies reach those who need it the most</i></li> <li>• Increase in the number of rental housing</li> <li>• <i>Flexible norms and regulations adopted for social housing</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decline in number of evictions</li> <li>• <i>Increase in women's property ownership and/or secure access to land and housing;</i></li> <li>• <i>Increase in community-driven housing projects that serve the poorest urban residents</i></li> <li>• <i>Resettlement projects are located in safe and accessible areas and involve organized communities from the planning phase.</i></li> </ul>

Recommendation by Policy Areas	Input Indicators	Output Indicators
Adopt policy, regulations, and processes (design, finance, implementation and management) that recognize the diversity of households, women, marginalized group AND allow for flexibility to accommodate the multi-dimensionality of everyday needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Strategies designed to allow women to work from home</i></li> <li>• <i>Mixed-use neighborhoods allowed through zoning and urban design</i></li> <li>• <i>Social service centers that provide flexible services are accessible in neighborhoods</i></li> <li>• <i>Adaptive designs encouraged to allow older persons to stay at home longer and age in place</i></li> </ul>	
Ensure that development heals the environment and supports public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The use of local materials, climate-appropriate technologies, and natural processes of air cleansing, etc. is encouraged and government incentives are provided</i></li> </ul>	
Ensure that women have adequate information in a range of areas, including housing finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased number of ICT and apps for women and those who need information and services</li> </ul>	
Provide adequate and safe access to infrastructure services (clean water, sanitation, energy, etc.) to all, including those who live in informal settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women-led groups &amp; committees formed for the promotion of sanitation &amp; green environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease in number of incidences of rapes/attacks on women as the result of insecure sanitation facilities</li> <li>• Increase in access to safe, functioning sanitation facilities</li> </ul>
In design and implementation of infrastructure services, prioritize communal strategies and input from women to address safety and security of women and girls		

## CONCLUSIONS

Since Habitat II, some progress has been made in terms of women’s empowerment and their ability to participate in the development process. On the one hand, there have been gains in the global legislative framework. A series of United Nations resolutions now provide a clear framework to engender the Habitat III Agenda. On the other hand, there has been progress in grassroots women’s groups organizing and creating appropriate development tools.

But, the context of development has changed with the impacts of neoliberal policies and climate change. The focus of the “urban” has to expand from mega-cities to cities of smaller scale, peri-urban areas, and other areas within the urban-rural continuum. More research and analysis needs to be done to understand how urban spaces as diverse as these affect women and their livelihoods. In addition, women can no longer be seen as a single, homogeneous category. In formulating policies, plans, or regulations, the diversity of women has to be recognized and addressed in terms of age, culture, economic and social status, and race, ethnicity and immigrant/refugee status. Grassroots women, in particular, have emerged as a force for change. Issues concerning immigrants and refugees are also a growing aspect of urban and development planning.

Of the issues that need further analysis and attention, the issue of rural/urban connectivity may be the most critical as it highlights the inter-linkages among different policy areas. It impacts food and food production, economic activities, access to services, transportation, safety, land tenure, etc. Informal settlements are still an important issue for women, impacting their safety and security,

livelihoods, access to services, and security of tenure that is threatened by large development projects and land grabs.

The most important recommendations in this report in relation to implementation are crosscutting. Development and implementation of effective policies require the participation of women in policy and planning decisions, local government accountability, and access to gender-disaggregated data and information to measure progress. Thus, the Policy Units should emphasize those recommendations, and the fact that most policies that benefit women will also have to bridge the thematic policy areas proposed by Habitat III.

### **New Urban Agenda From A Gendered Perspective: Issue Paper Review**

The following review of how women's empowerment and equity are addressed in the Habitat III Issue Papers is a compilation of a survey of Huairou Commission members and partners, and deliberations of the participants of the EGM Engendering the New Urban Agenda. The main concern from grassroots women and their partners is the lack of gender mainstreaming and perspective throughout these papers and the need for gender-responsive indicators as key drivers in empowering women and creating cities that are politically, socially and economically inclusive. The Issue Papers identify women as one of many groups that are vulnerable and marginalized in urban environments, but women's gender specific contributions, needs and roles in global development agendas are inadequately addressed. The role and contributions of women and grassroots women must be reconsidered and recognised in the creation of a sustainable development agenda that promotes the building of inclusive partnerships aimed at guaranteeing equal access to political and economic participation.

#### **1. SOCIAL COHESION AND EQUITY- LIVABLE CITIES**

##### **Issue Paper 1: Inclusive cities**

The paper promotes inclusive and partnership-driven approaches involving all stakeholders in urban development. It identifies cities as engines for growth that promote inclusion. It calls for inclusive decision and policymaking that promotes dialogue among the local and national government, private sector and civil society. It calls for improved transparency and accountability on behalf of the government.

**Specific comment:** The paper identifies women as one of the groups of marginalized and vulnerable urban population. However, it does not differentiate the specific needs of women.

**Feedback and Inputs:** For women to be empowered to participate in an inclusive city they must participate in governance and budgeting that will allow them to promote their fundamental priorities. Opportunities to learn about policy and decision-making processes, as well as accessing services should be available to them. Their grassroots expertise should be recognized and incorporated into spatial planning. Housing needs, as well as access to basic services, safe and affordable public transportation, safe public spaces and educational and financial opportunities are essential to women's inclusion. Guarantees of land tenure, ownership and housing must be enforced. Gender-sensitive policymaking and promotion of women to act as agents of change within rural and urban areas are essential to ensuring inclusive cities.

##### **Issue Paper 2: Migration and refugees in urban areas**

The paper addresses migrant and refugee marginalization resulting from legal restrictions and social, economic and racial discrimination within the urban infrastructure. Human rights of migrants and refugees are a strong focus in this paper, as well as mainstream integration into cities through provision of basic services, political rights and legal protection.

**Specific comment:** The paper is absent of any gender mainstreaming. Although the emphasis on human rights and integration is relevant to women, their specific vulnerabilities are not addressed.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Women migrants and refugees who often lack legal protection and face discrimination, exclusion and intimidation are more vulnerable to increased risks of human trafficking, forced sexual labor, rape and harassment. They should be afforded the same protections for safety, access to basic services, including housing and economic and financial opportunities.

### **Issue Paper 3: Safer Cities**

A key message of this paper is that all levels of government must lead in the development and implementation of effective humane crime prevention and create strategies and institutional frameworks for urban safety. The paper recognizes the greater impact on women from unsafe physical surroundings and that they are more likely to be victims of violence and crimes, especially rape and sexual harassment.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Urban planning must vigorously address violence against women to decrease barriers to effective participation of women in all areas of urbanization. Women should be actors in creating safer cities and their bottom-up grassroots strategies in creating safer cities should be included in policy determinations. Disaggregated data should be used to identify violence hotspots. Women should be included in urban planning and creation of safe public areas and transportation to ensure their needs are acknowledged and addressed. They should also be well-represented on boards that monitor implementation and compliance of legislative protection policies. Authorities must be intensely trained on recognizing and reducing violence against all women regardless of their age, economic status, disability, migrant status and legal standing in cities.

### **Issue Paper 4: Urban Culture and Heritage**

This paper identifies that cultural heritage is a social, cultural and economic asset for urban areas and should be safeguarded and promoted in the urban planning process. Cultural heritage and practices are central to creating cohesive societies. However, urban planning models over the past decades have challenged inclusive cultural heritage.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Social and spatial segregation challenges the formation of community and social bonds. Women play an important role in transmission of culture. Safe access to public spaces and basic services and opportunities to share cultural expressions should be publicly supported. Inclusion of women in policy spaces and recognition of bottom-up initiatives that promote their cultures are essential to preserving cultural practices.

## **2. URBAN FRAMEWORKS**

### **Issue Paper 5: Urban Rules and Legislation**

The paper argues that the prevalence of the informal sectors (employment, housing, services) is a sign of a legal system's failure to assure equal protection and access to formal sectors for all parts of the population. Thus, legally- and politically-marginalized groups are more likely to represent the informal sector and fall further outside legal and political protections. Governments are encouraged to address the legal deficiencies that enable the existence of informal sectors through participatory legislation that includes civil society and the private sector.



**Specific comment:** The paper assumes that women are afforded the same legal rights as men, which is not always the case.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Women's housing and land rights that are already legislated must be enforced for all women allowing them increased inclusion in policymaking and governance. Judicial systems must be structured to protect women. Women's needs, especially access to safe transportation and public spaces, as well as basic services in informal and marginalized settlements must be addressed. Women must be oriented and allowed increased participation in urban planning, governance and budgeting.

#### **Issue Paper 6: Urban Governance**

The paper acknowledges the need for participatory decision making of all stakeholders in organizational structures, budget and asset management, resource mobilization, legal enforcement and economic and social development. All inhabitants should participate in local political, social, economic and cultural life to address inequalities and improve conditions for marginalized and vulnerable populations. Advancing women's leadership is required to combat their underrepresentation in local governments. The paper recognizes the importance of bottom-up grassroots contributions to governance and policy-making, and that data disaggregated by sex is crucial to needs assessments. It also recognizes that sound governance requires enhanced transparency and accountability.

**Specific comment:** The paper lacks the specifics of how to accomplish the goals it sets forth.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Training and informational orientations are needed to increase women's awareness and participation in political, policy and governance processes. Governments should set specific goals for increased representation of women in decision making and monitoring bodies. Information and communications technology (ICT) should be used to create accessible e-government systems that are responsive to stakeholders. Women's land ownership and tenure must be guaranteed for formal inclusion in all areas of governance. Improved access to basic services and safe public spaces and transportation are essential to their increased participation.

#### **Issue Paper 7: Municipal Finance**

The paper points out that urban governments are key to resource and revenue mobilization and should be recognized by central governments for their importance to national economies. Key drivers for developing financially sustainable urban systems include clarification of financial responsibilities between governing entities in service delivery and providing more mechanisms to strengthen and expand financial and asset management, while expanding local resource bases.

**Specific comment:** Statements regarding engendered participatory budgeting, progressive taxes and redistributive fiscal policies are largely absent from discussion in the paper.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Women are economic drivers of communities often through informal activities. Formalization of their economic contributions should not negatively impact their financial capabilities. Increased access to economic opportunities would increase their productivity and contributions to municipal revenues. Structures for integrated urban planning and intergovernmental fiscal relations should include women from and in all levels.

### 3. SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### **Issue Paper 8: Urban and Spatial Planning and Design**

The paper argues that effective urban design contributes to the liveability, sustainability and economic potential of a city. Spatial planning should be a flexible, equitable and continuous process that encourages participation of all stakeholders including the poor, women, youth and indigenous communities. Urban planning should encourage social integration, while facilitating land tenure and property rights security, financing for low-income households and upgrading of informal settlements.

**Specific comment:** Land tenure and housing are still not guaranteed to all women and need to be institutionalized.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Spatial planning needs to include grassroots women and their expertise of their communities. Any urban renewal and redevelopment projects should include women planners and should positively address issues of import to women, such as safe public spaces and transport, access to basic services, and equitable formalization of informal settlements. Gender-disaggregated data collection including the use of ICT is essential to evaluating women's demographics and needs.

#### **Issue Paper 9: Urban Land**

The paper concludes that secure rights to land and property, including inheritance is an essential human right that ensures broader rights such as economic development, poverty reduction, women's empowerment, health, peace, stability, and improving housing services and living conditions for marginalized groups. Improving land governance depends on policies with improved financial resources, simplified legal and institutional frameworks and building urban capacity with equitable distribution for marginalized stakeholders. The paper recognizes that women produce 60-80 percent of food in developing countries, yet are not always assured property rights for continued farming of their land.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Land rights must be institutionalized to provide women with opportunities for economic development, housing, health and participation in governance and to decrease the rates of homelessness, poverty and violence against women. Discussions and policy decisions about land use must include grassroots women and recognize their bottom-up initiatives to counter power imbalances. Safe public space and transportation and improved access to basic services must be incorporated into land use planning.

#### **Issue Paper 10: Urban-Rural Linkages**

The paper recognizes that even though urbanization profoundly reshapes peri-urban areas, maintaining the interdependence of rural and urban environments is essential to sustainable human development. Unplanned urban expansion can disrupt this interdependence as valuable agricultural and ecological resources are consumed. Urbanization often attracts greater urban focus and increased investment creating challenges for intermediate towns and rural areas.

**Specific comment:** Land rights and availability of financial opportunities for women farmers must be increased.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Equitable participation of rural and urban women, as well as indigenous groups, in policy decisions, governance and participatory budgeting of urban-rural linkages must be instituted so their underrepresented concerns are represented. Safe accessible rural-urban linkages that are lifelines for rural women producers and urban food security must be well planned. Safe public spaces are essential to rural economic development and urban food security. Grassroots women's groups have developed creative responses to the challenges of urban-rural linkages and promotion of sustainable and resilient cities that should be used as best practices for other groups and regions.

#### **Issue Paper 11: Public Space**

The paper addresses the SDG Goal 11 charge to build cities and human settlements that are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. It identifies public spaces as economic and social drivers essential for urban communities and their civil engagement. It recognizes that public space can promote equality and inclusion, or when not adequately planned, increase segregation and violence. The paper promotes the need for government strategies to design holistic networks of public spaces that foster social inclusion, multiculturalism, improved urban livelihoods and sustainable cities.

**Specific comment:** The paper does not sufficiently focus on the critical component of safety as it relates to women in public spaces.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Women's informal activities are elements that shape urban public spaces. Good public infrastructure and safe public spaces increase access for women to employment, education, healthcare, markets, etc. Safe and affordable transport is essential to women's use of public spaces. Women must be included in policy decisions and participatory budgeting when planning sufficient, safe, accessible and user-friendly public spaces that support their various needs and activities. Violence against women must be vigorously addressed to ensure women's use of public spaces.

## **4. URBAN ECONOMY**

#### **Issue Paper 12: Local Economic Development (LED)**

The paper acknowledges that strategic local economic development depends on quality data to identify challenges and prioritize actions. A predictable and favorable business-enabling environment and well-functioning markets attract investment and improve the quality of life in cities. Development plans must address gender inequalities and those between rich and poor since gender-based occupational segregation persists, as does the gender pay gap; while women, including young women, are more affected by unemployment and underemployment.

**Specific comment:** Although the paper generalizes about participatory LED processes, partnerships and networks, it does not address barriers and contributing factors that diminish effective participation of women in LED.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Women must be empowered through publicly funded education and training programs to participate fully in policymaking, participatory budgeting and urban planning. Gender-disaggregated data is essential to identify challenges women confront in urban environments. LED should include increasing partnerships and mechanisms to increase access for women to financial resources and lending.

### **Issue Paper 13: Jobs and Livelihoods**

This paper recognizes that employment creation is fundamental to sustainable urban development. However, urban infrastructure deficiencies, ineffective regulations, weak local governments and lack of mechanisms for long-term financing diminish economic potential. For cities to be successful engines of growth, they must plan for urban population growth from the perspective of developing social capital and fostering job creation.

**Specific comment:** Policies must address the lower participation rates of women in the labor force and their lower pay.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Women are often involved in informal and vulnerable jobs that must be recognized and formalized while being protected. Judicial formats must protect women from sexual harassment at work. Financial resources and economic development opportunities for women should be increased. Access to basic services would alleviate some of the responsibilities of household activities and increase opportunities for growth, promotion and skilling. Safe public spaces and transport are essential to accessing employment. Gender-disaggregated data on employment, jobs, promotions, and wages is needed in order to make informed policy decisions that address women's issues and increase job opportunities and livelihoods. Women's participation in governance must increase.

### **Issue Paper 14: Informal Sector**

The informal sector plays a significant role in the economies of many developing and low-income countries. People working in these informal enterprises often face serious barriers to prosperity from the lack of entry points into mainstream economies. Strengthening the voice of the informal economy workers and formalization to reduce worker vulnerabilities are offered as key elements to address these challenges. The paper acknowledges that more women than men work in vulnerable, low-paid or undervalued informal sector jobs.

**Specific comment:** Women, especially in the informal sector, contribute to the economic welfare of a city through unpaid home-based care and informal productivity.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Urban economic development must recognize the value of the care economy and resource and support this unpaid labor. Flexible zoning should legalize home-based work and allow housing modifications for in-home care. Grassroots women provide valuable community needs assessment through mapping and creative initiatives to address challenges, which should be included in policy determinations. Policies for formalization of the informal sector must not create increased burdens on women and families residing in such environments. Policies should officially recognize and provide supportive conditions for the unpaid labor, informal activities and care economies traditionally provided by women.

## **5. URBAN ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **Issue Paper 15: Urban Resilience**

As urban areas grow, they become more susceptible to stressors that can affect their sustainability and adaptability. Resilience strategies must promote risk-informed decisions regarding social, economic and environmental imbalances and involve a whole-of-society approach, with government, private sector, the scientific and technical community and community actors. Rapid urban growth in fragile states exacerbates vulnerabilities and pressure on basic services, social cohesion and the capacity of public institutions to respond to people's needs.

**Specific comment:** Resilient communities that are less vulnerable to disasters require inclusive governing with increased representation of women.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Publicly funded educational opportunities on how to participate in governance should be available to women. Grassroots women are major actors of resilience-building initiatives and disaster relief in the global South. Their expertise and bottom-up innovations and programs should be included in planning and policy decisions for building resilient cities. Training grassroots women to improve their current community mapping by incorporating geospatial tools and gathering disaggregated data would provide a more accurate assessment of community needs and environmental vulnerabilities.

### **Issue Paper 16: Urban Ecosystems and Resource Management**

Ecosystems in and around urban centers provide microclimate moderation, air quality improvement, increased recreation opportunities and improved health for citizens. Cities attract wealth and increased populations that strongly correlate with increased consumption of resources. Cities can reduce their human impact on local ecosystems through efficient delivery of services such as piped water, public transportation and solid waste collection, and by using innovative green technologies. Cities must implement sustainable, ecosystem-based management and use of natural resources and strategic regional planning as basis for urban planning.

**Specific comment:** Women are not even mentioned in this paper. Yet, women most often suffer the effects of mismanagement of resources more than men.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Efficient delivery of affordable and easily accessible basic services reduces hardships on women in marginalized and informal settlements and also minimizes resource waste. Women in rural food production uniquely understand environmental risks and dependency on ecosystems. Their creative initiatives combining food production and security with sustainable use of natural resources needed to protect their livelihoods should be included in urban planning development and policy. Scaling up of these grassroots practices should be encouraged and publicly funded. Creating and funding educational and advocacy campaigns regarding ecological risk assessment and environmental impact when considering development programs could prevent projects that damage or destroy local ecology.

### **Issue Paper 17: Cities and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management**

The paper identifies the need for proactive urban planning in order to reduce climate-related risks and adapt to climate change. Although awareness of the vulnerability of urban populations is increasing through risk assessments, a gap exists in translating this knowledge into practice, especially with regard to policy determinations.

**Specific comment:** Proactive urban planning requires accurate data that is engendered and disaggregated, and participatory governance and budgeting.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Women have greatly contributed to the advancement of disaster risk management and climate solutions due to their local community knowledge and their role as primary community responders during disaster recovery. They must be included in urban planning bodies in order to share their expertise on bottom up disaster risk management. Their programs and initiatives should be supported and shared as best

practices. Women should be equally represented in monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation.

## 6. URBAN HOUSING AND BASIC SERVICES

### **Issue Paper 18: Urban Infrastructure and Basic Services, including energy**

The concept of infrastructure has evolved from merely referring to buildings and basic services to including networks of physical structures and internal linkages to them. Spatial planning and long-term, demand-based infrastructure planning can reduce the effects of a natural event. Governance and regulation must support policy and economic instruments that promote compact cities and cost-effective infrastructure investments.

**Specific comment:** Policy decisions must be informed by gender-disaggregated data collected to determine specific urban infrastructure and basic services needs of women.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Such data should shape policy considerations to make known the linkage between availability, accessibility, affordability and adequacy of basic services to the ability of women to participate in all spheres of urban prosperity. Empowering women to participate in policy decisions through education on process and budgeting allows them to advocate for their fundamental priorities in basic service delivery and urban infrastructure. Policies should ensure that no public/non-profit/private-sector agreements or partnerships increase cost or decrease accessibility to basic services for women and marginalized communities or informal settlements. Accessible and affordable basic services including safe transportation and public spaces are essential to increasing women's participation in all areas of urban development.

### **Issue Paper 19: Transport and Mobility**

The paper recognizes that the goal of public transport is to create universal access to safe, clean and affordable transport to optimize access to growth opportunities, services, goods and amenities. Travel demand management should be considered in urban planning in order to maximize the cost effectiveness of public transportation while increasing capacity.

**Specific comment:** Safe, affordable and accessible transport is a key driver in women's empowerment to access opportunities for educational and economic advancement.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Violence against women on all forms of public transport must be vigorously addressed. Judicial reforms must be instituted that provide fair and honest oversight to enforce laws that protect women. Peri-urban development should carefully planned and account for safe mobility between home, work, and social services critical to women. Transport systems must be integrated with rural women's food production and deliver to urban areas for economic sustainability and food security. Grassroots women have developed strategies to address transport challenges, and their experiences should be used for upscaling transport solutions. Subsidized travel should also be considered to increase accessibility for women.

### **Issue Paper 20: Housing**

One of the daunting challenges of urbanization is provision of adequate and affordable housing. Population growth that outpaces housing construction compounds these challenges. Inadequate housing results in large poor populations living in informal conditions lacking basic services and living space while confronting increased violence and increased exposure



to communicable disease and other health risks. Housing lending is diminished for poor and low-income households and private-sector finance and investments is lacking.

**Specific comment:** Housing policy must address the lack of guaranteed land rights for many women in the world.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Women’s land rights must be institutionalized and monitored for compliance. Land tenure and inheritance rights are crucial to women’s housing security and as protection against forced evictions. Policies must prohibit discrimination against women in owning and renting housing. Programs such as increased subsidies and incentives on the supply side have proven successful in easing the financial strain of women affording housing. Flexible zoning regulations should allow for diversity of households and housing needs that accommodate stage of life changes and home-based economies.

### **Issue Paper 21: Smart Cities**

Smart cities focus on the strategic use of new technology, especially information and communications technologies (ICT), and innovative approaches to enhance livability, reduce resource consumption and more actively engage citizens while creating information and knowledge networks. Strategic and innovative approaches to urban design, management and governance can be used to mitigate rapid and unplanned urbanization that often results in increased inequality.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Women often lack access to technology or ICT training. Therefore, platforms should be developed that are user friendly and easily mastered in order for women to evolve in synchrony with smart cities. Technology and innovative approaches must include women and consider the needs specific to them in urban planning. ICT and related training should be made available in places frequented by grassroots women such as schools and public places to increase their access and use. ICT is also a tool to increase transparency by adopting “e-government” administrative systems.

### **Issue Paper 22: Informal Settlements**

This paper recognizes that informal settlements are the result of many factors that can include rapid population growth, rural-urban migration, weak governance in areas of planning and land management, underpaid work, and discrimination and marginalization. Lack of support of livelihoods in informal settlements combined with lack of integration results in perpetuating long-term inequality and inter-generational disadvantage.

**Specific Comment:** Women face inequitable challenges in informal settlements.

**Feedback and Inputs:** Policies must address the pervasive issue of violence against women in these areas. Legal protection of women with regard to ensuring safety and eliminating sexual harassment must be implemented. Police and local authorities must receive training on reducing violence against women and their compliance monitored by oversight bodies that include women. Training and educational opportunities should be publicly supported for women in informal settlements on how to participate more fully in policy decisions, access basic services and advocate for their needs with regards to urban planning. Grassroots women have created innovative initiatives to address challenges of living and working in informal settlements, which should be used in policy deliberations and decisions. Data collection should be disaggregated and engendered in order to identify issues specific to women in informal settlements. Zoning should recognize and support informal and home-



based economies. Any formalization should not negatively impact women and these marginalized communities.

## Good Practices and Tools

Suggested good practices and tools are presented below in Table 2.

**Table 2 - Suggested Good Practices and Tools**

Policy Area #	Good Practices and Tools
1. Social Cohesion and Equity	
2. Urban Frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Local to Local Dialogues</b> - Huairou Commission (HC) tool used by grassroots women's groups to engage local decision makers in Kenya and other countries.</li> <li>• <b>HC's Transparency and Accountability Initiative</b> to participate/monitor decisions and service delivery in Metro Manila in the Philippines, Thankot in Nepal, and Jinja in Uganda.</li> <li>• <b>Slum/Shack Dwellers International's (SDI) Municipal Development Forums and community-driven data collection and mapping</b> activities leading to participatory development planning in Uganda.</li> <li>• The <b>Report Cards</b> used in Cebu, Philippines, under <b>UNDP's Urban Governance Initiative (TUGI)</b> - this development helped assess the capacity of local government to respond to the needs of women.</li> </ul>
3. Spatial Development	
4. Urban Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SDI's Women's Saving Groups</b> providing small loans to members.</li> </ul>
5. Urban Ecology and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Women's Community Health Centers</b>, SSP, India</li> <li>• <b>La Agenda Azul de las Mujeres (women's water agenda)</b> supported by women from 10 states of Mexico to analyze and highlight inequality in water policies.</li> </ul>
6. Urban Housing and Basic Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The work of the <b>Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)</b> to secure tenure</li> <li>• <b>Women's Community Centers</b> (Women and Children Centers, FSWW, Turkey; Mother Centers in Czech Republic, Germany, Kenya, etc.) that provide flexible childcare services and grassroots women-led training and organizing.</li> </ul>

## Meeting Agenda

### EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON ENGENDERING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

29-30, September 2015 - Ford Foundation, 320 E 43rd St, New York, NY 10017

#### AGENDA

##### Day 1

8:30	Registration
8:45- 9:00	Opening Session – Welcome and Introduction of Dignitaries Organizing for Habitat III – overview of new urban agenda and lead up to Habitat III Quito, October 2016 Ana Moreno, Coordinator, Habitat III Secretariat
9:00 – 9:15	Remarks from Joan Clos, Under Secretary General of the UN Secretary General of Habitat III, Executive Director, UN-Habitat
9:15 – 9:20	Aisa Kirabo Kacyira Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
9:20 – 9:30	Jan Peterson, Huairou Commission Huairou Commission Role in Habitat III and Progress Since Habitat II
9:30 – 9:45	Purpose, Outcomes and Breakout Logistics and introduction of facilitators - Cathy Holt Toledo, EGM Coordinator
9:45 – 11:00	Breakout Sessions A. Social Cohesion and Equity Inclusive Cities; Migration and refugees in Urban Areas; Safer Cities; Urban Culture and Heritage B. Urban Frameworks Urban Rules and Regulations; Urban Governance; Municipal Finance C. Spatial Development Urban and Spatial Planning and Design; Urban Land; Rural- urban linkages; Public Space
11:00 – 11:30	Reports from breakouts
11:30 – 12:30	Keynote Speaker and questions Saskia Sassen, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology, and Chair of The Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch in Lunchroom
1:30 -3:00	Breakout Sessions

- E. Urban Economy  
Local Economic Development; Jobs and Livelihoods; Informal Sector
- F. Urban Ecology and Environment  
Resilience; Ecosystems and Resource Management; Cities and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
- G. Urban Housing and Basic Services  
Infrastructure and Basic Services, incl. energy Transport and Mobility; Housing and Slum Upgrading; Informal Settlements

- 3:00 – 3:15 Break
- 3:30 – 4:00 Brief Report Backs – 10 minutes a group
- 4:00 – 6:00 Consolidate policy priorities from the breakouts with group input

## Day 2

- 8:30 – 8:40 Opening Comments  
Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Assistant Secretary-General of the UN
- 8:40- 9:00 Summary of Day 1  
Paul Taylor, Former UN Habitat, Facilitator
- 9:00 – 10:15 Six Breakout Sessions based on Habitat III policy priorities groupings  
Develop policy recommendations for New Urban Agenda
- 10:15 - 10:30 Break
- 10:30 – 11:30 Present recommendations for full group review
- 11:30 – 12:30 Lunch in meeting room
- 12:30– 1:15 Guest Speaker: Jeb Brugmann, Founding member, The Next Practice Former Executive Director, ICLEI  
  
Panel presentation on Current State of Indicators  
Ginette Azcona UN Women, Maruxa Cardama, Communitas and Nicholas You, WUC Steering Committee
- 1:15 -2:45 Breakout Sessions based on 6 Policy Areas of Habitat III to identify indicators and monitoring of implementation
- 2:45- 3:00 Break
- 3:00 – 4:00 Group review of indicators
- 4:00 - 4:30 Closing - Future steps of process and dissemination of information

## List of Participants

### EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON WOMEN AND THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

29-30 SEPTEMBER 2015 – FORD FOUNDATION, NEW YORK CITY, USA

Participant's Name	Affiliation/Organisation	Expertise	Country
<b>AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST</b>			
1. Achola Pala	Association of African Women for Research and Development (AAWORD)	Food security, community health, participatory governance	Kenya
2. Aminata Traore	UN-Habitat Advisory Group for Gender Issues (AGGI)	Economic policies of globalization	Mali
3. Beth Chitekwe-Biti (Bathsheba)	Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI)	Security of tenure, housing, water and sanitation	Zimbabwe
4. Fatimetou Mint Abdel Malick	Mayor of Tevragh-Zeina municipality, Nouakchott & President of Women's Federation of Mayors in Africa (RAFELA)	Governance, urban planning and development, environmental, ecological sustainability	Mauritania
5. Joyce Nangobi	Slum Women's Initiative for Development (SWID)	Grassroots leadership, land & housing rights, resilience, inheritance rights, governance	Uganda
6. Nicholas You	Independent Expert	Governance, development, urban planning	Kenya
7. Pat Horn	StreetNet & Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)	Informal sector, labor rights	South Africa
8. Paul Taylor	Independent Expert	Governance, development, urban planning	Kenya
9. Rose Molokoane	Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI)	Secure tenure, housing rights	South Africa
10. Sahar Attia	Cairo University	Architecture, housing, urban design and planning	Egypt
11. Shorai Chitongo	Ray of Hope/ Home-based Care Alliance	Secure tenure, housing rights, water and sanitation	Zimbabwe
12. Violet Shivutse	Shibuye Community Health Workers	Healthcare, land and property, resilience, governance	Kenya
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>			
13. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi	United Cities and Local Government - Asia Pacific (UCLG-ASPAC)	Local governance, capacity building	Indonesia
14. Emma Porio	Ateneo de Manila University	Governance, resilience	Philippines
15. Gulnara Ibraeva	Innovative Solution	Gender, monitoring and evaluation	Kyrgyzstan

16. Hao Ran	China Academy of Social Sciences/Institute of Law	Gender, land rights	China
17. Kerry McGovern	East Asia Association for Planning and Human Settlements (EAROPH) Australia	Asset management, housing, public sector finance	Australia
18. Lajana Mandahar	Lumanti Support for Shelter	Governance, housing, resilience, water and sanitation	Nepal
19. Sri Husnaini Sofjan	Independent Expert	Governance, Safety, Gender Budgeting, women's empowerment	Malaysia
<b>EUROPE</b>			
20. Anne Lunde	Oasen/Norwegian People's Aid	Gender, housing, disadvantaged groups, eradication of poverty	Norway
21. Erik Berg	Habitat Norway	Governance, urban development	Norway
22. Ines Sanchez de Madariaga	Universidad Politecnica de Madrid	Government, gender, urban planning	Spain
23. Rut Kolínská	Network of Mother Centers	Governance, mother and infant health	Czech Republic
24. Teresa Boccia	University of Naples	Gender, urban planning	Italy
<b>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>			
25. Ana Falú	Universidade Nacional Cordoba	Gender budgeting, housing, urban planning, safety	Argentina
26. Debora Leao	UN Children and Youth	Youth advocacy, social entrepreneurship, environmental protection	Brazil
27. Magdalena Garcia	MIRA	Economics, gender equality	Mexico
28. Maité Rodríguez	Fundación Guatemala	Land rights, women rights	Guatemala
29. Marcelo Montenegro	ActionAid	Governance, food rights, safe cities, climate change, agro-ecology	Brazil

30. Margarita Carranco	Metropolitan District of Quito and Association of Municipal Women of Ecuador	Government, municipal inclusion	Ecuador
31. Mildred Crawford	GAP Farmer's Partner Constituent Group & Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers	Land rights	Jamaica
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>			
32. Anastasia Posadskaya	UN Women	Safety	USA
33. Ayse Yonder	Pratt Institute	Community-base planning, land rights, resilience	USA
34. Begoña Lasagabaster	UN Women	Governance	USA
35. Ghislaine Hermanuz	Independent Urban Designer	Architecture, gender, urban Design and planning	USA
36. Jan Peterson	Huairou Commission	Community participation, governance, women's empowerment	USA
37. Jeb Brugmann	ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability	Urban sustainability, climate change	Canada
38. Katia Araujo	GAP Women's Partner Constituent Group & Huairou Commission	Gender Equality, resilience	USA
39. Maruxa Cardama	Communitas Coalition	Governance, sustainability, rural-urban linkages	USA
40. Saskia Sassen	Columbia University	Sustainable human settlements, urban development	USA
<b>HUAIROU COMMISSION SECRETARIAT</b>			
41. Ana Gabriele Sabancevaite	Intern – Huairou Commission		USA
42. Cathy Holt Toledo	EGM Coordinator		USA
43. Dafne Regenhardt	Intern – Huairou Commission		Argentina
44. Laura Holt de Toledo	Huairou Commission		USA
45. Pamela Ransom	School for Public Affairs & Administration, Metropolitan College of NY		USA