

HUAIROU COMMISSION'S INITIAL ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS OF THE ZERO DRAFT OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

We, the Huairou Commission represent a coalition of women's organizations in 54 countries in the Global North and South that focus on community development and gender justice led by organized groups of women living and working in poor communities: grassroots women.

As grassroots women organizations and women's networks working on inclusive, gender just and sustainable urbanization and human settlements, we welcome the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda, in particular the inclusion of many recommendations that Huairou Commission: Women, Homes and Communities has called for. However, noting that the first Habitat Agenda (1996) was produced with strong engagement by and policy commitments to women worldwide and pledged to decrease gender inequality; and noting that SDG 5 reaffirms that progress in improving the lives and opportunities of women, particularly those living with rural and urban poverty is essential to equitably distribute the benefits of global growth and development, our network notes these milestones and calls for the following strengthening of the Zero Draft:

Strengths and Reinforcements

1. We welcome the recognition of women's participation in decision-making (para. 5) in its vision. We also encourage Member States to embrace an aspirational vision that reflects the ambitions and commitments aligned with Agenda 2030, including the realization of SDG 5;
2. We support the recognition that women's tenure security is "a cornerstone to their empowerment and gender equality and the realization of human rights" (para. 33), as well as recognizing the plurality of tenure systems and continuum of land rights
3. We especially appreciate the reference to decentralization, empowering local authorities to "support practices such as participatory planning and budgeting, citizen-based monitoring, self-enumeration and co-planning that are rooted in new forms of direct partnership between state organizations and civil society" (para. 102). However we call upon Member States to ensure gender budgeting approaches are applied across the board to cement collaborative decision-making.

Weaknesses and Corrections

1. Insuring that women are affirmed as agent of changes and equal and essential partners in driving the sustainable development of cities and communities;
2. Ensuring that when women are named as a stakeholder group, that they are referred to specifically as "all women" (e.g. girls, older women, rural farmers, grassroots women). Avoid listing women as a general group, comprising of more than 50% of the world population, to appear in a long list of marginalized groups.
3. Affirming women's roles in the paid and unpaid economy and the need to establish public policy frameworks that support and remunerate women as primary producers that are both in urban and rural areas (CEDAW, art 14 (a)) and women's contributions to sustaining families and communities.
4. Validating grassroots movement building and human rights initiatives that demand a deeper analysis of gender gaps faced by women in rural and urban areas (re assets, opportunities and quality of life) and redress women's over-representation in the urban poor, community work, and the informal economy.
5. While there is an attempt to capture the housing deficit and its multi-dimension by referring to "data disaggregation to allow a differentiated analysis of housing supply and demand considering the specific social, economic, and cultural dynamics on subnational levels" (para. 109), there is a need to ensure collection of sex disaggregated data and enlisting community based organizations and/or grassroots women to participate in data collection, e.g. women headed households are more vulnerable to stresses and shocks
6. Call to strengthen NUA's vision on the urban rural linkages. With special attention to issues like food security and agriculture as appears only once in para. 105 and small-scale farmers in para.113.