**Engagement Report to the Independent Panel to Asses and Enhance Effectiveness of UN-Habitat after the Adoption of the New Urban Agenda**

**Huairou Commission [[1]](#footnote-1)**

This report documents the history, modes and impact of UN Habitat engagement with the grassroots constituency facilitated by bilateral partnership between UN-Habitat and Huairou Commission.

The Huairou Commission is a movement-based organization working on grassroots women's and their community empowerment. It is a global coalition of women’s networks, INGOs, and grassroots women’s organizations. Members and partners of the coalition are committed to empowering grassroots women’s organizations to enhance their community development practices and exercise collective power at the global level. Our coalition believes that when grassroots women leaders expand their participation and leadership in community development work, local communities and the global development field enormously benefit. We approach our work in an open and inclusive manner, ensuring that grassroots women are driving the processes that lead to change in their communities. By sharing information and resources with grassroots women’s organizations, Huairou Commission members and partners advance grassroots women’s position and priorities through a transformative partnership model.

**1. Global Grassroots Constituency Engagement**

The HC is a global organization with constituency in 50 countries across four continents. Its membership is constituted by grassroots women organized into community-based organizations, federations, networks and facilitating NGOs working with community based organizations.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Africa | Asia | Latin America and the Caribbean | Europe and North America |
| 18 countries | 9 countries | 17 countries | 6 countries |
| Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe | Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines,Sri Lanka, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam | Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela | Canada,Czech Republic, Germany, The Netherlands, Turkey, The United States |

Huairou Commission membership numbers to 150 organizations with 52 in Africa, 53 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 35 in Asia-Pacific, 10 in North American and Europe. All of the HC organizations work with issues of Land, Housing and Secure Tenure, HIV/AIDS, Governance and Disaster Risk Reduction by thoroughly integrating frameworks of women’s leadership and empowerment. (See Appendix A for full list of HC members)

**2. Programs work with the UN Habitat**

The Huairou Commission has been an active partner of the UN Habitat in its normative work, especially in Safer Cities and Global Land Tools Network Campaigns.

**Global Land Tools Network**

Since the GLTN inception in the 2006 World Urban Forum in Vancouver, HC has been its partner with the aim to “gender” land tools and include pro-poor gendered objectives in legislation, policy and principles into implementation. The Huairou Commission's role as a GLTN partner is to ensure that there is genuine grassroots participation in land tool development initiatives and that pro-poor, affordable land tools support community involvement and maximize policy impact. The Commission in collaboration with the UN Habitat has had held multiple global workshops bringing together grassroots women, architects, policy makers, academics and professionals to work together on criteria for large scale gendered land tools and develop a criteria for scaling up existing community land tools.

GLTN work with its partners is organized around clusters. Huairou Commission is the head of the Rural Cluster, which main goal is to create opportunities to foster partnership among member organizations including their affiliate network of organizations (given that many of us are global or regional networks), and engage them in joint activities aimed to i) strengthen policy frameworks, tools and approaches to deliver security of tenure at scale, in particular for women and girls; ii) improve global knowledge and awareness of innovative tools, strategies and best practices; and iii) strengthen capacity of partners, land actors and targeted countries and/or cities/municipalities through key implementation strategies.

HC continues to chair the GLTN Rural Cluster program for year 2017 with objectives to:

1. Support the further consolidation and refinement of land tools that have demonstrated success based on previous research, pilot and implementation (such as the Gender Evaluation Criteria GEC or the Social Tenure Domain Model STDM)
2. Support peer to peer learning and capacity development building on country level efforts towards the implementation, testing or piloting of such tools
3. Advance the development and piloting of land tools with demonstrated reliability (i.e. "Food Security Monitoring Framework", LSLBI)
4. Promote collaboration among cluster members in policy spaces for advocacy, especially in global and regional processes.

 **Safer Cities**

The HC has been partnering with UN Habitat's Safer Cities programme for the past fifteen years. The organizations came together during the First International Seminar on Women's Safety in Montréal in 2002 to found Women in Cities International (WICI). The HC and its network members, including WICI, Red Mujer y Habitat and FEMUM, have been working together to ensure that cities are safer for all women and girls. They have collaborated on consolidating and sharing knowledge (ex. Global Assessment on Women's Safety, 2008), on innovating tools (ex. Women's Safety Audits: What Works and Where?), knowledge sharing and capacity building (ex. Third International Conference on Women's Safety, Delhi 2010) and by carving out specific space for women and girls' issues as they related to safer cities (ex. leading the Technical Working Group on Gender and Safer Cities). They have and continue to collaborate as partners by sharing information and tools and through a number of side events and expert group meetings on related issues.

**3. Representation within the UN Habitat**

The Commission has held important consultative and leadership positions at the UN Habitat, introducing grassroots voices in decision-making and knowledge production mechanisms within the agency.

**Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI)**

Huairou Commission has supported creation of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues at the UN Habitat in 2011. The Group purpose is to advise the UN Habitat Executive Director on gender mainstreaming and women empowerment in organization’s normative and operational work (GC Res 24/4, 2013; Res 23/1, 2011). Following the 26th UN Habitat Governing Council, AGGI has been tasked with advising on women and girls’ empowerment in the New Urban Agenda implementation framework (2017).

 Sri Husnaini Sofjan (Senior Consultant, HC), Jan Peterson (Chair, HC Board) and Esther Mwaura-Muiru from GROOTS Kenya (HC member), Ana Falu from University of Cordoba, Argentina (founder member of Red Mujer y Habitat) have been appointed to AGGI and since its initiation in August 2012.

**World Urban Campaign**

The Huairou Commission has been a member of the WUC Steering committee and the Standing Committee since its inception in 2009, chairing the Women’s Partner Group. The Commission in partnership with its members hosted four Urban Thinkers Campus in 2016 and will host fifteen UTCs in 2017. The Urban Thinkers Campuses provide Huairou Commission’s members a platform to engage with local and national governments and other relevant stakeholders over urban development issues relevant to grassroots women.

**Global and regional events**

Collaboration with the UN Habitat has opened opportunities for Huairou Commission to amplify grassroots women leaders’ voices at the global stage. The Commission has consistently brought grassroots leaders to the UN Habitat global and regional policy, advocacy and partnership platforms in order to gain recognition for grassroots as development partners and experts. Table below captures the Huairou Commission’s member engagement in various UN Habitat programs, partnership platforms and global events, illustrating the extent of grassroots inclusion and representation enabled by the UN Habitat.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Member Organization | Country | Region | Participation in UN Habitat initiatives/programs | Participation in UN Habitat events |
| Africa |  |  |  |  |
| AWARE Uganda | Uganda | Africa |  | The Women and Human Settlements online portal (2010-12) |
| UCOBAC | Uganda | Africa | GLTN Rural cluster member 2016-2017 |  |
| GROOTS Kenya | Kenya | Africa | GLTN Rural cluster member 2016-2017 | World Urban Forum 5 (2010); World Urban Forum 7 (2014) |
| Circle of Hope | Zambia | Africa |  | UN Habitat GC 24 |
| Grassroots Sisterhood Foundation | Ghana | Africa |  | UN Habitat GC 23; World Urban Forum 7 (2014) |
| International Women Communication Center (IWCC Nigeria) | Nigeria | Africa |  | Habitat II (1996); Habitat III (2016) |
| Kenya Poultry Farmers Association | Kenya | Africa |  | Habitat III (2016); Urban Thinkers Campus, Nairobi (2015) |
| Lungujja Community Health Caring Organization | Uganda | Africa |  | UN Habitat GC 22 |
| Mashimoni Settlement Executive Committee | Kenya | Africa | UN-Habitat GLTN Rural cluster member 2016-2017 | Habitat III (2016); World Urban Forum 1 (2002) |
| Polycom Development Project | Kenya | Africa |  | Urban Thinkers Campus, Nairobi (2015) |
| Ray of Hope Zimbabwe | Zimbabwe | Africa |  | UN Habitat GC 26; Habitat III (2016) |
| Rwanda Women's Network | Rwanda | Africa |  | Habitat II (1996); Habitat III (2016); World Urban Forum 1 (2002) |
| Shibuye Community Health Workers | Kenya | Africa |  | Habitat III (2016); UN Habitat GC 24; UN Habitat GC 25; UN Habitat GC 26 |
| SWID Uganda | Uganda | Africa |  | UN Habitat GC 23; UN Habitat GC 22; UN Habitat GC 21; World Urban Forum 5 (2010) |
| Zambia Homeless and Poor People's Federation (ZHPPF) | Zambia | Africa | GLTN Rural cluster member 2014-2015; STDM 2015-2016 | Habitat III (2016)  |
| Maasai Women Development Organization - MWEDO | Tanzania | Africa |  | Habitat I (1976); Habitat III (2016); World Urban Forum 5 (2010) |
| Kawempe Home Based Care Alliance | Uganda | Africa |  | World Urban Forum 7 (2014) |
| Asia |  |  |  |  |
| Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) | India | Asia | GLTN Rural cluster member 2016-2017 |  |
| Lumanti | Nepal | Asia | GLTN Rural cluster member 2016-2017 |  |
| Best Practices Foundation | India | Asia | UN Habitat's Best Practices Steering Committee | UN Habitat conferences related to the anti-corruption interventions; HABITAT III (2016); |
| DAMPA | Philippines | Asia |  | World Urban Forum 3 (2006); World Urban Forum 4 (2008); World Urban Forum 7 (2014); Habitat III (2016) |
| Participatory Development Action Program (PDAP) | Bangladesh | Asia |  | Habitat III (2016); World Urban Forum 3 (2006); World Urban Forum 4 (20100 |
| Seoul Foundation for Women and Family | South Korea | Asia |  | World Urban Forum 4 (2008); Habitat III (2016) |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Yakkum Emergency Unit | Indonesia | Asia | GLTN Rural cluster member 2016-2017 | Habitat III (2016) |
| Europe / North America |  |  |  |  |
| Network for Family  | Czech Republic | Europe |  | Habitat III (2016) |
| GROOTS Canada | Canada | North America |  | World Urban Forum 3 (2006); World Urban Forum 5 (2010); World Urban Forum 7(2014); Habitat II (1996); Habitat III (2016) |
| Women speak out/Working for change | Canada | North America |  | Habitat II (1996) |
| Yellow Knife/ Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group | Canada | North America |  | Habitat III (2016) |
| Latin America / Caribbean |  |  |  |  |
| Fundacion Guatemala (FG) | Guatemala | Latin America |  | The Women and Human Settlements online portal online portal (2010-12): Used the funds they received for preparation to bring 12 women leaders from various regions in Guatemala together in their central office in Isobal, where FG leadership reproduced training manuals and held a three-day- long training on the use of the online WAHS portal, how to create a user profile and personal blog, and participate in online discussion forums. |
| Espaco Feminista | Brazil | Latin America | GLTN Rural cluster member 2014-2015 |  |
| GROOTS Peru | Peru | Latin America |  | World Urban Forum 5 (2010); World Urban Forum 7 (2014) |
| Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP) | Jamaica | Latin America |  | Habitat III (2016) |
| La Unión de Cooperativas de Mujeres Productoras Las Brumas | Nicaragua | Latin America |  |  |
| Red de Mujeres de Lima Este | Peru | Latin America |  | The Women and Human Settlements online portal (2010-12): conducted a three-day- long training on the use of the online WAHS portal, how to create a user. |
| WAGUCHA | Honduras | Latin America |  | Habitat III (2016) |
| Mujeres, Democracia y Ciudadanía A.C. | Mexico | Latin America |  | Habitat III (2016) |
| Groots Jamaica  | Jamaica | Caribbean  |  | World Urban Forum 7 (2014) |

**Concluding remarks and recommendations**

Over the last twenty years, Huairou Commission has had a positive experience working with the UN Habitat agency with the agency being most inclusive and facilitating of the grassroots women’s participation in its normative and representative work. The UN Habitat has demonstrated commitment to innovation by inviting grassroots women as experts in their own right to various Expert Group Meetings and policy dialogues named above. The agency had also facilitates effective grassroots women practitioners’ capacity building programs, such as WAHS in 2010-2011. The UN Habitat engagement with grassroots women leaders is therefore illustrative of its progressive approach to inclusivity and sustainability of human settlements development programs.

The Commission would recommend the UN Habitat to continue developing in the direction of grassroots inclusivity to maximize relevance and efficiency of its work. To strengthen its work, it needs to have a staff line to support the role of grassroots leaders in UN Habitat’s internal and external operations.

**Appendix A**

Huairou Commission’s membership

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | AFRICA |  |
| 1 | AWARE Uganda | Uganda |
| 2 | AFEBEO | Burundi |
| 3 | Centre for Community Organisation and Development (CCODE) | Malawi |
| 4 | Center for Development of People (CEDEP) | Ghana |
| 5 | Circle of Hope | Zambia |
| 6 | Common Initiative Group of the Women Farmers of Bogso | Cameroon |
| 7 | Dialogue on Shelter | Zimbabwe |
| 8 | Directoire National des Femmes en Elevage (DINFEL) | Senegal |
| 9 | Ecological Christian Organization | Uganda |
| 10 | Forum Mulher | Mozambique |
| 11 | FVTM | Madagascar |
| 12 | Gatundi Mwirutiri Women Initiative | Kenya |
| 13 | Grassroots Sisterhood Foundation | Ghana |
| 14 | GROOTS Kenya | Kenya |
| 15 | International Women Communication Center (IWCC) | Nigeria |
| 16 | Iterambere | Burundi |
| 17 | Katuba Women's Association | Zambia |
| 18 | Kawempe Home Based Care Alliance | Uganda |
| 19 | Kenya Poultry Farmers Association | Kenya |
| 20 | Lambassa ICA | Republic of Benin |
| 21 | LAMOSA | South Africa |
| 22 | Likii HIV/AIDS Homebased Care | Kenya |
| 23 | Lungujja Community Health Caring Organization | Uganda |
| 24 | MWEDO | Tanzania |
| 25 | Malawi Home Based Care Alliance | Malawi |
| 26 | Mary Joy Development Organization | Ethiopia |
| 27 | Mashimoni Settlement Executive Committee | Kenya |
| 28 | Medan ACTS (AIDS Control, Treatment and psychosocial Support) | Namibia |
| 30 | Ntankah Village Women Common Initiative Group | Republic of Cameroon |
| 31 | Ntengwe | Zimbabwe |
| 32 | Organization for Social Services for AIDS (OSSA) | Ethiopia |
| 33 | People's Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia (PPHPZ) | Zambia |
| 34 | People's Dialogue on Human Settlements | Ghana |
| 36 | Polycom Development Project | Kenya |
| 37 | Ranchod Hospice | Zambia |
| 38 | Ray of Hope Zimbabwe | Zimbabwe |
| 39 | Rwanda Women's Network | Rwanda |
| 40 | Rural Women's Movement | Zambia |
| 41 | Seke Rural Home Based Care | Zimbabwe |
| 42 | Shibuye Community Health Workers | Kenya |
| 43 | SWID Uganda | Uganda |
| 44 | Wanawake Mashinani Initiative | Kenya |
| 45 | Window of Hope Foundation | Ghana |
| 46 | Women together in development (WOTIDE) | South Africa |
| 47 | Zambia Homeless and Poor People's Federation (ZHPPF) | Zambia |
| 48 | Zimbabwe National Association of Housing Co-operatives (ZINAHCO) | Zimbabwe |
| 49 | Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Children Association (ZPHCA) | Zimbabwe |
| 50 | Zimbabwe Women In Construction Association (ZWICA) | Zimbabwe |
| 51 | Ecological Christian Organization | Uganda |
| 52 | Maasai Women Development Organization - MWEDO | Tanzania |
|  | LATIN AMERICA |  |
| 53 | ADEM | Haiti |
| 54 | Alianza de Mujeres de Costarricense | Costa Rica |
| 55 | Arterias/Articulacao (MDG3) | Brazil |
| 56 | Asociación Civil Rosa de Montaña | Venezuela |
| 57 | Asociacio de Mujeres Emprendedoras para el Desarrolo Integral de la Unidad Ixil | Guatemala |
| 58 | Asociación Municipal de Mujeres de Tecoluca AMMT. | El Salvador |
| 59 | Asociacion de Turismo Comunitario Garifuna LARU BEYA | Guatemala |
| 60 | Asociacion Salvadorena de apoyo y Promocion para la Mujer ASAPROMU | El Salvador |
| 61 | Bahamas Network of Rural Women Producers | Bahamas |
| 62 | Central de Bancos Comunales | Peru |
| 63 | Centro de Mujeres Candelaria | Bolivia |
| 64 | CODIMM  | Guatemala |
| 65 | Comunidad Maria Auxiliadora | Bolivia |
| 66 | CONAMOVIDI | Peru |
| 67 | Conselho de Mulheres da Zona Oeste (COMZO)/Articulacao  | Brazil |
| 68 | Construction Resource and Development Centre (CRDC) | Jamaica |
| 69 | COOCEFAS | Panama |
| 70 | Corte & Arte  | Brazil |
| 71 | Empresa de servicios multiples Iseri Walampu | Honduras |
| 72 | Empresa Wagueira | Honduras |
| 73 | Espaço Feminista | Brazil |
| 74 | Estrategia/GROOTS International | Peru |
| 75 | FEMUM-ALC | Peru |
| 76 | Filhas de Santa do Centro Comunitario Julio Otoni/Articulacao  | Brazil |
| 77 | Fletcher's Landing | Jamaica |
| 78 | Fundación Guatemala | Guatemala |
| 79 | Fundación de Mujeres Luna Creciente | Ecuador |
| 80 | FUNDERPROMUCOOP | Panama |
| 81 | GROOTS Jamaica | Jamaica |
| 82 | GROOTS Peru | Peru |
| 83 | Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP) | Jamaica |
| 84 | La Unión de Cooperativas de Mujeres Productoras Las Brumas | Nicaragua |
| 85 | Neges Foundation | Haiti |
| 86 | Pintadas -Redeh (Cooperative Ser do Sertao) | Brazil |
| 87 | Centro Municipal de Violencia Mujer y Derechos Humanos | Argentina |
| 88 | Red para el Desarrollo Tecnologico atravez de Practicas Innovadoras (invernaders y Tuneles) (DESATEPIN) | Nicaragua |
| 89 | Red de Mujeres Jovenes para el desarrollo del Emprendedurismo Empresarial (JOEMPRES) | Nicaragua |
| 90 | Red de Mujeres de Lima Este | Peru |
| 91 | Red de agricultores de Cacao | Honduras |
| 92 | Ser do Sertao / Rede Pintadas | Brazil |
| 93 | Sistren Theatre Collective | Jamaica |
| 94 | SUR | Chile |
| 95 | Servicios Educativos el Agustino | Peru |
| 9697 | Network of Rural Women Producers of Trinidad and Tobago (NRWPTT) (\*Communicate in Enlgish\*) | Trinidad and Tobago |
| 98 | União dos Movimentos de Moradia São Paulo (UMMSP)  | Brazil |
| 99 | WAGUCHA | Honduras |
| 100 | Women and Habitat  | Chile/ Argentina |
| 101 | Women, Democracy and Citizenship | Mexico |
| 102 | MIRA (Mujeres Iberoamericanas en Red) | Mexico |
| 103 | Centro das Mulheres de Pombos | Brazil |
| 104 | Asociacion Alianza de Mujeres Costarricense | Venezuela  |
| 105 | Red de Investigacion | Panama |
|  | ASIA |  |
| 106 | Best Practices Foundation | India |
| 107 | Centre for the Promotion of Quality of Life (Life Centre) | Vietnam |
| 108 | Co-Multiversity | Philippines |
| 109 | COPE Foundation (R&L) | Philipines |
| 110 | DAMPA | Philippines |
| 111 | Four Regions Slum Network (FRSN)  | Thailand |
| 112 | Grassroots Women´s Empowerment Centre (GWEC)  | Philippines |
| 113 | Himalayan Grassroots Women's Naturals Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI) | Nepal |
| 114 | Jagori | India |
| 115 | Lihok Filipina | Philippines |
| 116 | LOCOA | South Korea |
| 117 | Lumanti | Nepal |
| 118 | Nepal Mahila Ekta Samaj  | Nepal |
| 119 | Pragati Mahila Utthan Savings and Credit Cooperative Ltd.  | Nepal |
| 120 | Participatory Development Action Program (PDAP) | Bangladesh |
| 121 | Partnership for Philippines Support Services (PHILSSA)  | Philippines |
| 122 | Save the Earth Cambodia (STEC) | Cambodia |
| 123 | Seoul Foundation for Women and Family | South Korea |
| 124 | Siyath Foundation | Sri Lanka |
| 125 | Sundog Community  | South Korea |
| 126 | Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) India | India |
| 127 | Urban Poor Women and Development | Cambodia |
| 128 | The Committee of poor people's linkages (JERAMI-KPRM) | Indonesia |
| 129 | Yakkum Emergency Unit | Indonesia |
| 130 | Save the Earth Cambodia (STEC) | Cambodia |
| 131 | Korean Women environmental Network  | South Korea |
| 132 | Korean Institute Center for Sustainable Development (KICSD) | South Korea |
| 133 | Korean Center for Community Organization(KOCO) | South Korea |
| 134 | Korea Women Association United (KWAU) | South Korea |
| 135 | Korean Women enviromental Network  | South Korea |
| 136 | Bicol Urban Poor Coordinating Council (BUPCC) | Philippines |
| 137 | Korean Institute Center for Sustainable Development (KICSD) | South Korea |
| 138 | Korean Center for Community Organization(KOCO) | South Korea |
| 139 | Korea Women Association United (KWAU) | South Korea |
|  | EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA |  |
| 140 | Anglican Consultative Council (Working Group on Girls) | United States |
| 141 | Network for Family  | Czech Republic |
| 142 | Foundation for the Support of Women's Work (KEDV) | Turkey |
| 143 | GROOTS Canada | Canada |
| 144 | James Weldon Johnson Public Housing Complex | United States (New York) |
| 145 | National Congress of Neighborhood Women | United States (New York) |
| 146 | Neighborhood Women of Williamsburg Greenpoint | United States (New York) |
| 147 | Women in Cities International (WICI) | Canada |
| 148 | Women speak out/Working for change | Canada |
| 149 | Yellow Knife/ Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group | Canada |
| 150 | International Council of Women | The Netherlands |

1. With contributions from Kathryn Travers (HC Board of Directors, Women in Cities International, Canada); Sri Husnaini Sofjan (HC Senior Consultant); Mino Ramaroson (HC Global Land program coordinator); Ana Gabriele Sabancevaite (HC Network Liaison); Tatiana Fazio (HC Programs Associate). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)