Gender & Women Roundtable

Gender Equality and the New Urban Agenda
MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

• Urban Equity and Gender Equality
• How to build inclusive, safe, prosperous and sustainable cities for women and men
• Women’s empowerment, leadership and resources
• Sustainable Development Goals, Beijing +20 and Habitat III
• Establish structures and mechanisms at all level: global, regional and local, to facilitate meaningful participation of grassroots women in decision-making structures.
• Formalize partnerships between grassroots women, local authorities, and planners at local and national levels
• Allocation of a percentage of development funds and national/local budgets for entrepreneurial activities of grassroots women to strengthen and diversify their incomes
• Create and recognize mechanisms for citizens to monitor and evaluate equitable service delivery
• Increase institutionalization, legitimation and support for community led data collection
• Transferring knowledge from experiences of women’s organizations in partnership with local governments that allows the allocation of resources to continue with actions in the urban space.

• Recognition of best practices in the different regions for example the Regional Programme on Safer Cities for Women that have a proven evidence base and organized and evaluated outcomes.

• Appreciation of the Advisory Group of Gender Issues in its role in strengthening the Gender Equality Unit in UN-Habitat towards Habitat III.
• With no gender equality there is no urban equity.
• Women entrepreneurs, professionals, researchers, legislators and consumers, at the global national and community level are fostering a new urban agenda.
• Effective and sustained leadership from women is vital to address the long term challenges such urban poverty, and the urban equitative development.
• Prosperous, harmonious, sustainable cities, environmentally safe and inclusive has to be created to benefit the women, the men, the youth and other minorities.
• Good governance recognizes the women as partners and innovative leaders with high capacity for transformation.
• Women access to resources, mobility, safety, economic opportunities together with participatory approaches are key to build “cities for life”.
In preparation of Habitat III, the Habitat II collaborations and associations including women should be consolidated and adopted. The Habitat III agenda has to reflect the needs, experiences and priorities of all constituencies of women and men, among them grassroots organizations and communities with different origins and regions. There is need to focus on the access and control of resources like the land, water and housing, public space and urban services, including affordable transport, health and education. The “Beijing + 20 Agenda”, must highlight the women leadership; budgeting and investment on women empowerment are conditions “sine qua non” for a New Urban Agenda. In the application of the fundamental principles of equity, justice and human rights, the role of the regions has to be evaluated in a constructive way to promote the women rights.
Youth Roundtable

Youth and Rights
MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

- Youth are inventing innovative means of inclusive civic engagement that need to be recognized.
- Structured and permanent mechanisms for youth to effectively engage need to be in place – at all levels.
- Need for intergenerational dialogue.
- Development of collaborative partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, including governments, civil society, youths.
- Need to address inequalities and marginalization faced by young people.
MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

• Youth have the right to voice political opinions freely; the right to all social and cultural venues.
• Declaration of youth rights
• Integration of youth in Habitat III
• Stand alone goal on youth in the Sustainable Development Goals
• Need for increased investment in youth at different levels
• Shift in paradigm from fulfilling the needs to fulfilling the rights of youth not only on paper but more importantly in practice
Main issues emerging from the session

• Indigenous people should be centrally positioned in the debate on urban issues: Indigenous peoples’ right to an adequate housing and their right to the city should be considered.
• Indigenous people are forced to move from their traditional territories and migrate to the cities, for reasons such, climate change, installation of extractive industries and other socio economic reasons.
Beyond the adaptation capacity, the indigenous peoples adaptation in urban areas should be supported for them not to lose their identity. Being that the indigenous people are strongly attached and anchored to their traditional territories and rural areas.

The Indigenous peoples are facing specific issues in urban areas like: Inadequate housing, land rights, no recognition of their traditional knowledge, low level of opportunities, racism, health, discrimination, forced evictions, issues related to traditions and spirituality, housing congestion.
• Equity and justice for indigenous peoples in cities as well as indigenous peoples networks and socio-economic policies in cities should be strongly articulated.
• Housing projects for indigenous peoples have to be socio-culturally adequate, with adequate space, and specific. The national policies must impulse participatory and inclusive housing programmes
The indigenous peoples are particularly vulnerable to climate change. We should learn from the building technologies of indigenous peoples (Ethnic engineering) to mitigate the climate change, since the Indigenous people traditionally lived in harmony with the environment.

The indigenous people should be key partners in the definition of the New Urban Agenda.

The indigenous peoples advocate for a human centered approach towards sustainable development.