

**Research and Academic Partner Constituent Group RAPCG of the General Assembly of
Partners
Statement at Panel 6 Follow-Up and Review,**

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7 June 2016

Madame co chair, distinguished delegates and representatives of member states, as member of both the academic and the women constituency groups, and a member of the Gender Expert Group who met last year at the Ford Foundation, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in this Panel on Follow-Up and Review of the New Urban Agenda.

We seem to be working towards an end, the meeting in Quito.

But Quito is not an end of the road, but the beginning of a process.

Quito is not an arrival point, but a point of departure.

In the process that will start after Quito, Follow-Up and Review are key aspects for getting things done. Follow up and review are key elements in the process of moving from words, declarations, and written statements, into transformative policies, plans and projects which, appropriately funded and well managed, will take us on the path to actually transform our cities and settlements into better places for all to live.

In order to effectively move from words into action, we need to set up an adequate framework for following up and review.

The research and academic community brings a critical mass of expertise, experience and existing platforms and processes to contribute to setting up a good framework for Following-Up and Review.

As academic community, we also want to bring to the forefront some key issues to take into account into the design of such a framework. The academic community can contribute to the creation of sound data, technical capacities, qualitative and quantitative skills, within a framework of global collaborations between all partners, free and open research that fosters critical and independent thinking among students and scholars.

In order to illustrate these points, let me bring in some examples, drawn from my personal experience, of existing platforms and structures that can be of reference. These experiences can certainly be used not only as models but also as cornerstones on which to build the future Follow-up and Review framework of the New Urban Agenda.

1. COST policy driven network genderSTE

genderSTE stands for Gender, Science, Technology and Environment. It is a policy driven multistakeholder network of close to 300 hundred people, representing over 40 countries in the five continents. It is funded by COST, the European program for cooperation in science and technology, which, for the first time did two things of interest to the New Urban Agenda:

- a policy driven multistakeholder network, rather than only a research network, putting together researchers, decision makers, private companies and civil society organizations.
- A network focusing on how to integrate Gender both in the content of research and also into how to transform organizations to become more Gender equal,
- And this in the field of city planning, transport, energy, climate change, and industrial innovation.

With our networking activities held all over the European continent held during the past 4 years we have impacted hundreds of individuals and organizations.

genderSTE creates new knowledge bringing together social sciences and experimental science perspectives, creates multistakeholder networks, disseminates existing know how, and builds capacity across the European Continent and beyond on Gender and cities.

As the main platform on Gender and cities in Europe, we keep a privileged collaboration with the Gender Hub of Universities that is part of UNI-UN-Habitat. We hosted and co-organized the launching of the UNI-UN-Habitat Gender Hub in Madrid in 2013.

I would like to invite you to our final conference Engendering HABitat III which will take place in Madrid on October 5th.

Sustainability of this kind of platform is a main issue we are addressing at this point.

2. UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN program

A second example I would like to mention is the UNESCO Chairs and the UNITWIN program, which as you know constitutes a network of very prestigious chairs around the world focusing of priority issues for UNESCO.

The UNESCO Chairs work as networks, they seek to engage multiple stakeholders, they build bridges around the globe, south-south, north-south, they seek to enhance the work of the United Nations around the world through scientific knowledge, outreach and engagement.

As Director of the recently approved UNESCO Chair on Gender in Science, Innovations and Sustainability at the Technical University of Madrid, I strongly believe that these instruments created by the UN system can play an important role in the follow up and review of UN policies such as the New Urban Agenda.

3. CONICET's collaborations across Latin American countries

I would like now to bring a possible idea building on the research and technological infrastructure of the Latin American Continent.

I would suggest that a network of the existing Research Centers in Latin America, the CONICETs, which are Research Councils set up by national governments to support national researchers on all areas of endeavour, collaborating at the level of the continent, would be an excellent platform that will make use of what is already in place.

It would allow setting up collaborations with governments which would benefit from common work, and from the technical support that can be provided around the continent by its rich research community.

4. Portal for EC policies on Gender in science, GENport

Finally, a brief mention to a specific existing Platform for the Exchange of knowledge on Gender in Science. This Project has five partners from different European countries and several advisory boards addressing both the technological dimension and the Gender and research content, in which I am honoured to participate.

The Genport Project, funded by the European Commission, aims at becoming a world class repository of information, data, documents, and all kind of resources in the field of Gender mainstreaming in the fields of research and innovation. This can be a model using new technologies for knowledge management, knowledge sharing, even also multisectoral participation.

These are models that in one way or another address some of the key issues that were raised over the last two days, namely,

1. Ensuring affordability. It is not that there are not initiatives and existing platforms. Often the issue is that they are underfunded.

WE academics are continually looking for resources because there is no sustainable model to support this type of initiatives. This is a waste of human capital and resources.

There must be a commitment in terms of funding of research activities, with autonomy, with a comprehensive coverage in terms of priorities, disciplines, geographical areas, and constituencies impacted.

2. The need for both natural and social sciences, of quantitative and qualitative research, and of multidisciplinary. genderSTE, UNESCO, Genport
3. Taking on board, using, and protecting non academic research, relying on local and indigenous knowledges. UNESCO, CONICETs, gedernSTE, GENPORT
4. Taking full advantage of the new technology, including GIS in order to visualize urban visions and urban solutions, and disaggregating data at territorial and sociodemographic dimensions, knowledge sharing and participatory processes. GENport
5. Making sure data and indicators are properly disaggregated at the subnational, regional, metropolitan, urban and peri urban scales, and by sex, age, and territories where people live. GEnderSTE, Conicet, UNESCO

To conclude my presentation, I would like to stress that the Research and Academic Community fully supports the proposal by the General Assembly of Partners to set up the three following structures for ensuring appropriate Follow-up and Review of the New Urban Agenda:

1. A Knowledge Platform for sustainable urbanization, that is international and multistakeholder
2. The Partners Urban Lab for Sustainability
3. The Partners Dashboard for Sustainable Urbanization

We heartily encourage you to take these three proposals on board for the Follow-up and review.

We also urge that this is done building on existing platforms and structures.

Finally, we urge that they be designed in ways that appropriately take into account issues of sustainability, funding, data collection and disaggregation, local and indigenous knowledge, multidisciplinary, and use of technology.

What we need to do is a follow up that is able to engage policy makers and academia, in ways that can scale up these efforts, and give them a **scope, depth** and **ambition** that is up to the challenges ahead of the world cities.

I am sure this can be done.

Thank you very much for your attention.

I hope I will be able to see some of you in October at our Engendering HABitat III Conference in Madrid.