



Informal Hearings with Local Authorities Associations

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Women's Partners Constituent Group of GAP

Intervention on Panel A- Building the urban structure: establishing a supportive national, sub-national and local framework

Good morning Chair and distinguished delegates. Thank you for the opportunity to take the floor and share our recommendations.

My name is Katia Araujo. I am Director of Programs with the Huairou Commission and I am here speaking on behalf of the Women's Partners Constituent Group of General Assembly of Partners.

As rights-holders and stakeholders in the implementation of the NUA, we want to ensure the role and views of all women are recognized and recommendations are integrated. **This integration can only take place through development of policies and clear mechanisms that are gender-responsive, in particular on the critical element of urban structure at national, sub-national and local levels.**

We the women's group welcome the inclusion of many key recommendations of the Women's Partners Constituent Group in the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda, in particular in relation to the recognition of full respect of human rights for all to achieve gender equality and empowerment of **all** women and girls, and the recognition of women's participation in decision-making in its vision.

In line with recommendations shared on the floor today, we recommend that the New Urban Agenda pays special attention to the issue of **meaningful engagement of stakeholders, partnerships and localization.**

As Women's Group, we call on the New Urban Agenda to serve as a more definitive roadmap that outlines a succinct set of specific, measurable, verifiable and timebound responsibilities for local governments with respect to women that will provide greater guidance for implementation. While governments have committed an ambitious agenda for women 20 years ago at Habitat II, we note with disappointment the lack of consistent implementation and follow up demonstrated in published country reports.

We hope that Quito represents a clear turning point in terms of a pathway towards a true, new *Gender Agenda* in the years to come. We need national and city governments to commit to a meaningful participatory process for convening women's policy forums to allow women to collectively formulate and monitor progress on policy issues relevant to women, in particular at the local level. We need to ensure a regular process of training of local government officials on gender related issues and concerns. We need cities to commit to engendered, participatory budgets, regular reports and interactive communication using mechanisms such as data portals and websites on policies and plans specific to women, and to create and monitor progress towards gender specific indicators, targets and goals.

For us, meaningful engagement, partnership and localization can only be addressed by establishing a local action framework sustaining a transparent process that reinforces the **localization of the Agenda. This is the only way to be sustainable and with the clear role and attributions of local actors to which stakeholders subscribe and has at its core a rather uncompromising set of performance indicators. In this sense, each indicator area accounting for women's livelihoods, security of tenure, women's asset base, and others of the nature.**