



Habitat III Informal Hearings with Stakeholders
Women's Partners Constituent Group of GAP
June 6-7 2016

Good morning Chair and distinguished delegates. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to take the floor today.

I'm Katia Araujo. I am Director of Programs with the Huairou Commission and co-chair of the Women's Partners Constituent Group of GAP.

Co-Chaired by Huairou Commission & AFEM (Association Femmes Europe Méridionale), the WPCG serves as a collaborative space for advocacy by bringing together a collective women's voice, policy recommendations, and the concerns and priorities of grassroots women and women's organizations, along the entire spectrum of diversity and the life cycle, regarding urban policies and sustainable urbanization in the HABITAT III processes.

Women are over 50% of the population. As WPCG, we are 226 subscribers to the WPCG active listserv and organizing tool, having 96 organizations respondents to our engagement and advocacy strategy representing 32 countries. This includes global networks organized at community levels and reaches global scale.

We thank the Bureau and we welcome the inclusion of many recommendations of WPCG into the Zero Draft such as the recognition of women's participation in decision-making in its vision. We, in particular, welcome, the recognition of full respect of human rights for all to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. At the same time, we appreciate its strong recognition that women's needs are safety and security of tenure making multiple mentions of women's access to land, housing and employment. We hope that such commitments will continue throughout the entire process based on inclusiveness and transparency.

For us, the New Urban Agenda provides an unique opportunity to incorporate the centrality of gender equality – thus this will be successful with fundamental structural changes.

This means going beyond a focus on women's "vulnerability" and exclusion, past the identification of women's practical "basic needs" in urban planning or even the strategic empowerment of individual women. Instead, this means moving towards collective action capable of challenging fundamental inequalities.

Therefore, we further recommend:

Preamble must set a gender-responsive Analytical Framework streamlined throughout the text. To be present in the design, implementation and review phases, that includes recognition of how social, economic and political inequalities manifests differently upon different groups of society owing to ethnicity, race, abilities, social status, and gender.

Women's role should be as co-creators of cities and human settlements. As contributors to inclusive prosperity. Women play multiple roles in the formal, informal, private and public care economy and this must be quantified recognized and redistribute as an essential contribution to sustainable cities.

Today, we would like to further stress that no one should be left behind concerning land rights, NUA needs to confirm the duty of States to recognize, respect and safeguard all legitimate tenure rights, including informal and customary tenure, and promote and facilitate the enjoyment of them.

Ensure affordable, gender responsible and universally accessible services and access to natural resources.

The New Urban Agenda needs to confirm that business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights and legitimate tenure rights. New Urban Agenda also needs to promote durable solutions for displaced persons.

Establish frameworks to ensure the sustainable use of land as well as mechanisms to generate revenue from land, they can guide and finance sustainable urban development and create inclusive and resilient cities. Thank you!

