

EXPERT GROUP MEETING (EGM) ON GENDER PERSPECTIVES OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA (5 June 2016)

Key messages

- Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development provides the opportunity for a radical paradigm shift towards a people-centred New Urban Agenda which places the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at its centre. The New Urban Agenda should recognize and promote the agency and capacities of all urban inhabitants; and realize the rights of all urban inhabitants, present and future as actors and creators, to build inclusive and sustainable cities, defined as a common good essential to full and good quality of life.
- The Preamble must set a gender-responsive analytical framework which should be reflected throughout the text. The rights, priorities and needs of women and girls living in urban areas should be made visible in the New Urban Agenda.
- Women's participation and leadership at all levels, including in local government, should be stressed as a priority. The participation of women's civil society organizations in the design, implementation and the follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda is critical.
- The New Urban Agenda should address the multiple forms of discrimination and disadvantage that women living in poverty face, both in rural areas and in urban slums - due to gender, age, ethnicity, race, disabilities, social status and other factors, and which are used to deny women their full and equal enjoyment of human rights.
- The New Urban Agenda must affirm the crucial role women play as decision makers and their agency and contribution to the informal, formal, private and public economies, including the care economy which must be quantified and recognized as an essential contribution to sustainable cities.
- It must recognize unpaid care and domestic work as an integral part of the urban economy. It should promote the sharing of responsibilities of care and domestic work within the household as well as through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection. It should also ensure equal opportunities to decent work for women and equal pay.
- The New Urban Agenda must confirm the duty of Governments at all levels to recognize, respect and safeguard legitimate tenure rights for all, including informal and customary tenure.
- The New Urban Agenda must reaffirm that health care services at all levels should provide universal sexual and reproductive health services to all women across the life cycle, including family planning, information and education to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Gender-responsive planning and design for the location and accessibility of such services should support women's access to services and reduce their travel time.
- The New Urban Agenda must recognize that sustainable urban development, guided by national urban policies, rests on integrated national and international financing frameworks that are supported by an enabling international economic environment, to facilitate implementation of an inclusive and pro-poor and gender-responsive New Urban Agenda.
- The New Urban Agenda should prioritize reliable sources of financing and put into place mechanisms to ensure gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation of the urban policies and programmes.

- Gender-responsive urban infrastructure and services requires that developed and developing country partners agree to set a concrete target of official development assistance and national budgets to cities towards this aim.
- Capacity development should be anchored in a multi-level institutional coordination framework and focus on empowering local civil servants and administrations with adequate knowledge and skills to mainstream a gender perspective throughout planning, budgeting, and implementation processes.
- Data collection and indicators, analysis, dissemination and use as well as gender statistics are essential at the international, national, and local levels to monitor progress achieved and to make decisions to adjust implementation strategies. Data should be transparent, openly accessible, and disaggregated by sex, age, income, location and other factors as appropriate to capture existing inequalities and aid efforts to promote inclusive development.