

Intervention by Older Persons Partner Constituent Group

For the Panel on “Right to the City and Cities for All” 26 April 2016

As the co-chair of the newly created Habitat III GAP Older Persons Partner Constituent Group, I would like to thank the chair for permitting us to have an opportunity to address issues that relate directly to global ageing which are key if we want to create urban areas that “Leave No One Behind” and that reflect the Right to the City for All”. The percentage of persons 60+ living in urban areas has increased rapidly from 29% to 47% in the past 30 years with over 500 million older persons already living in cities.

Today’s concept note touches on only some aspects of global urban ageing.

It does not address the need for safe multi-use public spaces necessary to support social cohesion to prevent isolation that too often can lead to depression.

It does not mention protection of land rights for widows.

It does not mention the value of older men in caregiving.

It does not mention investing in sustainable, affordable, accessible and appropriate public transportation required to ensure that older persons remain connected to their families, to their jobs and to their communities.

And it does not mention the excellent World Health Organization’s Age Friendly Cities and Communities initiative launched in 2006 that currently reaches 287 cities and communities in 33 countries which offers specific criteria to ensure that the city works for all ages.

Fulfillment of our rights without discrimination based on our older age is key to building inclusive, sustainable, secure and prosperous communities for all; recognizing the contributions of older persons who share their lifetime experiences, expertise and resources, only benefits everyone.

As a member of the General Assembly of Partners, we support the effort to create a member-states-declared Decade of Sustainable Urbanization.

Thank you for your attention.

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