



**Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III
GAP Women PCG Statement July 26th 2016
Delivered by Katia Araujo, co-chair**

Thank you, Co-chairs and distinguished delegates for this opportunity to take the floor.
I am Katia Araujo, Director of Programs of the Huairou Commission and co-chair of the Women's Partners Constituency Group.

Women and girls are more than half of the world's population. Indicators of their marginalized status include their overrepresentation in poor living conditions in slums, in subsistence agriculture and in unpaid or low-paid work in the informal economy. Also, women typically bear primary responsibility for community development in particular low-income women, and are tasked with compensating for the withdrawal of or lack of provision of basic services by governments.

Critical elements of women's lives are mentioned in this third draft of NUA. We welcome the 22 references to women, gender equality and age and gender responsiveness currently in the text, in particular the inclusion and particular attention to women's security of tenure on para 29. We also welcome the commitment **to realize gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls**, in para 5. Nevertheless, **we recommend to change realize with achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls** as better reflects with the commitments already made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

For us, the Women's Partner's Constituent Group, the current draft can improve in its aspirations and alignment to the commitments, targets and indicators established in the 2030 Agenda, in order **to guarantee that the New Urban Agenda is based on the centrality of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment for sustainable, resilient, and safe cities and human settlements. This is most important in the monitoring implementation and accountability of the NUA including the collection of dis-aggregated data at the local and national level that can be achieved by aligning it with the 2030 Agenda.**

Furthermore, we recommend to emphasize women's and men's different experiences, their differentiated needs and the active role of women in urban development as well as, the necessity of the removal of barriers that prevent women of all ages and communities for being full participants in political and economic life such as, the burden of unpaid and domestic work. Moreover, we would like to **stress the importance of systematic empowerment and engagement of women in decision making in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of urban governance, planning and management.** For this reason, we strongly recommend an institutionalized structure to guarantee participatory age and gender responsive approaches at all stages of the urban and territorial policy processes.

Finally, the role of all actors should be considered in their different capacities, contributions and stands, in particular low-income women. In addition, States should relate as duty bearers, integrating in their fiscal frameworks the formal ways in which they will implement the Agenda, and, as such, need to engage rights holders at all levels of implementation, monitoring and evaluation. A specific mechanism to monitor the social and environmental impacts of the private sector actions, especially



large corporations, must be put in place in order to promote a transition towards the optimal alliance needed to devise the kind of human settlements and cities that we want.

Thank you.