



Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meetings

28 April 2016

Women's Partners Constituent Group GAP

Intervention on National Urban Policies (Policy Unit 3)

Ms. Lana Finikin

Good morning Chair.

Thank you for this opportunity to take the floor.

My name is Lana Finikin, I come from Jamaica, where I serve as Executive Director of the Sistren Theatre Collective, a member of GROOTS Jamaica and the Huairou Commission. Today I am speaking on behalf of the Women's Partners Constituent Group for Habitat III.

I am pleased that Policy Unit 3, of which I am a member, has identified gender equality among its policy priorities. Indeed, national governments must be responsive to the different needs of its constituencies in terms of gender, race, age, and ethnicity, among others. Within the urban development framework, issues such as public space design particularly require the application of a gendered lens.

Building upon this, we would like to see that the New Urban Agenda:

- Adopts urban and territorial planning with a gender perspective. It is essential to review the urban mechanisms of planning, evaluation and follow-up from a perspective that takes into account the women's right to the city. The gender perspective must also be incorporated to local public policies, programs, projects, sustainable financing, and gender budgeting.
- Approaches security and urban coexistence with a gender perspective.
- Includes policies that integrate women's rights and promotes equality when caring for dependents. Policies regarding care should respond to the context of the territories and to the fact that women usually have the burden of caring for their dependents. In that sense, urban planning should include women's needs and demands to increase their financial autonomy.
- Addresses citizen participation and political leadership. The experience across regions has shown that it is important to encourage the active participation of women to identify their needs and priorities in improving the quality of life.
- Encourages that the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programs are carried out in partnership with organized women's and community groups.
- **Facilitate partnerships between grassroots women, local authorities, and technical experts** to build the capacity of women's groups to understand and participate in budget planning and monitoring.
- Strongly promotes urban policy that is intentionally climate-resilient and ensures sustainable management in natural resources.



- Implement gender equality initiatives that include consulting women's groups to engender the design and operation of urban development programs and to take into the diverse nature of women's households, responsibilities, and needs in relation to housing, basic services, public space etc.
- **Enable local communities and grassroots women's groups to prioritize the agenda** and access and shape budget allocations through mechanisms like local gender desks and participatory budgeting fora.