

WUF11 SESSION CONCEPT NOTE

WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY

Women Leading Peace, Security, Resilience, Care, & Economic Recovery: a Pathway to Transform Cities for Better Future

1. List of Partners Contributing to the Session:

- Huairou Commission
- Advisory Group on Gender Issues UN-Habitat (AGGI)
- UN-Women
- United Cities and Local Governments
- AFEM (Association Femmes Europe Méridionale)
- Women's New European Bauhaus
- Women Transforming Cities International Society
- Women and Habitat Network LAC
- FEMUM ALC
- General Assembly of Partners
- Global Coalition for Safer Public Places and Cities for Women and Girls
- National Congress of Neighborhood Women
- University of Technology in Katowice
- University of Leopold
- Italian Youth Council
- Polish Associations
- Safetipin
- Bufete de Estudios Interdisciplinarios AC
- Stand for Her Land Campaign

2. Key Words:

Gender equality, women's empowerment & leadership, governance, peace and security, immigrants & refugees, building resilience and reducing risk, NUA, good practices and tools, SDG 5, SDG 11, SDG 16, intersectional gender-responsive cities, transport, sustainable urban futures, safety, economic empowerment, care systems, systemic changes, inclusive macroeconomic policy. Impact of COVID, conflict and crisis, job & income, health care, violence, racism, education, inclusiveness in government systems, reconstruction, climate change, secure land & housing property.

3. Objectives of the Session:

- Examine advances made in the implementation of the gender items included in the New Urban Agenda with particular focus on actual examples
- Explore women's approaches and needs, and the gender dynamics in urban crisis prevention, response, recovery and reconstruction, and in conflict, post conflict, and emergencies such as climate change & pandemics.
- Issues to address: access to resources, transit, mobility, basic public services, shelter and housing, public space, employment and incomes, education and training, health care,

gender budgeting and funding, incomes/livelihood, child and elder care, water, energy, sanitation, humanitarian protocols, representation and safety.

- Examine participation, decision-making and women's leadership in community-level, local and national policies, synergies between leadership, policy, planning, civil society, women's organizations for achieving intersectional gender equity, empowerment in human settlements.
- Examine and develop principles, good practices, and recommendations, taking context into account, for systemic intersectional gender-responsive and women-led action that accelerate the implementation of the NUA.

4. Summary:

The Women's Assembly is a key meeting point for participants working to build peaceful, sustainable, and women-friendly cities. It will serve as a space to share tools, strategies, plans, actions and perspectives on implementation of the NUA and its role in promoting women-friendly cities and urban futures.

UN-Habitat recognizes that gender mainstreaming is key to developing solutions for accelerating progress towards achieving the SDGs and implementing the NUA, as well as women's empowerment. Grassroots women, professionals, women in local authorities, have led since 1995 the international agenda of women in human settlements.

In line with WUF11's theme on "Transforming our cities for a better urban future", the Women's Assembly will focus on how the implementation of the NUA with an intersectional gendered lens plays a key role to contributing to inclusive urban development for all.

Women are key agents of change for the implementation of the NUA and the transformation of human settlements, including in situations of crisis such as the pandemic and conflict. The needs, voices and representation of all women (grassroots women living in slums and disadvantaged neighborhoods, older and younger, women with disabilities, mothers, Afro-descendants and indigenous, refugees, immigrants, SOGI, peacekeepers, ethnic and cultural minorities, etc.) continue to present particular challenges for those working in all areas related to urban development: safe cities, work and income, urban poverty, pandemics, labor informality, digitization, care systems, conflict and post-conflict, organized crime, climate change, crises prevention, response and recovery.

Women from every level of urban life will be at the centre of this event, sharing their strength and experience, to collectively develop strategies for confronting the issues that threaten women's equality and inclusion in cities. The Women's Assembly session will assess the situation in different parts of the world, identify good practices that can be scaled up and formulate concrete recommendations for relevant stakeholders.

5. Guiding Questions for Discussions:

- What policy measures are required to make cities and human settlements more inclusive, safe, accessible, affordable, peaceful, resilient, and sustainable, considering the different problems, needs and interests of women from the global South and North, especially in the recovery programs and in the planning of the reconstruction of cities after humanitarian emergencies, such as covid, climate change, and conflicts?
- What good practices, experiences, and cultural changes have emerged from the Covid pandemic in terms of gender impacts in, human settlements and urban areas?
- What are some of the specific challenges faced by migrant and refugee women on arrival?

- What can cities do to specifically promote the integration of refugee women and their dependents?
- What types of measures can be put in place to ensure that intersectional gender equality and equity considerations are integrated into urban governance, planning, implementation, funding and evaluation?
- What systemic institutional mechanisms are required to link the implementation of SDG 11, SDG 5, and the New Urban Agenda?
- How can we ensure and build strengthened integration of gender responsive approaches and women's empowerment in human settlements?
- How are national, regional, local level governments collecting and analyzing disaggregated data on urban planning to improve programming and monitor progress?
- What accountability mechanisms are in place to ensure that cities deliver for all women and girls?
- What role do women's organizations and grassroots women play in all this?

How do the core documents of WUF11 available in agreed UN languages contribute to the inclusion and further promotion of the NUA?

6. Expected Outcomes and Impact:

A report and plan of action summarizing discussions and recommendations directed at national, regional and local governments, and stakeholders will be disseminated, including at special session 2022 HLPF, on the website of UN-Habitat and partners. Outcomes and main take-aways will be included in WUF11 outcome declaration, "Katowice Declared Actions".

7. Session Format:

The Women's Assembly session will include the opening with keynote speakers, leaders from women's organizations, plenary dialogue, Ted-talk style presentations of practices and tools, and breakout-groups focused on highlighting women's leadership, roles and wise practices on the key themes. All sessions will aim to include women-led and gender-responsive implementation of the NUA, the 2030 Agenda, multi-stakeholder partnerships and gender statistics. The session is to ensure interactive of all participants and organizations – both in-person and virtually.