

WUF11 SESSION CONCEPT NOTE

WOMEN'S ROUNDTABLE

Innovative gender transformative urban solutions to housing, mobility, planning, and governance

1. List of Partners Contributing to the Session:

- Huairou Commission
- UN-Habitat Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI)
- UN-Women
- Women and Habitat Network LAC
- United Cities and Local Government
- Women's New European Bauhaus of UNESCO Chair on Gender UPM
- AFEM Association des Femmes de l'Europe Méridionale
- Women Transforming Cities
- Safetipin

2. Key Words:

Urban planning and design, women's empowerment, gender equality, NUA, good practices and tools, SDG 5, SDG 11, sustainable urban futures

3. Objectives of the Session:

- To create awareness on the importance of prioritizing women's empowerment and gender equality in the urban design and planning processes, and to exchange knowledge, best practices, and skills to effectively implement gender-responsive strategies.
- To explore the different methods and tools, including better data, for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in human settlements planning and development.
- To showcase examples of good practice in gender mainstreaming urban planning and design.
- To identify the challenges within local & national governments and the private sector in mainstreaming gender in planning as implied in the NUA.
- To improve participatory and engagement processes, particularly of grassroots women, as well as coordination and cooperation between different organization by involving women as effective actors of planning and urban development processes.

4. Summary:

The WUF11 theme, 'Transforming our Cities for a Better Urban Future,' provides a chance for all stakeholders, including women, to engage and ensure that their different views and needs are heard, and that their rights and needs are taken into consideration. The Women's Roundtable will serve as a space to discuss and share experiences, tools, strategies, and actions for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and urban

dimension of the SDGs. Women often carry an extra burden, and often experience greater difficulty in accessing urban resources and services tailored to their needs, as well as decision-making opportunities and positions. Gender equality and inclusion are emphasized in the New Urban Agenda as transformative commitments. This meeting will focus on how implementing the New Urban Agenda strategically supports mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment in human settlements. The roundtable will create an opportunity for women to share innovative ways to bring their voices into the planning and development process. Speakers will vary between national and local government, individual women and civil society groups and well as professionals and academics, so that information can be exchanged between key stakeholders in order to exchange knowledge and experience to understand women's perspectives, challenges and needs, ultimately contributing to achieve the gender equality priorities embedded in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. Guiding Questions for Discussions:

- How can policy makers, planners and urban designers mainstream gender in planning processes as a pre-requisite factor in the policies, programmes and decision making process so as to create safer, sustainable and inclusive urban development?
- What are the barriers to women's empowerment and greater gender equality in urbanization processes?
- How can the international community enhance the capacity of local and national government to practice gender mainstreaming as a key approach to the implementation of the NUA?
- What mechanism and policy can be put in place to recognise the role of civil society and non-governmental organizations in designing and implementing gender transformative urbanization?
- What are some of the best practice examples of gender mainstreaming in planning processes across the world?

6. Expected Outcomes and Impact:

The outcome of the Women's Roundtable session will be a report, containing a summary of the discussion and recommendations directed at National and Local governments, and other stakeholders. The report will be widely disseminated, made available at the next WUF Women's Roundtable session and on the website of UN-Habitat. The outcomes and main take-aways are expected to feed into the WUF11 outcome declaration, "Katowice Declared Actions".

7. Session Format:

The 2-hour Women's Roundtable session will be signed with a panel of speakers responding to key questions on the theme followed by an interactive Dialogue with participants, and a summary session on the key recommendations.