



The Women's Partners Constituent Group (WPCG) serves as a collaborative space for advocacy by bringing together a collective women's voice, policy recommendations, and the concerns and priorities of women and women's organizations, along the entire spectrum of diversity and the life cycle, regarding urban policies and sustainable development.

Good afternoon,

My name is Ellen Woodsworth. I am the chair of Women Transforming Cities International Society and

I speak today on behalf of the Women's Partners Constituent Group of the General Assembly of Partners, along with the Grassroots Constituent Group, we are a platform for women, in particular grassroots women's voices working on sustainable urban development of their communities and cities and informing the Habitat III process and the New Urban Agenda.

Against the backdrop of the recently shared draft of the Prague Declaration, which promote four principles. We appreciate that the principle on Innovative and productive cities establishes that liveable cities must ensure gender equality and women's empowerment as well as take into consideration youth, race and gender perspectives, we would like to emphasize that inclusive cities and the reduction of urban poverty will only be accomplished if:

- Intersectionality must be applied. An intersectional lens is a measurable, time sensitive grid to reflect the multidimensional lives of citizens. Crises such as climate change, affordable housing, and income impact women and girls differently. We must also add the other lenses of race, culture, income, paid and unpaid work, ability, diversity, age etc which often have much more significant and far-reaching effects that are only seen if looked at with the multiple lens that intersectionality provides. Professor Patricia Hill Collins said that "Intersectionality" must be rooted in social justice. Using an intersectional lens is a strategy to address systemic barriers. Using an intersectional lens is the way to implement useful and effective urban policies. We all access cities and city services in different ways.
- **The role that women already play in achieving sustainable urban development and resilient cities, as well as their potential to contribute meaningfully in decision-making processes, is acknowledged. Women and girls need to be empowered not only for equity reasons, but also because of their capacity to drive change is a key resource that is often understated. The actors leading the process of planning of cities should also listen to and consider voices of local communities, youth and elderly, persons with disabilities, grassroots associations and other marginalized groups, and promote and support local and indigenous practices and solutions to building resilient cities.**
- Full and equal participation and leadership of women is integrated in multilevel governance. This means the role and views of women and grassroots in all dimensions are recognized and recommendations are integrated. This integration can only take place through development of policies that are gender-responsive in particular on essential elements of sustainable urban development.



- Explicitly appoints implementation and monitoring roles for communities, specially organized constituencies of grassroots women; which means, ensuring that they are adequately resourced and within an enabling environment for mutually beneficial partnerships with local and national government and institutional actors that recognize, promote and strengthen grassroots participation in decision-making.
- We expect that NUA financing and implementation mechanisms will be gender/equity responsive, transformative and inclusive for all.
- Use mechanisms to identify and engage diverse groups in policy formulation and implementation, especially grassroots women, as well as those most vulnerable to environmental shocks and stresses
- Introduces gender budgeting on all decision making levels (international, national, local) as an analytic and governance tool to promote gender equality.
- Strongly promotes urban policy that is intentionally climate-resilient and ensures sustainable management in natural resources
- The need to address the affordable housing and climate change crisis cannot be separated from the Global inequity crisis. We must engage all citizens in the call for an ecojustice approach to creating the Prague Agreement and the City We Need.