

Statement

Mildred Crawford- Farmers Constituency

Habitat III Europe and North America Regional Meeting

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Thank you Chair,

On behalf of the Farmers Constituency, I express gratitude to the Czech Government, Habitat III, and General Assembly of Partners for allowing me the privilege to be here. More specifically, I have to recognize the Minister of Regional Development who visited the Women's Caucus which endorses solidarity with women work.

As farmers, we stand at the crossroad on the tenets of Sustainable Development Goals 1- No Poverty, 2- No Hunger, 3- Good Health and Well-being, 5- Gender Equality, 11- Sustainable Cities and communities, 17- Partnerships

We believe in the principle that no one should be left behind; and this has to be evidenced in the New Urban Policy that is on Urban – Rural Nexus

Urban growth and sprawl, migration at all levels, has left the rural areas with the majority being the most vulnerable populations; like our women and children, who are subjects of land grabbing, government repossessions, forced evictions, territorial and economic displacement.

In some regions, urbanization is moving into rural areas due to population increase and farmers face the risk of losing arable agricultural land in exchange for residential expansion.

It is important to promote a multi-stakeholder approach to urban rural development; with planners, professionals, local authorities, formal and informal dwellers, to inform and sensitize on development activities.

This will ensure

- a) Compatibility on what development brings to the geographic space identified
- b) In considering infrastructure, research becomes critical to reduce or eliminate displacement and promote decent work ((municipal market vendors)
- c) The indigenous knowledge of community dwellers be respected and considered in the execution of planning strategies to ensure territorial balance and particular attention to the equilibrium between urban and rural growth
- d) Consideration be given to the vulnerable women as farmers/ market vendors, children and the municipal setting of market and other public spaces; for proper sanitation, safety, and security.