



AGGI

THE ADVISORY GROUP ON GENDER ISSUES

Annual Report

September 2012 - August 2013

UN  **HABITAT**
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

The Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI) Annual Report – September 2012 - August 2013

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Chair's Statement

Message from Madame Aminata Traore - Chair of Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI)

We have recently reviewed and revised the workplan to reflect ongoing and future activities.

It is with great pleasure that we present the first AGGI annual report with a first set of recommendations based on the meetings and discussion we have had since September last year.

Since our inauguration at WUF6, we have met two times in Nairobi - in November 2012 and in April 2013. In between we have held many meetings amongst ourselves to discuss various emerging issues during the year.

In December 2012, we submitted a first workplan, and we are pleased to report to you on the activities we have undertaken since then. We have recently reviewed and revised the workplan to reflect ongoing and future activities. It is attached herewith for your consideration.



I believe the richness of our diverse experiences and expertise in gender equality issues makes the AGGI a valuable resource with capacity to advise the Executive Director. On behalf of the AGGI, I would like to thank you and the UN-Habitat secretariat for all your support to AGGI during its first year.

Recommendations

1

Gender Resolution– AGGI recommends that UN-Habitat and its partners fully implement the Gender Resolution 24/4 on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment to Contribute to Sustainable Urban Development

2

Gender Dimensions in Core Planning Documents - AGGI recommends that UN-Habitat systematically integrate gender dimensions in all its planning documents and implementation strategies.

3

Gender Policy and Plan – AGGI recommends that the revised gender policy and plan drafted by an independent, international gender consultant (funded by UN Women, at UN Habitat’s request) in April 2013 be formally adopted.

4

Gender Equality Secretariat - AGGI recommends that the Gender Unit be renamed Gender Equality Secretariat. As a temporary solution its location is to be retained under Project Office, but reporting directly to the Deputy Executive Director. With its expanded scope of responsibilities and functions, and with full funding, it is recommended that the Gender Equality Secretariat should be placed in the Executive Director’s Office.

5

Adequate Support for Gender Unit - AGGI recommends urgent investments in additional staff and core budget allocations to enable the Gender Unit to effectively deliver on its mandate.

Background and Introduction

AGGI is established as an independent advisory body to the UN-Habitat Executive Director, guided by principles of integrity, transparency, trust and accountability.

It is with great pleasure that we present the first AGGI annual report with a first set of recommendations based on the meetings and discussion we have had since September last year.

The Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI) was established following the Governing Council (GC) resolution 23/1 which tasked the Executive Director to “set up an advisory group on gender issues consisting of representatives of women’s organizations (both grass-roots and professional organizations), academic institutions, the private sector, local authorities, and policymakers and decision makers in Governments, taking into account equal regional representation, to advise the Executive Director on all issues related to gender mainstreaming in the work of

the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and to provide oversight regarding the implementation of the gender equality action plan within the existing programme of work and budget.”

AGGI is established as an independent advisory body to the UN-Habitat Executive Director, guided by principles of integrity, transparency, trust and accountability. Its role is to advance women’s empowerment and gender equality in sustainable urban development; through the provision of strategic guidance and advice, across policies, programme of work and budgeting at global, regional, national and local levels, taking note of gender evaluations, resolutions and the wider UN context for coherent work on women’s empowerment and gender equality. The work of AGGI addresses and impacts on all the thematic areas of UN-Habitat’s work.

Membership

The Advisory Group on Gender Issues is made up of 18 members nominated with a consideration of age, gender, regional balance and professional backgrounds.

AGGI is led by a Chair - **Aminata Traoré** who was elected by the membership in the inaugural meeting held on 1 September 2012 in Naples, Italy. Vice chair is Thomas Ball, representing the Government of Norway (donor countries).

Founding Members



Aminata Dramane Traoré - Chair AGGI
Author, politician, gender and political activist



Thomas Ball - Vice Chair AGGI
Deputy Permanent Representative,
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of
Norway to UN-Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya



H. E. Dr Batilda S. Burian

United Republic of Tanzania to Kenya,
High Commissioner and Permanent
Representative to UN-Habitat



Diane Dumashie

Land economist



Anne Hidalgo

President of UCLG; 1st Deputy Mayor
of Paris



Janice Peterson

Chair of Huairou Commission



Ana Falu

Professor and Researcher National
University of Cordoba, Argentina



Lakshmi Puri

Deputy Executive Director, UN-Women

AGGI Founder Members (cont'd)



Esther Mwaura-Muiru

Founder and Coordinator, GROOTS Kenya



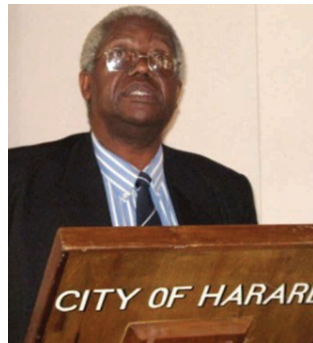
Teresa Boccia

Professor Urban Planning, Federico II University of Naples – Faculty of Architecture and LUPT Interdepartmental Research Centre, Italy



Carmen Griffiths

Executive Director of the Construction Resource and Development Center (CRDC); Leader and organizer of GROOTS Jamaica



M.A. Masunda

Mayor of Harare, City of Harare, Zimbabwe



Ramzia Aleryani

General Secretary, General Arab Women Union Chairwoman, Yemeni Women's Union



Siraj Sait

Reader and Head of Research, University of East London



Ester Borrás Andreu

Deputy Permanent Representative,
Permanent Mission of the Spain to
UN-Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya



Micere Mugo

Meredith Professor for Teaching
Excellence, Syracuse University; gender
activist and champion



Nilcéa Freire

Representative, Ford Foundation,
Brazil and Former Minister of the
Special Secretariat for Policies for
Women, Brazil.



Sri Husnaini Sofjan

Chief Executive Officer, Penang
Women's Development Corporation,
Penang Malaysia;



Sylvie Cohen

UN Women alternate AGGI member/
Senior Gender Adviser

Secretariat

AGGI is supported by a secretariat which is based in UN-Habitat's Gender Coordination and Support Unit.

The Secretariat is responsible for facilitating all communication between AGGI and UN-Habitat, and is supported by Gender Focal Points at headquarters and in the regional offices in Latin America, Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Arab States. The Secretariat is striving to facilitate smooth communication between AGGI and UN-Habitat.



Activities and Progress

September 2012 – August 2013

Since its establishment in September 2012, the AGGI has been involved in various activities and represented in various forums, conferences and workshops, either as a group or by individual members. This report details these activities and progress of AGGI for the first year of operation.

1. Support to the Gender Resolution during Governing Council 24 in April 2013

AGGI members played a critical role in drafting, lobbying and advocating for the gender resolution, Gender equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development (Resolution 24/4), which was adopted during the 24th session of the Governing Council and which endorsed most of AGGI's recommendations (including allocating more resources to Gender Coordination and Support Unit.)

AGGI members furthermore contributed towards the inclusion of gender in a number of other GC resolutions, including in

- Resolution on Supporting Action for the Creation of Safer Cities,

- Resolution on Making Slums History: a worldwide challenge
- Resolution on Inclusive National and Local Housing Strategies to achieve the Global Housing Strategy Paradigm Shift.

2. The World Urban Forum (WUF) 6: Naples, Italy - September 2012

The AGGI was inaugurated at the World Urban Forum (WUF) 6 and held their first meeting immediately after the inauguration. They participated in the Gender Assembly and the Women's round table forum where two of the board members gave speeches in both forums. The gender assembly focused on the achievements and challenges in the implementation of the Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP). The GEAP is a global strategic plan that backs UN-Habitat's public commitment (policy) to improve gender

equality and advance women's rights and empowerment across all its policies, programmes and projects. The assembly further assessed the trends and implications of economic empowerment in cities on men, women, boys and girls looking at various pathways to economic empowerment, highlighting the issues based on current trends and examples of practices and challenges, key players, policy requirements and recommendations to various relevant development actors.

The roundtable recommendations re-affirmed that the normative framework provided by the Beijing Platform for Action is still relevant. Firstly, it commits Member States and the UN system to "pursue and implement sound and stable macroeconomic and sectoral policies that are designed and monitored with the full and equal participation of women, encourage broad-based sustained economic growth, address the structural causes of poverty and are geared towards eradicating poverty and reducing gender-based inequality. Secondly, firms should be encouraged to revisit their full value chain to identify where women are located, and what kind of support they might need to be able to add value to their products and lastly, building on the success of microfinance in empowering poor women, financial institutions should explore how they can increase women's access to a range of financial services, including savings instruments, remittance transfer services, credit and insurance."

3. Second AGGI Meeting – November/December 2012

AGGI members held a meeting on 30 November to 1 December 2012 to draft an initial work plan. The work-plan was finalized and submitted to the Executive Director

on 31 December 2012 and detailed the areas the Board agreed to advise and have intervention in. Part of their role has been to contribute to the review of the Gender Policy and Plan for UN-Habitat and to review and recommend on the optimal architecture and location of the Gender Coordination and Support Unit (GCSU) in view of the restructuring process that has been recently completed.

Following the April 2013 meeting, the work-plan has been reviewed, in light of preparations for the next World Urban Forum (WUF7) Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, the post 2015 development agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and Habitat III discussions.

4. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) , New York – March 2013

During the Commission on the Status of Women conference in March 2013 in New York, some AGGI members from civil society collaborated with UN Habitat's side event to organize a High-Level side event on the "Elimination and prevention of violence against women and girls, with special emphasis to the situation of women and girls in post conflict urban environments". This event attracted a large number of participants that discussed safety issues of concern for women and girls in post crisis/post-conflict urban settings; strategies and approaches undertaken by local and national authorities that have been effective in combating violence against women and girls in post conflict urban settings; continuing challenges to combating violence against women and girls in post conflict urban settings; and recommendations for targeted policy and actions for combating violence against women and girls in post conflict urban settings.

5. Third AGGI meeting/GC24 – April 2013

- The AGGI held their third meeting immediately prior to the 24th session of the Governing Council on 14 April 2013. In this meeting, a number of issues were discussed including the review of the UN-Habitat's gender policy and plan and the gender architecture, following the reports of a senior gender mainstreaming consultant who made initial recommendations on the same. It was agreed to recommend that the Gender Coordination and Support Unit should be re-named Gender Equality Secretariat (GES). The members also discussed how they would be involved in the 24th session of the Governing Council and in the post 2015 discussions.
- AGGI members reviewed substantive policy documents prior to submission by UN Habitat to the Governing Council substantive session on the priority theme. In particular, the document "Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council: Sustainable urban development: the role of cities in creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender" was reviewed in terms of gender perspectives and recommendations made for strengthening it.
- The Executive Director formally introduced AGGI members to the Governing Council in the official opening ceremony.
- The AGGI members participated in a dialogue session titled 'The role of cities in creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender' with three AGGI members as panellists on two sessions of the dialogue namely

'The economics of Urban Form' and the 'Economic Empowerment of Women'.

- The AGGI members also participated in a side event session on Urbanization: Catalyst or impediment for women's empowerment with one member moderating the discussions. Various grassroots representatives gave presentations at the session and some of the important points that were agreed upon during the discussions include: The need to form partnerships and alliances in order to further women's agendas; organizing and mobilizing women to speak with one voice to the government and local authorities in order to enhance the probability of being heard; education as a powerful tool in empowering young girls and women in informal settlement areas; and engaging with the women in a participatory manner as a better way to identify their issues and challenges as opposed to speaking for them and about them. Furthermore, two members participated in a TV panel discussion on sustainable cities.
- In addition to these two forums, a number of the AGGI members participated in the daily women caucuses and participated in the main Governing Council discussions.

6. AGGI Working Groups

The AGGI has recently formed working groups* on five key areas to enable members** focus on and give advice in their areas of expertise, ability and interest. The groups were chosen based on the areas where the AGGI

considered UN-Habitat needs to concentrate on. The groups are broken down as follows:

- a. Managerial/internal programming/policies (Ester Borrás Andreu and Carmen Griffiths (co-leads), Thomas Ball, Batilda Burian, Diane Dumashie, Lakshmi Puri/Sylvie Cohen)
- b. WUF7, +2015, Habitat III planning (Sri Sofjan and Siraj Sait (co-leads) Thomas Ball, Aminata Traore, Jan Peterson, Ester Borrás Andreu, Lakshmi Puri/Sylvie Cohen, Diane Dumashie)
- c. Land / climate change (Ramzia Aleryani and Sri Sofjan (co-leads), Aminata Traore, Batilda Burian, Esther Mwaura, Teresa Boccia)
- d. Women and Post conflict natural resource management (Ana Falu and Teresa Boccia (co-leads), Ramzia Aleryani, Jan Peterson, Esther Mwaura, Siraj Sait)
- e. Women and Urban Governance (Safer cities, leadership & governance, urban basic services etc.) (Batilda Burian and Esther Mwaura (co-leads), Carmen Griffiths, Teresa Boccia, Ana Falu)

** Responsibilities of each group is indicated and a report submitted to the Executive Director in the next AGGI meeting in Medellin, Colombia in 2014*

***Each AGGI member is a member of at least one of the groups*

7. Gender Hub

Plans to establish a gender hub with the university network are underway and are being coordinated by two AGGI members. The hub will reinforce the inputs and knowledge development towards WUF 7 and Habitat III. The strategy to achieve this is to develop gender studies in thematic areas that are relevant to UN-Habitat's work.

8. Representation at International Workshops/Conferences

- (i) Making Slums History: a worldwide challenge for 2020 – Rabat, Morocco. This meeting was held in November 2012 and the chair represented the AGGI in the meeting.
- (ii) Future of Places Conference – Stockholm, Sweden – A member represented AGGI in this meeting and gave a speech on the gender policies of UN-Habitat.
- (iii) Regional Conference on Population and Development in the Arab States – Cairo, Egypt. In her capacity as chair of the women's Union in Yemen, a member participated in the conference and gave a speech on domestic violence in Arab countries.
- (iv) UN-Habitat and some AGGI members also contributed to a thematic consultation process on Population Dynamics which culminated in a Leadership Consultation meeting (Dhaka, March 2013) in the context of the post-2015 development agenda thematic consultations. UN Habitat was a co-leader of this consultation.

- (v) Some AGGI members contributed to a UN-Habitat's Interagency High-Level Coordination Mechanism for Habitat III- Inaugural Interagency Meeting on Habitat III - 3 July 2013, United Nations Geneva

Way Forward

1

The five smaller working groups will have specific advisory roles and each will be required to make reports that feed into the report to the Executive Director in the next AGGI meeting in Medellin, Colombia in 2014

2

The revised workplan will be adopted and planned activities carried out. A report will be made during the next AGGI meeting in April 2014

3

A revision in terms of reference will be proposed to the Executive Director to accommodate new recommendations from the AGGI on the nomination of new members and extension of the term of the existing founder members as well as to formalise the positions for institutions (UN Women and possibly UCLG)

Upcoming Events

1

ACP EU – Kigali (3 - 6 September 2013)

2

Metropolis, 3rd Forum - Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (24 - 27 September 2013)

3

Leading Change in City Conference – South Africa – (21 - 22 November 2013)

4

WUF 7 – Medellin, Colombia (5 - 11 April 2014)

5

Post-2015 Development Agenda – General Assembly, New York (2015)

6

Habitat III - (Place and date 2016 TBD)

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