

**Statement of women in SAGE in the second session of 2020 of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat will be held virtually from 27 to 29 October 2020**

**Statement for reading by women in SAGE**

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Many inhabitants of various nations of the world continue to be mired in the pandemic with relapses.

We must resume the good practices developed in association with UN Habitat in these critical months, in which we have shared strategies and activities that organized grassroots women's groups have deployed to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

In this context, this is the opportune time to strengthen governance and our partnership with UN Habitat.

Many governments are still working on their responses, the United Nations such as UN-Habitat must take the leadership in supporting partnerships between national and local stakeholders and especially with grassroots women who have been on the frontline in this period.

The UN-Habitat Covid-19 Policy and Program Framework and its Response Plan highlighted the importance of working with grassroots community organizations to respond to the pandemic and the opportunity to build resilience.

It is necessary to amplifying the voices of grassroots, especially those led by women, and recognizing their contributions and roles in the urbanization process will lead to innovations and initiatives critical to localizing and realizing the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs.

The UN Secretary General in April 2020 pointed out the greatest impact of Covid-19 on women and calls for both member states and UN agencies to work with women leaders to ensure equal representation and decision-making in the design and planning of strategies to face the pandemic.

This Policy in line with Resolutions approved at the 1st UN Habitat Assembly in May 2019, in particular the Resolution entitled "Achieve gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Program to support inclusion, security, resilience and sustainability cities and human settlements ". **We call on Member States to provide resources for the implementation of this Resolution that could position UN-Habitat as a leader in contributing to gender equality and the empowerment of women during the United Nations Decade of Action.**

If we apply the Disaster Risk Approach, the emergency, transition, and reconstruction stages have already been covered with greater success in some countries. It is necessary to systematize their strategies to rescue lessons learned and ways to accelerate the exit from this pandemic situation.

An active space for learning and association during this period has been the sessions of Urban Thinkers Campus of the UN-Habitat Global Urban Campaign. In which the members of the Huairou Commission have had an intense participation to promote transformative paths.

It is now very timely for UN-Habitat to integrate anti-crisis policies into the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2020-23 that is people-centered, reduces the greatest impacts on women and positions its leadership role in the development of relevant public policy tools for achieve the SDGs.

We take the opportunity to share some points that could be considered as guidelines for governments, development agencies, donors and other partners to reinforce sustainable urbanization strategies so as not to leave anyone behind, should take into account the attention, under conditions of equality between women and men of: the responsibilities in care, the eradication of intimate partner violence, food self-sufficiency, strengthening the link rural-urban link as well as the needed infrastructures and upgrading the related (Clean) technologies, new housing designs that are now also a school and office, digital inclusion and universal communication, among others.

The Huairou Commission, with more than 120 member organizations in 45 countries around the world, hopes to strengthen our partnership with UN-Habitat, all member states and other partners on this journey.

Thank you very much,