

## **Advisory Group on Gender Issues, AGGI Statement**

**delivered by Prof. Inés Sánchez de Madariaga, Chair of AGGI and Director of the  
UNESCO Chair on Gender, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid  
UN Habitat Executive Board 21-23 November 2022**

Dear Executive Director, Member States and colleagues

I am here as Chair of AGGI, the Advisory Group on Gender Issues, an independent expert advisory body that advises and supports the Executive Director on all aspects of UN Habitat's work to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

Ten years after the creation of AGGI in 2011, we are updating our original mandate to the new policy landscape, including the Gender Resolution of 2019, the new governance of UN-Habitat with its four-year policy cycle, of course the New Urban Agenda, and the Agenda 2030.

We as AGGI are currently working to reach an agreement with UN-Habitat for the updating of our Terms of Reference, in order to even better align our working procedures with these key policy developments.

Women, particularly those living in urban informal settlements, working in informal economies, the grassroots, those displaced due to different form of disasters - are working against huge challenges to survive for their families and communities. Women are disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination, climate change, pandemics and conflicts; but they are also partners and resilient leaders in the creation of green, just, sustainable, and prosperous cities.

We should not be complacent with the present situation, for there are risks that potentially undermine the hard-fought gains of women in cities and human settlements.

The impact of the pandemic and wars are among those threats. Many women are in conflict countries, and many others have been displaced. As we today can tragically see in Europe and many other countries, more work needs to be done regarding women affected by conflict.

AGGI is committed to position gender equality and women's empowerment as a key transformative path in the implementation of UN-Habitat's activities, flagship programs and technical cooperation.

After the *Valencia Declaration* we adopted in October 2021, to lay out a vision for Gender Equality in the Post-pandemic, we adopted, at the World Urban Forum 11 in Katowice, a *Manifesto for Peace*, outlining the specific needs of women in war and conflict, on which there is an urgent need for action.

We reaffirm, in the light of COP 27, how central, crucial, and needed is the role of women to effectively address all aspects of the challenge of climate change.

The recommendations from the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 UN High-level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda highlighted that gender equality and women's empowerment is a key pathway to achieve sustainable urbanisation, ensuring no one and no place are left behind.

We ask for the continued commitment and concrete support of Member States to implementing gender equality and women's empowerment across UN-Habitat's normative and operational activities and the work of AGGI.

We also ask for the financial resources that will allow to carry out effective programs addressing women's needs in cities, for an effective implementation of the Resolution 1/4 'Achieving gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements', of 2019, to meet the SDGs, especially SDG 11 which will be reviewed at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2023.

We thank Member States and UN-Habitat, on behalf of all the women in the world, who are grateful for this opportunity and support to women's participation in building better communities and cities.