

## **Huairou Commission: Women, Homes and Communities\_Intervention**

### **Second Preparatory Committee for Habitat III**

**April 15, 2015**

#### **Intro/conclusions of statement**

Thank you Madame Co-Chair, esteemed members of the Bureau and distinguished member states delegates:

As a representative of the Huairou Commission, I will be speaking on behalf of women constituency groups

The Huairou Commission is a global membership and partnership coalition of women's networks, NGOs and grassroots women's organisations in over 40 countries that support the empowerment and leadership of grassroots women's organisations in cities and human settlements

The Huairou Commission Supercoalition, whose membership includes GROOTS International, Women in Habitat, the International Council of Women, **led women's participation at the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, in 1996**, contributing actively to subsequent policy reviews. Grassroots women's constituencies and professional partners are currently recognized as key civil society partners in Habitat III planning and within the World Urban Campaign, and Huairou **has recently been elected to Chair the Women's Constituency Group of the General Assembly of Partners (GAP)**.

**As Chair of the Women's Constituency Group of the General Assembly of Partners and a founding member of AGGI ( Advisory Group on Gender Issues), we recommend that:**

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) needs to formally recognize, resource, and institutionalize the role of grassroots women engaged in the informal sector, where they create the majority of jobs, provide services in caregiving and develop human settlements. The NUA has to be rooted in the understanding that women are a major resource in urban areas in order to address sharp and growing inequalities and end discrimination in all sectors.

**Furthermore, to insure women's right to the city, we enjoin duty-bearers at all levels, from international to local:**

- To Establish an institutional culture that realizes grassroots women's right to meaningful participation in decision-making.
- To Require that Planning, budgeting and implementation mechanisms systematically build on the proven success of grassroots women as developers and monitors of human settlements.

- And to Recognize Women as major experts and contributors in cities and human settlements. As such, their practices and work must be resourced, monitored, mainstreamed, scaled up, and institutionalized.

We take that opportunity to commend member states who have already committed to prioritizing gender equality and meaningful participation of women and communities in the New Urban Agenda.

And as Chair of the Women's Constituency Group of GAP, the Huairou Commission urges member states to recognize the General Assembly of Partners (GAP) as a significant mechanism for stakeholder involvement in the preparatory process towards Habitat III and acknowledge the outcomes and collective positions emerging from its 13 constituency groups .