



HUIROU COMMISSION
Women, Homes & Community

Statement
at
The Second Session of 2022 Executive Board
The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
21 -23 November 2022

Delivered by Sri Husnaini Sofjan

on behalf of

Violet Shivutse, Huairou Commission Governing Council Chair;

at 5:34-37 pm Kenya local time on Tuesday 22nd Nov 2022

Honorable Chair, Excellencies, Madam ED and from other partner constituencies, **Good morning/afternoon**

Firstly, thank you for this opportunity to deliver our Statement at this 2nd session of the 2022 Executive Board Meeting of UN-Habitat.

I represent a global movement of grassroots women's organizations supporting women in 41 countries leading a transformative agenda for inclusive resilience and gender justice. We started in 1995 with our participation in the preparatory process of the Habitat II Conference, and continue as a strong partner of UN-Habitat, we bring the constituency of women with a focus on organised grassroots groups.

We appreciate the continued work of UN-Habitat under the leadership of the Executive Director and her dedicated team in implementing the New Urban Agenda and its commitments, including the successful organising global level activities with the support of member states - the 11th World Urban Forum in Poland, the Launch of the Global Action

Plan Framework on Informal Settlements and Slums, in South Africa, and the first-ever ministerial meeting on urbanization and climate change in Egypt at the just concluded COP27. We would like to also recognise UN-Habitat's efforts in the development of the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation initiative which started with the dialogue at the World Urban Forum last June.

Huairou Commission represented the grassroots constituency in April 28th High-level Meeting to Assess the Progress of the Implementation of New Urban Agenda implementation, we can relate with the 5 substantive areas identified key to advance the Agenda's implementation - housing, climate and environment, urban crisis, urban prosperity and finance, all these are what most of us struggle with daily, while localisation is already in our blood. Self-help and organised grassroots groups continue to raise awareness and take on leadership in locally-led initiatives such as bringing in and improving basic services and infrastructure in their communities, undertaking mapping exercise to identify priority resource allocation, collecting data and mobilising their own resources to match the government contribution. We Call for recognition of our contributions, efforts, roles as change agents and experts in localising the New Urban Agenda implementation through formalise partnership and facilitate direct financing to support community level and grassroot-led action such as community organizing, data collection, grassroots-led planning, peer learning exchanges and locally-managed community funds (such as the Community-Resilience Fund). This is how we should frame our work moving forward, building trust and accountability with each other. Importantly in this trajectory is investing in the empowerment of women and their public leadership - especially those in the urban poor communities –and promote gender responsive and equitable urban development policies that will tangibly improve the quality of life of urban poor grassroots women. Indicators in of women's participation should not just through consultation, for consultation is not consent,

they should have representation in the decision making at the designing, planning, resource allocation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages of policy and programs.

We appreciate the recognition by the Honorable Representative of the Hovernment of Kenya on the roles and contributions of grassroots organisations in sustainable urbanisation.

We will never stop at calling on Member States to invest and resource UN-Habitat to lead in the development and implementation of gender responsive urban policies as well institutionalisations of its partnerships with organised grassroots groups as key transformative instruments for the Agency to carry out its normative and operational activities in the remaining period of the current strategic plan (2020-23) and in developing the next Strategic Plan.

We support the Statement made a few minutes ago by the Chair of the UN-Habitat Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI) on the importance of resourcing the 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”**, passed in the 1st UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019.

We would like to acknowledge the role of the World Urban Campaign (WUC) for its role in promoting an urban narrative to accelerate the SDG implementation and urgently address issues of urbanization as a mega-trend to face multiple crisis. The Campaign is such an platform to make sure that all stakeholders are included on equal level with the same opportunity. We will work with all WUC partners in the 1000 Cities and 1 Billion Lives Campaign, mentioned by the UN-Habitat Executive Director at the opening of this meeting.

Finally, we look forward to our participation in the engagement of local and non-actors in intergovernmental process, the 2nd UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023, and WUF13 in Egypt in 2023; the grassroots and women's constituencies are also active in providing inputs in the Volunteer National and Local Reviews process of SDG 11 which will be reviewed in next year's High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

We remain committed to continue and strengthen partnership with UN-Habitat.

Thank you.