Proposal of side event CSW66 2022

Towards Quito+6: Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in human settlements in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk

Proposer: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain and UN-Habitat.

Proposed Dates: 15 March, 14h30’ CET

Draft Program

Institutional Opening:

- Ángeles Moreno Bau, Secretary of State for International and Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain
- Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Panelists:

- Aparna Mehrotra, Director of the UN System Coordination Division "Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE)", UN Women (tbc)
- Shipra Narang Suri, Chief of Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat
- Violet Shivutse, President, Global Chair, Huairou Commission
- Eugenie L. Birch, President of the General Assembly of Partners (GAP); Lawrence C. Nussdorf Professor of Urban Research and co-Director, Penn Institute for Urban Research, University of Pennsylvania.
- Emilia Saiz, Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Moderator:

- Inés Sánchez de Madariaga, Chair of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI), UN Habitat, and UNESCO Chair on Gender, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

Zero File:

Members of AGGI; Manuel Blanco, Director of Madrid School of Architecture; Iñaki Carnicero, Director General for Architecture and Urban Agenda, and Eulalia Moreno de Azevedo Yagüe, Director General for Planning Regional Government of Extremadura (Spain), Maite Rodríguez Fundación Guatemala.
Concept Note

The priority theme of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CWS66) “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in human settlements across the world in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes” has strong interactions with the New Urban Agenda, the global framework for sustainable urban and human settlements development adopted in the Habitat III Conference in Quito in 2016.

CWS66 is the first of a series of very important policy meetings relevant for both the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and for gender equality and women’s empowerment, that will happen during the year 2022, including the following: the High-level Meeting on New Urban Agenda (Quito+6) on 28 April; the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum (WUF11) in Katowice (Poland) from 26 to 30 June; and the tenth session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) from 5 to 15 July 2022.

The recently adopted UN Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025 provides a framework for this joint work, as well as the specific guidance for UN Women on how to leverage its triple mandate—normative support, UN system coordination, and operational activities—to mobilize action to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and support the achievement of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

At the same time, the Second Quadrennial Report for the New Urban Agenda, which is being drafted at this moment, and will be presented at the Quito+6 meeting in April, will provide an up-to-date overview of the state of implementation and advancement in cities and human settlements across the world, in its role as accelerator of the Agenda 2030 aiming at leaving no one and no place behind.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the WUF11 in Katowice, under the theme “Transforming our Cities for a Better Urban Future”, will look at the future of cities based on existing trends, challenges, and opportunities, and, in also alignment with the CSW66 topic of this year, will suggest ways cities can be better prepared to address future pandemics and a wide range of other shocks.

It is highly relevant that the SDG5 on Gender Equality will be among the ones to be reviewed this year at the HLPF in July. The pandemic and its subsequent economic and social impacts have greatly affected women, a situation particularly precarious in the developing countries. To achieve the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030, women’s needs and key role in cities and human settlements must be taken into consideration, regarding care tasks, economic opportunity, physical safety, access to housing, transportation, secure land tenure, and urban services.

The Advisory Group on Gender Issues to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat (AGGI) represents women as an independent advisory body that guides and supports the Executive Director on all aspects of UN-Habitat’s work. AGGI is the result of the joint work of women within UN-Habitat, in civil society, and in local, subnational, and national governments around the world, who developed AGGI as an instrument to improving our communities, with the contributions of grassroots and professional women to local and urban development. The Huairou Commission, representing thousands of grassroots women from around the world, is a relevant multiplier and implementer actor in this process.
The Gender Resolution *Achieving gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements*, adopted during the first General Assembly of UN-Habitat in 2019, provides a roadmap for action to greater gender equality in the post pandemic. This Resolution is a key element to help implement the gender dimensions of both the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs.

The panel proposed will examine the opportunities for accelerating action regarding gender equality and women’s empowerment in human settlements, in the context of the post-pandemic recovery programs, taking into consideration the roadmap established by the Gender Resolution of 2019, UN Women new Strategic Plan, and the upcoming review of both the New Urban Agenda and of SDG5.