

UCLG Statement on

“Enhancing the availability and use of data and gender statistics to support accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development” CSW61-March 201

Excellencies, Dear Member States representatives, Colleagues,

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On behalf of United Cities and Local Governments and the Global Taskforce for Local and Regional Governments, I would like to thank you for giving us the floor today.

The UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality firmly believes that the participation of women in local decision-making is the foundation of global development. Gender-sensitive local governance will be essential to the achievement of the whole 2030 Agenda. This will require a gendered approach to all 17 Goals, the empowerment of women at all levels in the implementation of the Agenda, and data disaggregated at local and subnational levels as well as by gender to ensure that the goals do not leave women and girls behind.

It has been demonstrated that **increasing the representation and participation of women in public administrations makes it more likely for public resources to be allocated towards investments in human development priorities**, including child health, nutrition and access to employment. **We celebrate that the SDGs directly address the issue of women’s political participation** in Target 5.5., which aims to ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.”

However, UCLG estimates that only around 20% of councillors and just 5% of mayors globally are women.

But those are only estimations as there is currently a **lack of global data on the number of women in local councils**. The lack of an indicator on women's representation in local government makes it very difficult to track progress on the achievement of SDG 5 across the world. Achieving gender balance in local government is also important for achieving SDG 16, in particular targets 16.6 and 16.7 on accountable institutions and representative institutions at all levels.

We commend the great step that has been realized through the adoption of the indicator 5.5.1 on the representation of women in local government. In order to make progress in this vital area, UCLG calls on the international community to make improving data on gender equality in local government a priority to drive the achievement of SDG 5, and, in particular, **to support efforts to gather data on the proposed SDG indicator 5.5.1**

At the same time, we call on national governments and multilateral organizations to continue to **support regional and international networks of local governments to facilitate knowledge exchange between their members** on the promotion of female participation and the mainstreaming of gender equality policies.

Thank you for your attention.