

WOMEN, LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

FROM SDG 5 TO HABITAT III



UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality

women.uclg.org

**United Cities and Local Governments
Standing Committee on Gender Equality**

In partnership with the City of Paris, the Huairou
Commission, C40 and UCLG Sections

WOMEN, LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

On 6 December, Mayor of Paris and Chair of the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Anne Hidalgo, hosted the “**Women, Leadership and Development**” event at the Paris City Hall, within the framework of UCLG World Council and the COP 21.



Participants at “Women, Leadership and Development” in the Paris City Council

The session was a unique opportunity for locally elected women, local government practitioners and local government associations to **discuss the role that gender equality at local level will play in the achievement of the major international development and sustainability agendas over the coming years.**

The importance of both gender equality and local governance to development has been increasingly recognized at international level over recent years. Building on the success of Millennium Development Goal 3

on gender equality, **the 2030 Agenda** has opted to include both a stand-alone goal on gender (SDG 5) and to integrate a gender perspective into many of the 17 goals. In October 2016, **Habitat III** will have to build on the commitment to gender-sensitive cities made in Istanbul in 1996, and focus on their effective implementation in a rapidly urbanizing world. Finally, all agendas must play their part to contribute to the 2-degree ceiling set by the COP21 Paris Agreement on **climate change** and empower women to mitigate and adapt to this urgent threat.

GENDER EQUALITY: A STRATEGIC PRIORITY FOR UCLG

Local and regional governments have a long track record of working internationally for gender equality, with a particular focus on increasing the representation of locally elected women and promoting the participation of all women in local decision-making. Currently, **fewer than 5% of the world's mayors are women** and women make up an average of just 20% local councillors worldwide.

1998

The International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) adopted the **Worldwide Declaration on Women in Local Government**, the foundational document of international principles and commitments with regard to the action of local and regional governments in the field of women's rights.

2004

From 2004-2005, **UCLG implemented a programme to create networks of elected women in its Regional Sections**. This work established and renewed women's networks in Africa and Latin America.

2006

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) drew up the **European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life**. The Charter encourages local and regional governments to make a public commitment to equality and to implement concrete practices in the areas of political participation, employment, public services, and urban planning to promote gender equality. So far, more than 1400 local and regional governments in 29 countries have signed the Charter.

2013

The Global Conference of Local Elected Women adopted the **Paris Local and Regional Government Global Agenda for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life**. The Agenda is inspired by the Worldwide Declaration on Women in Local Government and the values and principles contained in the European Charter on Equality of Women and Men in Local Life. It aims to be a strategic tool to increase equality between women and men in all spheres of decision-making.



“We can’t exclude half of humanity from political decision-making. We know equality can bring added value to our policy development and we are determined to bring about the change of mentality needed to achieve this.”

ANNE HIDALGO

Mayor of Paris and co-president of UCLG, chair of the UCLG Standing Committee on gender Equality

UCLG STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY

UCLG is acknowledged as the global voice of locally elected women by national agencies and the UN.

The **UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality** monitors and promotes the participation of women at local level across the world.

The Committee firmly believes that the **participation of women in local decision-making is the foundation of global development.**

The Standing Committee works with locally elected women and grassroots organizations to build their capacities and increase women’s representation.

Research on panchayats (local councils) in India discovered that the number of drinking water projects in areas with female-led councils was 62 per cent higher than in those with male-led councils. In Norway, a direct causal relationship between the presence of women in municipal councils and childcare coverage has been found.

UCLG: A NETWORK OF NETWORKS OF LOCALLY ELECTED WOMEN



“UCLG is ready to lead by example on women’s empowerment, ensuring the representation of women at the highest levels of our organization. Gender equality has long been a priority of the world organization and will deserve additional attention in the coming years.”

JOSEP ROIG

UCLG Secretary General, Josep Roig



Networks of locally elected women play a vital role in strengthening the voice of women elected locally across the world. **The Women, Leadership and Development session served to highlight the growing strength of the networks of elected women that form part of UCLG, as well as the ongoing work of the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality and the work of UCLG’s regional sections on gender issues.**

One such network is REFELA, the Network for Locally Elected Women of Africa, which was set up in 2011 and forms an integral part of UCLG through UCLG-Africa.



Mayor of Teveragh Zeina and Former REFELA President, **Fatimetou Abdel Malick**, explained the origins and progress of the network and congratulated its newly elected president, Mayor of Bangangté, **Celestine Ketcha Courtès**.

Important progress from both ASPAC and Latin America was reported during the session. In ASPAC, a caucus of elected women has been set up under the leadership of the Mayor of Banda Aceh, **Illiza Sa'aduddin Djamal**. Members in Latin America are also taking important steps towards organising their voice in the



global organization and strengthening the presence of women elected representatives. Mayor of Santiago, **Carolina Tohá**, will host a meeting in her city to give a decisive push towards the consolidation of this representation.

LOCAL POLICIES AND SERVICES FOR EQUALITY: LOCAL SUPPORT FOR SDG 5

SDG 5: “ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS”

Sustainable Development Goal 5 of the 2030 Agenda is about ending violence and discrimination against women and girls and making sure they have equal opportunities in all areas of life.

Significantly, SDG 5 both calls for policies for women, and participation by women in political, economic and public life. In other words, the goal understands that gender equality and the empowerment of women are both a goal of, and a tool for, sustainable development.

SDG 5 relates to many of the direct responsibilities of local governments and is an opportunity for local and regional administrations to build on our existing international commitments and demonstrate our vital role in the achievement of global gender equality.



5% OF THE WORLD'S MAYORS ARE WOMEN



20% OF LOCAL COUNCILLORS WORLDWIDE ARE WOMEN

“The fight for gender equality is a long one.”

MÓNICA FEIN

Mayor of Rosario





“We need to put everyday life, care work, at the centre of public policy.”

Many participants in Paris put a strong emphasis on the need for female participation and representation in both elected and appointed public offices, as well as in the private sector (issues dealt with in target 5.5 of the 2030 Agenda). Speaking on behalf of the CEMR Standing Committee for Equality, Munich City Councillor, **Lydia Dietrich**, pointed out that just 15% of mayors in Europe are women. She explained the progress of the **“European Charter for equality of women and men in local life”**, launched by **UCLG’s European section, CEMR, in 2006** and noted that **CEMR now has its first female president, Annemarie Jorritsma-Lebbink**, who was elected in 2013. The recent election of **Ada Colau**, the first female mayor of Barcelona, provided a

good example of the progress being made by women in local public office.

However, gender-sensitive local governance will be essential to the achievement of the whole 2030 Agenda, not just SDG5. 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 by gender to ensure that the goals do not leave women and girls behind.

Building on the idea of gender-sensitive local governance, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona for Ecology, Urbanism and Mobility, **Janet Sanz**, called for **“the feminization of politics”**. She argued, **“We need to put everyday life, care work, at**



“The only way to tackle climate change is to change our lifestyles and the way we exercise power.”



the centre of public policy”. Deputy Mayor Sanz advocated for gender mainstreaming across all policy, including the design of public spaces and services with all citizens, including women, in mind, tackling the feminization of poverty, and prioritizing the crisis of violence against women.

Mayor of Santiago de Chile, **Carolina Tohá** made the link between **gender equality, terrorism and climate change**, saying that “the only way to tackle climate change is to change our lifestyles and the way we exercise power.”

Mayor of Diyarbakir, **Gültan Kisanak**, focused on **the relationship of gender and peace with sustainable development**, highlighting the fact that women are often at risk of economic deprivation and sexual abuse in



“Women are often at risk of economic deprivation and sexual abuse in situations of violent conflict.”

situations of violent conflict. She called for the welcoming and inclusion of women refugees fleeing violence and for policies to end the trafficking and slavery of women across the world.

Improved collaboration between local democratic institutions and civil society is essential to the empowerment of women.

The coordinator of the civil society organization GROOTS Kenya, **Esther Mwaura-Muiru**, emphasized the importance of including women in policy-making. She said that women, particularly in informal settlements, have been “taking the initiative and acting as urban planners on the ground for decades, building toilets and providing basic services to their communities.” However, she said that “women also need formal spaces in which

to collaborate with local governments”. Participatory budgeting and planning processes are powerful tools that local governments can use to engage women citizens in the design and development of the cities they live in.

Mayor of Móstoles and President of International Relations at the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP), **David Lucas Parrón**, underlined the importance of men getting involved in gender equality. He suggested four goals for policy action: supporting women’s political empowerment, advocacy for women’s political participation at both local and international level, combatting intersectional discrimination, for example that is faced by women with disabilities, and ending violence against women.

A GENDER-SENSITIVE AGENDA FOR HABITAT III

HOW DOES SDG 5 RELATE TO THE NEW URBAN AGENDA?

The New Urban Agenda, to be adopted at the Habitat III Conference on Housing and Human Settlements in October, 2016, is tasked with creating mechanisms that promote social inclusion and reduce inequalities to ensure sustainable development in the world's cities.

Women and girls experience cities in different ways to men and boys. While the city has been a place of liberation for women in comparison to their rural counterparts, it has also been a site of gender violence and female exploitation.

Women still face discrimination in access to income earning opportunities, education, housing, the rule of law and participation in local governance.

Gender equality, equality of opportunity, urban living conditions and sustainable development are intrinsically linked.

These linkages cut across the social, economic, environmental and governance dimensions of sustainable development.



Initiatives that engage women as active participants in urban development have proven to boost both sustainable livelihoods and national economies.

SDG 5 and the New Urban Agenda represent an unprecedented opportunity to harness the mutually reinforcing goals of women's empowerment and sustainable urban development over the coming decades. Secretary General of UCLG Asia-Pacific, **Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi**, the first female Secretary General of a UCLG regional section, pointed out that



“We should facilitate the mobility of women by including a gender perspective in urban planning.”

the ambitions of Habitat III can only be realized by using a gendered lens to ensure that women’s particular needs in urban areas are understood and addressed.

The debate on Habitat III was kicked off by Deputy Mayor of Taipei, **Li-Fang Chou**, who gave the example of facilitating the mobility of women by including a gender perspective in urban planning.

President of the UCLG Committee on Culture and Councillor for Culture in the City of Lille, France, Catherine Cullen raised the issue of access to cultural heritage in cities. She pointed out that women are too often denied

access to culture and that their right to fully participate in the intellectual and practical construction of their futures should be guaranteed. She called for support for women artists to bring diversity, critical views and creativity for our common future.

One of the key civil society partners for UCLG in bringing a gender perspective to the Habitat III process is the Huairou Commission, which brings together grassroots women’s organizations. Director of the Fundación Guatemala, **Maite Rodríguez Blandón**, who is participating in the Habitat III process as part of the Huairou Commission, highlighted the gendered aspect of



“Agricultural infrastructure, such as markets, must be adapted to women’s specific needs.”

disaster risk in urban areas. She argued for the importance of **women gaining qualifications in disaster risk reduction**, as well as the role of participatory budgeting as part of broader gender mainstreaming policies.

President of the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers and Vice-President of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women, **Mildred Crawford**, discussed **the role of women’s empowerment in agriculture in combatting climate change**. She called for agricultural infrastructure such as markets to be adapted to women’s specific needs, for example regarding sanitation and transport. She explained that it is vital to consider women farmers’

needs as most are subsistence farmers and heads of households. She continued by arguing that the Habitat III Agenda must place a greater emphasis on the urban-rural continuum, and that these inputs to the Agenda should be led by rural women, who represent an important part of the agricultural work force that provides food for urban dwellers.

UCLG is currently co-leading **the Habitat III Policy Unit 4 on Urban Governance, Capacity and Institutional Development** with the LSE, and is seeking to ensure that a gender perspective is included in this and other parts of the Habitat III process.

EMPOWERED WOMEN: THE FOUNDATION OF RESILIENT CITIES

According to C40, a strategic partner in addressing climate change, women should play a central role in urban resilience strategies.

Women and girls must be part of a more resilient future. According to the 2009 report of the United Nations Population Fund, women “are among the most vulnerable to climate change, partly because in many countries they make up the larger share of the agricultural work force and partly because they tend to have access to fewer income-earning opportunities.”



“The voices of the women on the frontline of climate change must be listened to and taken into account.”

PAM McCONNELL
Deputy Mayor of Toronto





Mayor of Tevragh Zeina, **Fatimetou Abdel Malick**, questioned the habitual description of women as ‘victims’ of disaster and climate change. She suggested that, rather than vulnerable, women are our greatest weapons in building resilient cities. Mayor Malick also reiterated the importance of female political participation and raised the issue of the **feminization of poverty** in Africa, where women make up 60% of the poorest in society. She argued that the key to addressing this is to **ensure access to basic services for all in African cities**.



Mayor of Banda Aceh and Chair of the UCLG ASPAC Gender Equality Committee, **Illiza Sa'aduddin Djamal**, agreed on the fundamental role of basic services in the achievement of gender equality in cities. She made special mention of **access to water and waste collection**, as well as calling for “**green, safe public spaces** for women in cities.”





Deputy Mayor of Paris, **Celia Blauel**, pointed out that **addressing climate change requires looking beyond environmental issues to larger social questions** such as the provision of water, sanitation, and social housing.

“Addressing climate change requires looking beyond environmental issues.”



The City of Bogotá’s Energy Secretary, **Susana Muhamad**, discussed **mobility and safe cities**. She spoke about the citizen movement for cycle lanes in Bogotá, provoked by the insecurity felt by women on public transport.





Secretary General of UCLG, Josep Roig, closed the session with Shannon Lawrence C40 Cities and Reta Jo Lewis of the German Marshall Fund

The Women, Leadership and Development session was closed by Senior Resident Fellow, Transatlantic Leadership Initiatives at the German Marshall Fund, **Reta Jo Lewis**, and UCLG Secretary General, **Josep Roig**.

Lewis called on attendees to use social media to get the message on women's equality out and to make their voices heard. Only by leading from the front,

with data-driven arguments, she argued, will change be possible.

For his part, Josep Roig reflected on the active role that women members of UCLG, including the mayors of Banda Aceh, Madrid, Barcelona and Paris, had played in the UCLG World Council and Climate Summit of Local Leaders over the previous days, saying "Gender is not, and never will be, a marginal issue for UCLG."



KEY CONCLUSIONS



EQUALITY and empowerment of women needs to be at the core of the policy proposals made by local and regional governments in the international processes.



WOMEN are to the achievement of the SDGs what local governments are to the actual implementation of the agenda; instrumental actors that will trigger far-reaching transformation and foster ownership from the bottom up.



FOSTERING the participation of women in decision making at all levels remains critical to ensure fairer more resilient societies.



GENDER SENSITIVE POLICIES are not only to the benefit of women but will unlock transformational potential across the board, changing perceptions, designs and values to the benefit of more balanced human societies.



CREATING support networks for women leadership needs to remain a priority of UCLG and its partners at national, regional and international levels.



THE EQUALITY AGENDA is not a women only agenda. The active participation of men and the education of young boys will need more attention.



THE ROAD to equality cannot be diverted and UCLG will need to lead by example in the 2016 elections!

PARIS LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS' GLOBAL AGENDA FOR EQUALITY OF WOMEN AND MEN IN LOCAL LIFE

ADOPTED AT THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE
OF LOCALLY ELECTED WOMEN
PARIS, 31 JANUARY 2013



metropolis ●



MAIRIE DE PARIS 



We, locally elected women and men gathered in Paris on 31 January-1 February 2013, together with women and men from all spheres of society, at the initiative of the City of Paris and the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality, with the contribution of the UCLG Regional sections and the patronage of UN Women,

- 01 RECALL** *that in all aspects of political, economic and social life, women continue to be under-represented in the decision-making bodies around the world;*
- 02 CONVINCED** *that the participation of women in local decision-making, strongly strengthens the democratic base(s) of society and contributes to successful development;*
- 03 CONSIDERING** *that the problems and challenges that humanity is facing are global but have to be dealt with at the local level;*
- 04 UNDERLINING** *that democratic local self-governance plays a critical role in securing social, economic and political justice for all citizens of every community in the world and that all members of society, women and men, must be included in the governance process;*
- 05 CONSCIOUS** *of the great potential of the local level in the promotion of innovative and transformative solutions and conscious of the vital role of women's talent in society;*
- 06 COMMITTED** *to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the MDGs and the Roadmap of UN Women;*
- 07 BUILDING** *on the knowledge gathered by our worldwide international movement and inspired by the **Worldwide Declaration on Women in Local Government** and the values and principles contained in the European Charter on Equality of Women and Men in local Life;*
- 08 COMMITTED** *to contributing to improve the status of women and promoting gender equality and coresponsability around the world;*

*We launch a local and regional **GLOBAL AGENDA for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life** as a strategic tool to increase the respect for equality of women and men in all spheres of decision-making with focus on the following issues:*

I. INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN LOCAL DECISION-MAKING, IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND TO ACHIEVE A SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA POST-2015

We call for:

- 01 INCLUSION** *of women in local decision-making as a clear target of the MDGs;*
- 02 POLITICAL PARTIES** *to include women in all their decision-making bodies and respect gender equality and parity in all their processes of appointment or election;*
- 03 WOMEN** *who are decision-makers in their political parties to mobilize, set up a framework and support other women to integrate the political stage, face difficulties and promote female leadership;*

- 04 GOVERNMENTS** *to establish mechanisms that will help to achieve equal representation;*
- 05 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS** *to create and strengthen Standing Equality Committees;*
- 06 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS** *to closely collaborate with women NGOs and the private sector in order to tackle inequality issues.*

II. EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN TO BE AT THE TOP OF THE AGENDA OF LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY MAKING AND FOR ADEQUATE SERVICE PROVISION THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVED CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN AND THEIR EMPOWERMENT

We call for:

- 01 A CHANGE** *in the laws that affect the conditions for women and for the efficient implementation of laws;*
- 02 WOMEN** *to be involved in the development, management and monitoring of public services. Their needs must be made visible and taken into account at all times in planning and budgeting;*
- 03 PUBLIC SERVICES** *to avoid perpetuating stereotypes of women and men;*
- 04 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS** *to make additional efforts to provide employment to women and provide adequate training;*
- 05 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS** *to play an important role in providing local, professional and safe care services for children, older people and people with specific needs contributing to alleviate the heavy workload of women preventing them from playing a full role in society;*

- 06 INNOVATIVE** *financial mechanisms to be developed to stimulate the independence of women and their active participation in the economic life;*
- 07 MAINSTREAMING** *a gender approach in the design and implementation of local and regional policies.*

III. A SAFE WORLD IN PARTICULAR FOR WOMEN, WHO ARE TRADITIONALLY THE MOST VULNERABLE TO ALL TYPES OF VIOLENCE

We call for:

- 01 PARLIAMENTS** *to legislate on violence and harassment towards women;*
- 02 CENTRAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS** *to develop programmes that protect women from violence and allocate resources;*
- 03 LOCAL PUBLIC POLICIES** *to ensure safe mobility and access to the territories;*
- 04 PUBLIC CAMPAIGNS** *to be developed educating girls and boys on the importance of avoiding all forms of physical, psychological and sexual violence and abuse;*
- 05 CENTRAL, LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS** *to provide special training to relevant staff, especially for police forces, concerning gender violence and contribute to eliminating stereotypical attitudes and behaviour;*
- 06 THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT** *of the situation of women in countries in times of conflict and post-conflict;*
- 07 THE MEDIA** *to be responsibly involved in the struggle against violence and harassment towards women.*



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UCLG WOMEN

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Africa



Asia-Pacific



Euro-Asia



Europe



Latin America



Middle East-
West Asia



North America



Metropolitan Section



Forum of Regions

