



22-24 FEBRUARY

**Mexico City, 24 February 2017**

**GLOBAL COMMITMENT FOR ACTION: INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND SAFE CITIES AND SAFE PUBLIC SPACES WITH AND FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

As local and national authorities, grassroots women, women’s organizations, youth, and other community organizations, the private sector, media, academia, and UN agencies joined together, and working to implement and advance comprehensive evidence based and human rights based prevention approaches to create inclusive safe cities and safe public spaces, we hereby declare that it is crucial, in an increasingly urbanized world, to make our cities safe, sustainable and inclusive for all women, girls, men and boys. Today, more than ever, it is a paramount requirement and commitment to achieve gender equality and guarantee the full participation of women in all decisions affecting cities. We will strive to implement measures to advance gender equality, to prevent sexual harassment, and other forms of violence against women and girls in public and private settings, and to eliminate all forms of discrimination.

In 2016, we started implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to transform our world and our cities, with gender equality and the empowerment of women as core commitments. In 2017, we began to implement the New Urban Agenda following its adoption in October at Habitat III, in Quito Ecuador, its principles **and** commitments for sustainable urban development, including through UN Women’s Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Flagship Programme Initiative, and other women’s safety initiatives.

We have the knowledge, evidence based global guidance and tools that can be adapted at the local level to ***reach a 50-50 City as a strong foundation for achieving a 50 50 Planet by 2030.***

We recognize that sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces, limit their freedom, choices and their rights. All women and girls have a right to live a life free of fear, discrimination, and violence in the city, we hereby commit to:

1. ***Establish*** and strengthen strategic multi-sector and multi-level partnerships to develop, implement, coordinate, monitor, evaluate and build to scale evidence based and human rights based approaches to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces.



2. **Collect** data on both scale and nature of sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces, disaggregated by age, ethnicity, race, disability, and other factors taking into account diverse experiences early on- and throughout- planning and data collation to inform approaches.
3. **Advocate for** effective implementation of public policy reforms and legislation in order to eliminate structural inequality that results in the exclusion of women and girls, taking into account the intersection of race, ethnicity, age, gender identity, socioeconomic and health factors or disability, among others.
4. **Support the** institutionalization and adequate resourcing of mechanisms to advance gender equality within all levels of state and non-state entities.
5. **Integrate** gender perspectives in urban development, land management and access to physical and social quality infrastructure; including access to housing, renewable energy; drinking water and sanitation; food; waste disposal; sustainable mobility; healthcare and family planning; education; culture; and information and communication technologies.
6. **Ensure the** development of and implementation of sustainable, gender-responsive budgeting and planning in state and non-state entities.
7. **Foster** the economic empowerment of women focusing on their access to decent jobs and the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. Promote more opportunities for women to contribute to local economies whether as businesswomen, employees or entrepreneurs. Encourage asset ownership; access to credits, local markets and financial mechanisms; the use of new information technologies; and measures of special care, protection, and support for women in formal and informal sectors.
8. **Ensure** care and time use policies. Care policies should include local essential services to/from households; time-saving, well-connected public transport; public care services for the dependent population; and an adequate and inclusive infrastructure. Foster the cooperative involvement of authorities, the private sector, the community, and families – stressing the participation of men – in the provision of health and care services. Implement paid maternity and paternity entitlements, and establish incentives so that men undertake their responsibilities in the private sphere.
9. **Develop** an integrated strategy that promotes structural change towards gender equality, mobilizing men and boys as agents of change, with the active participation of women and their organizations, as well as that of the civil society.
10. **Invest** in violence prevention programs such as *Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls*, with the support of UN Women and other UN



Agencies, and in order to enhance the right to a life without violence, as well as to promote cross-cutting information, programmes and services; gender responsive public infrastructure; and the recovery of public spaces.

- 11. **Develop** evidence based zero tolerance campaigns aimed to promote women’s and girl’s rights to the city, and promote respectful gender relations, gender equality, and safety in all public spaces, through ongoing and sustained communications, improved access to justice and strengthened prevention and support strategies, whilst providing training for people who operate such services.
- 12. **Promote** initiatives to create public spaces for recreation and leisure, and the safe and inclusive entertainment of communities, families, women and girls, whilst ensuring fair access for women to spaces such as parks, libraries, theaters, exhibitions, fairs, sport facilities, etc.
- 13. **Strengthen** the leadership and political engagement of women in cities, and promote their active involvement in urban development and civic government. To accomplish this, it is paramount to incentivize and support women's community-based and civil society organizations; strengthen the status and budgets of mechanisms for the advancement of gender equality at a local level; and take actions to consolidate parity democracy in cities – including policy actions towards achieving parity in all decision-making roles.

We would like to express our gratitude to Mexico City and its Government for their kind hospitality, and all the strong efforts which led to the adoption of the Constitution of Mexico City, pioneering the right to the city and the right to care; and grounded on a human rights approach, gender equality, intersectionality, intergenerational, citizen participation, and the right to good administration.

We acknowledge the work of UN Women for developing with its global partners in the women’s safety movement, and founding city partners (in Cairo, Kigali, Quito, Port Moresby, and New Delhi); the *Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Flagship Programme Initiative*, and its vital importance for the continuity of its comprehensive programming in over 20 cities, and this biennial Forum to support exchanges among these cities, and those that may join them in the future.

Adopted in Mexico City, Mexico, on the twenty fourth of February, two thousand seventeen