



THE RABAT DECLARATION

GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO ACTION: SAFE CITIES AND SAFE PUBLIC SPACES WITH AND FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Rabat, 28 February 2020

As Mayors and representatives of local governments we hereby declare that it is our priority to ensure safe, sustainable, healthy and inclusive cities for all women and girls and men and boys. Crucial to addressing this priority is our partnership with other government authorities, women's organizations, youth, and other community organizations, the private sector, media, academia, and UN agencies to implement and advance integrated evidence and human rights-based approaches to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces.

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.

In advancing the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Sustainable Development Goals at the local level 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 spaces, and to eliminate all forms of discrimination.

Being close to people and communities, local and regional authorities are best placed to combat the persistence and the reproduction of inequalities, to promote a truly egalitarian society, and play a pivotal role in creating cities and public spaces that are safe and sustainable for women and girls.

In actioning our commitments, we will advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda adopted at Habitat III in order to transform our world and our cities, with gender equality and the empowerment of women as core commitments.

This has been possible through UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Flagship Programme Initiative, and other women's safety initiatives.

We commit to share knowledge emanating from our experience and increased access to global guidance and instruments that can be adapted at the local level as a strong foundation for achieving 50 50 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:

ESTABLISH and strengthen strategic multi-sector and multi-level partnerships to develop, implement, monitor, evaluate and build to scale evidence and human rights-based approaches to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces in partnership with women and girls. This includes measures to ensure those women and girls who experience multiple and simultaneous forms of oppression, who are often at high risk for experiencing sexual violence and other forms of violence are placed at the center of our concerted action.

PARTICIPATE and support the collection of data on the extent 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, and taking into account diverse experiences early in data collection processes and ensuring gender-differentiated analysis from an intersectional perspective to inform action.

ADVOCATE for effective implementation of public policy reforms and in order to eliminate structural inequality that results in the exclusion of women and girls following the Leave No One Behind principle. This includes policies that recognize women's experience of violence is shaped by factors such as race, ethnicity, age, gender identity, socioeconomic and health factors or disability, among others and their linkages with feminist action for climate justice.

SUPPORT the institutionalization and resourcing of mechanisms to advance gender equality, and ensure that the voices of women and girls are heard and that place gender equality at the heart of development processes.

ESTABLISH mechanisms that support women and girls' participation in urban development, and implement a gender responsive approach addressing spatial and social exclusion; from land management and access to physical and social infrastructure, 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

ENSURE the development of and implementation of sustainable gender-responsive budgeting which integrates women's safety.

FOSTER the economic empowerment of women focusing on their access to decent jobs and the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and the care economy. 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, as part of economic justice.

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 through intergenerational dialogues, including through the broader movement of Generation Equality and Action Coalitions.

INVEST in violence prevention programmes such as Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls, with the support of UN Women and other UN Agencies, 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.

PROMOTE initiatives to create public spaces for recreation and leisure, and the safe and inclusive entertainment for communities, families, women and girls, whilst ensuring fair access for women to spaces such as parks, libraries, theaters, exhibitions, fairs, sport facilities, etc.

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 support feminist movements, women's community based and civil society organizations; strengthen the status and budgets of mechanisms for the advancement of gender equality at the local level; and take action to ensure women's participation in decision making processes and consolidate parity in cities – including policy actions towards achieving parity in all decision-making roles

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 49 cities, and this biennial Forum to support exchanges among these cities, and those that may join them in the future.

Adopted in Rabat, Morocco, on the twenty eighth of February, two thousand twenty.