

The Advisory Group on Gender Issues

AGGI 2015

PROGRESS REPORT

AGGI recommendations to Executive Director of UN-Habitat, April 2015

1. Advises on ensuring a thematic conference on Women in Cities at the Habitat III Conference.
2. For UN-Habitat to leave a practical legacy pertaining to women in Quito after the Habitat III Conference.
3. Acknowledges the fact consensus to engender SDG

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4. Advises that SDG 11 become more gendered: and SDG 5 to become more urban.
5. Expresses concern pertaining to gender parity at agency, in particular at senior levels and recommends further study in the issue.

6. Recommends the creation and dissemination of more gender-sensitive tools at project and program levels.
7. Recommends that the Gender Equality Unit receive more resources in order to carry out its work and plan. Background and Introduction

AGGI is established as an independent advisory body to the UN-Habitat Executive Director, guided by principles of integrity, transparency, trust and accountability. AGGI has the role of advancing women's empowerment and gender equality in sustainable urban development. This is accomplished through the provision of strategy guidance and advice on policies, programs and budgeting at global, regional, national and local levels. The work of AGGI addresses and impacts on all the thematic areas on UN-Habitat's work. Membership The Advisory Board on Gender Issues is composed of 16 members nominated with a consideration of professional background and regional balance. As an

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AGGI Annual meeting, April 2015, Nairobi, Kenya

Chair's Statement

It is with great pleasure that we present the AGGI Progress Report 2015 with the recommendations to the Executive Director Joan Clos agreed upon at the most recent AGGI Annual meeting in April 2015.

As we come into our third year AGGI continues to grow with diverse experience and expertise. We are happy to welcome new members with different backgrounds to our group: Nadia Hassan Bakhurji, from Saudi Arabia; Margarita Carranco, from Ecuador; Lene Conradi, from Norway; Elena Dumitru, from Romania; Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, from Indonesia; and Yogeshwar Varma, from India;

Since the last report we have had to say goodbye to other well appreciated members. It has been a utmost pleasure working with Ramzia Alervani, from Yemen; Ester Borrás Andreu from Spain; Batilda Burian, from Tanzania; Nilcea Friere, from Brazil; Anne Hidalgo from France; Mayor Masunda, from Zimbabwe; and Micere Mugo, from Kenya and USA. I wish to thank you all for your contributions and wish you all the best in the future. I would also like to give my special thanks to the hard work of the previous Vice Chair of AGGI Thomas Ball.

During our most recent meeting in Nairobi April 18th, during the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, a new vice chair was selected and I am very happy to welcome the new vice chair: Ana Falú.

*Aminata Traoré
Chair of Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI)*

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Membership

The Advisory Board on Gender Issues is composed of 16 members nominated with a consideration of professional background and regional balance. As an outcome of the AGGI meeting annual meeting at the 25th Governing Council Aminata Dramane Traoré has been reconfirmed as Chair, with Ana Falú as Vice Chair.

Aminata Dramane Traoré
Author, politician, gender and political activist

At her core Aminata Dramane Traoré is a human and women's rights advocate. She works with urban poor communities, empowering them to build infrastructure, networks and enterprises. She served as the Minister of Culture and Tourism of Mali from 1997 to 2000 and is a former coordinator of the United Nations Development Programme.



Nadia Hassan Bakhurji
President of Nadia Hassan Bakhurji Architectural & Interior Design Consultants Firm (NBA)

Nadia Hassan Bakhurji is the owner and the President of Nadia Bakhurji Architectural & Interior Design Consultants Firm (NBA) based in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. She has worked in the field since 1989 and has become a major pioneer for the advancement of women in education, in the engineering sector and in the business sphere.



Teresa Boccia
Professor Urban Planning, Federico II University of Naples, Faculty of Architecture and LUPT Interdepartmental Research Centre, Italy

Teresa Boccia has worked on the topics of equal democracy and women empowerment. She is trained as an architect, and professor of Urban Planning, at the Faculty of Architecture of the Federico II University of Naples. She is a member of the committee of the LUPT, Interdepartmental Research Centre of Federico II University, with a delegation about internationalization and international relations, gender lens, times policies, city of differences, big events, direction of URBANIMA.



Margarita Carranco
Secretary of Social Inclusion for the Metropolitan District of Quito, Ecuador

Margarita Carranco has held various political positions, including National Coordination Leader on Ecuadorian Women and Councilor for the Metropolitan District of Quito. As a consultant, Margarita has worked on issues of gender, children and youth at UNICEF, UNIFEM and at the Interior Ministry of Ecuador.



Lene Conradi
Mayor of Asker, Norway

Lene Conradi is the Mayor of Asker in Norway. Since 1995 she has represented the Conservative Party in the Municipal Council and in 2007 she became the first female Mayor of Asker. Currently she leads the regional chapter of the UCLG. She is a member of the Norwegian Conservative Party's leading committee together with the Prime Minister, Minister of Health, Minister of Regional Development and Minister of Education.



Diane Dumashie
Vice President International Federation of Surveyors, Governing council Board Member Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Director Dumashie Ltd.

Diane Dumashie is an established professional Land economist and Projects Director, specializing in institutional development, land and property regeneration and coastal zone master planning. With over 30 years' experience in the public and private land sector she is established as a leader to foster urban and rural change through her work in gender equality and access to resources. Holding several senior leadership positions with a world-wide focus she is particularly committed to sub-Saharan Africa, assisting to alleviate poverty by empowering people to change attitudes and their societal practices.



Members

Elena Dumitru

Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Head of Permanent Representative of Romania to UNEP and UN-Habitat

Elena Dumitru has held several leadership and negotiating roles at the regional and global levels, working with international and national partners to promote the environmental agenda, underlining gender dimension and enhance technical and institutional capacity in her country and internationally. From 2002 to 2008, she was Director-General of the Department of Environment, Waste and Chemicals Management at the Romanian Ministry of Environment.



Ana Falú

Professor and Researcher at the National University of Cordoba, Argentina

Ana Falú is a trained Architect, an academic, social activist and feminist. Currently she is Professor and Researcher at the National University of Cordoba, Argentina. She was Regional Director of UNIFEM in Andean Region from 2002 to 2004; and for Brazil and the Southern Cone Countries from 2004 to 2009.



Carmen Griffiths

Executive Director of the Construction Resource and Development Center (CRDC) also Leader of GROOTS Jamaica

Carmen is the Executive Director of the Construction Resource and Development Center (CRDC) in Kingston, Jamaica, and leader of GROOTS Jamaica, a national network of grassroots women's groups in rural and urban areas of Jamaica. She is a senior practitioner with over 20 years' experience in facilitating women's participation in construction related businesses.



Esther Mwaura-Muiru

Founder and Coordinator of GROOTS Kenya

Esther Mwaura-Muiru is Founder and Coordinator of GROOTS Kenya (Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood), a network of more than 2000 self-help groups from poor communities in urban slums and rural areas across the country. She is a regional organizer for GROOTS International and the Huairou Commission in Africa.



Janice Peterson

Chair of Huairou Commission

Janice Peterson serves as the Chair of the Coordinating Council of the Huairou Commission. She has been a leader in producing innovative community structures led by grassroots women. In New York, she has founded a number of community-based organizations to help grassroots women build leadership.



Lakshmi Puri

Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women

Lakshmi Puri has more than 37 years' experience in economic and development policy-making, as well as in political, peace and security, humanitarian and human rights-related diplomacy. She has worked on including a gender perspective in trade investment, migration and labour mobility, financial flows, environment and climate change, energy, agriculture and food security and access to essential services, among other issues.



Members

Siraj Sait

Reader and Head of Research, University of East London

Siraj Sait is a well-known human rights lawyer and activist with experience as government official and Human Rights Prosecutor in India. His development expertise includes gender and age in land/housing, refugee and post-conflict studies and Islamic law. Siraj Sait has been closely associated with several grassroots campaigns on abolition of forced labour, minority rights and gender equality.



Sri Husnaini Sofjan

Chief Executive Officer, Penang Women's Development Corporation, Penang Malaysia

Sri Husnaini Sofjan is committed to promoting policies, programmes and practices that upholds the principles of good local/urban governance and better human settlements, and is very passionate about empowering and promoting women's participation and gender equality. Sri gained regional coordination expertise on urban management and urban governance as the Regional Programme Manager of the UNDP's The Urban Governance Initiative (TUGI), from 2001 to 2004.



Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi

Secretary General, United Cities and Local and Regional Governments (UCLG) for Asia Pacific

Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi has been the Secretary General of the Global Networks of Cities, Local and Regional Governments (UCLG) since 2013. She has more than fifteen years' experience in urban development and related fields, as well as a strong portfolio of experience in local governance and development goals and capacity building for local governments.



Yogeshwar Varma

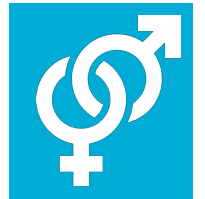
High Commissioner of India to Kenya

Yogeshwar Varma joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1980 holding different posts in India, Japan, Myanmar, Venezuela and Thailand. He also served as Consul General to Sao Paulo, Brazil from August 2003 to July 2006 and Ambassador to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from October 2006 to September 2009. He was Ambassador to the Republic of Panama and concurrently also to El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua from July 2011 to March 2014.



Members

Secretariat



AGGI is supported by a secretariat, based in UN-Habitat's Gender Equality Unit (GEU) at the Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Secretariat is responsible for facilitating all communication between AGGI and UN-Habitat, and is supported by Gender Focal Points across the agency.

Activities and Projects

Activities and Progress

Since its establishment in September 2012 and the last report in August 2013, AGGI has been involved in a number of activities and represented in various forums, conferences and

workshops, either as a group or by individual members. This report details these activities and progress of AGGI for the first year of operation.

Fourth AGGI meeting, April 2014

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AGGI members held their third meeting during the World Open Forum in Medellin, Colombia. During this meeting, a variation of issues were discussed. AGGI members reviewed the draft Gender Equality Action Plan 2014-2019 that included a Result Framework to be used to evaluate gender results in projects. They also discussed the Gender Equality Unit at the Secretariat and their efforts in reaching out to other programmes and agencies, and stated they have been

happy with the coordination. They also discussed the budget for the Gender Equality Unit, and agreed on recommending the Executive Director (ED) to enlarge the budget for next period.

The members also discussed AGGI's role in the Habitat III process, and how they would like to be proactively involved in the campaign for Habitat III. Members also requested the ED to know how much of the money for Habitat III will be allocated for women and gender issues.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), New York, March 2015

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), New York, March 2015
AGGI members partook in the fifty-ninth session of the CSW at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9 to 20 March 2015. Together with Member States, UN entities, and

ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from across the globe AGGI discussed the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as the integration of a gender perspective in the post-2015 development agenda.

Support to the Omnibus Resolution during Governing Council, April 2015

AGGI members played an important role in lobbying and advocating for the gender paragraphs of the Omnibus Resolution 25/4, 'Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019', which was adopted during the 25th session of the Governing Council.

33. Requests the Executive Director to continue to pursue the mainstreaming of youth and gender equality perspectives in the normative work and operational programmes of the United Nations

Human Settlements Programme and to ensure that youth and gender equality and empowerment remain an important part of the preparatory process for Habitat III and of the substantive content of the New Urban Agenda;

34. Also requests the Executive Director to ensure that adequate human and financial resources are allocated for continued youth and gender mainstreaming in the normative work and operational programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme'

Gender Forum, April 2015

During the 25th Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in Nairobi AGGI members played a critical role in the Gender Forum.

The forum was led by Diane Dumashie, a member of AGGI, and focused on current pressing issues of gender equality and the empowerment of women in human settlements. The event brought together representatives from government, UN agencies and civil society to discuss these issues in the path toward the New Urban

Agenda. Participants included: **Aisa Kacyira**, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat; **Anders Rönquist**, Head of Development Cooperation Section for Kenya, Embassy of Sweden, Nairobi; **Aminata Dramane Traoré**, Chair of AGGI; **Gloria Solórzano Espinosa**, leader of street vendors in Lima, Peru; **Katia Arujo**, Chair of Women's Constituency Group; **Christine Muisi**, Regional Director of UN Women East and Southern Africa; Her Excellency **Zoliswa (Zou) Kota-Fredericks**, Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Republic of South Africa.

Activities and Projects

PrepCom 2, April 2015

AGGI Members actively participated during the second session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

(Habitat III) held in Nairobi, Kenya, 14 to 16 April 2015. Members lobbied and planned strategic meetings to push the Gender Equality agenda within the PrepCom 2.

Fifth AGGI Meeting, April 2015

The Advisory Group on Gender Issues met on April during the 25th Session of the Governing Council in Nairobi, Kenya. AGGI members were updated on the current situation of the SDGs and the Habitat III process by UN-Habitat experts. Followed by from different UN-Habitat branches and Units on their work towards integrating

gender equality and the empowerment of women into their field, and was followed by AGGI members' advice and review. Gender Mainstreaming, the Gender Equality Action Plan and the Project Approval structures were discussed, as well as the UN-SWAP system and the UN-Habitat internal parity gender situation.

AGGI Work- ing Groups

WORKING GROUP ONE: PREPCOM III IN JAKARTA
Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi and Sri Husnaini Sofjan

WORKING GROUP TWO: HABITAT III CONFERENCE IN QUITO
Margarita Carranco, Teresa Boccia, Ana Falú, Carmen Griffiths and Janice Peterson

WORKING GROUP THREE: GENDER & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
Teresa Boccia, Esther Mwaura-Muiru and Lakshmi Puri

WORKING GROUP FOUR: GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN UN-HABITAT
Diane Dumashie, Elena Dumitru, Janice Peterson, and Siraj Sait

WORKING GROUP FIVE: GETTING A SMARTER, FUNCTIONAL AGGI BOARD
Diane Dumashie and Lene Conradi

AD HOC WORKING GROUP: EGM ON GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS
Aminata Dramane Traoré, Nadia Hassan Bakhurji and Janice Peterson



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Activities and Projects

Way Forward

AGGI will focus its work until October 2016 on Habitat III process contributing to the UN Habitat Agenda at the regional and global level. AGGI is central to the inclusion of a gender perspective and a focus on women's

rights in the new urban agenda. Indeed, AGGI will weigh in on thematic and regional meetings in the course of 2015 and 2016 as well as on PrepCom 3 in Jakarta in July 2016 in preparation for Quito 17-20 October 2016..

HABITAT III

Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to take place in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016. In resolution 66/207 and in line with the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996 and 2016), the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene the Habitat III Conference to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization, to focus on the

implementation of a New Urban Agenda, building on the Habitat Agenda of Istanbul in 1996. Habitat III Conference has the convening power to bring together all actors involved in issues of human settlements. Solutions for the complex challenge of urbanization can only be found by bringing together Member States, multilateral organizations, local governments, private sector and civil society.

Upcoming Events

1. Safe Public Spaces Global Campaign - New York (24 -25 September 2015)
2. Post-2015 Development Agenda - General Assembly, New York (25- 27 September 2015)
3. Thematic Meeting on Women with the Huairou Commission - New York (29 - 30 September 2015)
4. Third PrepCom Habitat III - Jakarta (25 - 27th July 2016)

5. Habitat III - Quito (17 - 20 July 2016)
6. Expert Group Meeting (EGM) Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Post-conflict Situations
7. Expert Group Meeting (EGM) Women in Sustainable Housing (WISH) Programming
8. Expert Group Meeting (EGM) The ASUD Agender



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