

GENDER AND CITIES CONFERENCE 2018 - WOMEN@THETABLE

4TH & 5TH DECEMBER



MAISON DE LA PAIX, GENEVA

REPORT

Women at the table convened experts, and expert feminists each separately focused on technology, gender, democracy, urban planning, or climate change for a discussion on shared visions and potential collaborations. This inaugural meeting was held in Geneva and attended by women from among Malaysia, Kenya, India, New York and Brazil among others.

Gender & Cities aims to delve into the gap between visions of equality for women and the cities we live in now, exploring what is meant by a gender transformative city, and analyzing the frameworks that enable women to have agency and influence as decision-makers from the kitchen table to municipality, national and international level.

It was a day and a half event, with additional half day bilateral on coalition building.

The Objectives were:-

- To build knowledge on gender-responsive cities

- To exchange vision, good practice and experience moving the urban development agenda in line with gender equality issues
- To foster cooperation around gender issues in urban settings among relevant stakeholders across the globe.

Huairou Commission's engagement

HC was represented by:-

Jane Anyango Odongo, an urban grassroots woman expert who had special inputs on steps that have been undertaken by women living in the slum communities in Kenya to lead various processes. She narrated how the Grassroots Women Global Tools have been domesticated to the local context, how the women use the knowledge they have for mapping and organizing, as well as how they create opportunities within existing systems to ensure representation and participation.

Sri Husnaini Sofjan, Senior Consultant, Huairou Commission, Kuala Lumpur, who had so much to highlight on various interventions by HC to empower grassroots women. She talked about Huairou Commission's work, the tools, about members and the opportunities that have advanced the capacities of the women to engaged within their communities and beyond. She shared about grassroots women and Global Frameworks, and about the important global platform for exchange learning and information sharing.

3rd December: Was a briefing and planning session where participants got acquainted with each other as well as their roles during the one and half day events starting the following day.

4th December: Attended the Launch of *International Development Policy* (DevPol) journal's latest issue at **African Cities and the Development Conundrum event**. The report focused on fast development of Africa Cities from the initial rural image, the diversity and complexity of the cities contest conventional understandings of the urban as well as standard development policy responses. What governance and policy measures are needed to ensure a sustainable future for African cities for all stakeholders? The research focused on Senegal, Kenya and Ghana.

I had a chance to make a presentation on benefits of devolved system of Government and how it can contribute to equity and equality in Kenya, even though there are gaps in the implementation of balanced gender representation.

Outcome: I was able to connect with 2 partners, one who is a strong advocate of actions and grassroots engagement, as opposed to reports and board room meetings. He is in Afri Cities Committee and looking forward to coming to Kenya for the next Afri Cities summit. The other one shared about scholarship opportunities from their university which is a great opportunity for students from low income areas like Kibera.

Video Shoot Filming

Was conducted to each of the participants, I had a chance to share the milestones of my work in Kibera and beyond and how we are making sure that women are not just present in processes but are part of decision making.

Women@TheTable Panels

What the regional and frontline feminists have in common with digital visionaries also focused on

democracy, inclusion and transformation was the main topic of discussion; what a feminist SMART City means and who builds the City. What a gender transformative city looks like,

and successful realities and solutions from New Delhi, Kibera, Kuala Lumpur, & Sao Paolo in Panel I, and The Transformative City with urban solutions and visions from London, Rio, Santiago, Mumbai & Toronto on Panel II.

Facts from presentations

- Digital platforms have been used to highlight opportunities, resources and still issues that deter women to engage in development processes as well as feel free while pursuing the development agenda.
- Mapping has been used as a tool to create awareness on various issues, locally, nationally and internationally.
- Various strategies that have been taken by financial institutions to support the work of women in various areas. This includes the establishment of women only funds which can support issues that are pertinent to women.
- The indigenous and other minority groups should be given space to participate and engage.

Questions and answers sessions gave room for further clarifications and engagements with the audience.

Take away questions

- How do we ensure that no woman is left behind
- How do we consolidate and report success stories for further learning and replications
- What steps should be taken to minimize challenge in the upcoming Cities and ensure that they are SMART and gender responsive.

5TH DECEMBER THE CONVENING

The unique convening created room to discuss **gender transformative potential of human settlements**; The model was a bottom up approach where the big names in the room had an opportunity to listen to the local groups.

The Huairou Commission team presented under the Agents of Change. A presentation from Kibera shared out how the **Grassroots Academies and Assemblies** have been used to educate women on several aspects in the community and beyond, how women are able to organize to hold the leaders accountable, how leadership gaps are identified and how the constitution has been used by the women create opportunities for themselves (The Kenyan 2/3rd rule agenda).

Huairou Commission shared about the successful mapping, organizing and capacity development have scaled up to 5 regions globally, about the unlimited opportunities including global platforms which have enabled the grassroots voices to be heard at global platforms. Actors in the room asked many questions to these interesting presentations, they sort proper understanding of the achievements that trickle down to community level yet coordinated from New York.

Incorporating gender lens in the climate justice and climate change movements

Success stories on special funding for local movements to include climate justice in their programs was shared from San Saulo. There are many groups organized for various

purposes, giving them room and funding on climate justice and climate change will make the better and more sustainable.

There is need for corporates to give resources for climate justice and to support climate change moments