



**High-Level Political Forum, 13 July, 2016  
(5th meeting) Creating ownership at the national level  
8th session - Discussion on “Creating ownership at the national level”**

Day 3: Intervention by Sunita Kotnala-Sathi (All for Partnership, India, Habitat International Coalition)

**Thankyou for the opportunity to provide input to the Women Major Group.**

The inclusion and participation of grassroots women’s organizations in planning, implementation and monitoring of 2030 Agenda at the local and national level is critical. Inclusion and representation of women and girls and other vulnerable groups in planning at national, district and village level is essential for integrating the Sustainable Development Goals. We can assist in breaking down silos by ensuring cross Goal 5 is included as a cross cutting theme across all of the SDG goals.

WMG appreciates that 22 countries are offering country reviews however in most cases civil society organisations were neither consulted nor informed about the reports. This cannot be termed as participation or collaboration and reduces the scope for more efficiency and efficacy in reporting of national progress in future.

We take this opportunity to invite member states to partner with Women Major Group organisations to improve the capacity of National Statistics Bureaus in developing indicators for capturing the most forgotten and left behind communities that fall through the gaps in official counts such as the homeless, landless, migrants and those with disability, mental health and the elderly. Leading to better collection and interpretation of data. For example in Nigeria the Women Major group constituent partners have successfully engaged National Statistics Bureau by inviting them to participate in more gender responsive data collection and reporting and we encourage other states to follow the example.

The CSO experience is valuable in both identifying need and delivering adequate services for vulnerable women and protecting the human rights and resource rights of communities. Collaboration with CSOs can make government services and processes more efficient by adopting gender responsive tools and methodologies developed and used by our member constituencies. Examples include Gender Budgeting adopted in Mexico that made development of highways more gender responsive by negligible increase in budget expenditure. Methodology of Measuring and computing Gender Resource Gap developed in India has the potential of improving health, education and transport and safety by identifying gender gaps at the familial,

local community, state and national levels. Mainstreaming gender in all environmental assessments as defined under the recently released Gender Global Environmental Outlook 2016.

The methodologies and tools bring efficacy and efficiency in providing basic devices with better outcomes and budget outputs by improving partnerships. The increased participation between government, civil society and all genders and communities identifies gaps, issues and develop sustainable solutions and services accordingly.

**The threats to gender equality continue to be real for women and girls and national plans if developed without women can be the biggest threats. For example, in One Latin American county 8 out of the 26 states have removed the words "gender" and "gender equality" from their state and municipal education plans under the argument that "gender ideology" should be absolutely avoided in schools. By reducing the scope for input by CSOs at large, and women and girls in particular, States are not hearing the experiences or needs nor reporting on the real progress related to Goal 5 and other cross cutting goals like themes.**

The impact of reducing gender-focused services has severe implications for all of society and in achieving the targets and indicators related to Goal 5 both nationally and internationally.