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# Engendering Habitat III: Facing the Global Challenges in Cities

# SPECIAL ISSUE

Sonia De Gregorio Hurtado and Inés Novella Abril coordinated this special issue with the editorial board

# Engendering Habitat III: Facing the Global Challenges in Cities

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# Monitoring the New Urban Agenda follow-up for gender equality

Antonio Acierno

After twenty years, in October 2016, delegates from about 170 countries met in Quito, Ecuador, at the Habitat III Conference, to discuss about urbanization and plan a new idea about the city of future. At the end of the four days meeting the final text of New Urban Agenda was signed engaging all the partecipants, on voluntary base, to implement the commitments for a new urban scenario.

Subsequently, in late December the U.N. General Assembly ratified the document which became an ambitious objective for the countries involved, especially with government legislation, financing and implementation. Furthermore, it is an interesting aspect to find the ways to monitor essentially the follow-up of the document.

The last paragraph (points 161-175) of the New Urban Agenda concerns its follow up and review, stressing the importance of a periodic monitoring of the implementation of objectives and goals. The originality of the 2016 Habitat conference is the engagement for action, by comparision with the previous ones. Urbanization is seen not only as a problem but also as an opportunity to change the path towards the unsustainable fate of world urban areas. The countries all over the world have obliged to prioritise policies to transform urbanization in a positive manner to live on the earth.

To achieve such goal, the General Assembly adopted the New Urban Agenda supplanting the previous Habitat Agenda derived from the Conference of 1996 about *Human Settlements*. The General Assembly usually adopts a resolution every year on the execution of the previous Agenda, monitoring advances in the strategy and the last resolution states the need of implementation of the New Urban Agenda focusing on the *urbanization*.

The resolution stimulates countries to develop strategies at different levels - global, national, regional and local - recognizing the importance of taking concrete action to achieve the desired results. The final section of the New Urban Agenda prefigures a review process by engaging the Un-Habitat for controlling the implementation of the document.

The New Urban Agenda recognizes the importance of citizens' participation to a gender vision within the policies, plans and processes that will manage the urbanization in the coming years. It encourages a voluntary, open, inclusive broad participation, guided by national governments. It acknowledges the importance of local governments in implementing actions in accordance with the regional and national ones, in order to prepare appropriate tools for monitoring.

Moreover the monitoring of the New Urban Agenda should be coordinated with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for guaranteeing reliability, although it is not clear how this can be implemented. The 2030 Agenda, signed in 2015, contains

# THE GLOBAL GOALS



Fig. 1 - The 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2015

17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, for addressing the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development and their interrelations (fig.1). The National Governments committed to engage in the systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that will be based on regular, voluntary and inclusive country-led progress reviews at the national level. Monitoring of MSDs is complex and the integration with the New Urban Agenda could represent an opportunity to improve clearly the selected procedures.

According to the integration with 2030 Agenda, the first report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda will be discussed on the occasion of the 72nd session of the General Assembly in 2018 and then, every four years. The reports should provide quantitative

and qualitative data attesting the advances and it has to be based on the involvement of various stakeolders (organizations, associations, academia, private sector and civil society).

At the moment, we do not know exactly how to organize this system of evaluation at local, regional and national level. Probably the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will represent the pattern to follow and, subsequently, to be improved.

If we assume the New Urban Agenda is an implementation agreement strictly linked to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, then it should mainly contribute to the *Goal 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable,* and to the urban dimension of the other SDG (fig. 2), particularly *Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls* (fig. 3). That means NUA could detail qualitative and quantitative indicators used to evaluate urban advancements in the context of 2030 Agenda. Moreover the monitoring process needs to be localized in the different countries and regions, and New Urban Agenda could support this method involving cities.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development monitoring process is based on a few selected indicators for each goal, and particularly the Goal n.11 has its specific Guide Lines to assist national and local governments to monitor and report on SDG Goal 11 indicators (*SDG-Goal 11 Monitoring Framework*). The adoption of this global framework has several advantages:

- adopt a systemic approach of the city
- provide a single value of the state of the city
- establish benchmarks for local, national and global monitoring
- · create baseline data and information
- establish a global platform for comparability
- identify priorities of sustainable urban development
- provides evidence-based for policy-making and accountability
- create local/national monitoring mechanisms.

For each indicator, the framework examines the subsequent features: type,

Goals and targets (from the 2030 Agenda)	Indicators
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing
11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons	11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries	11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate 11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically
11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	11.4.1 Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship)
11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations	11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people <sup>o</sup> 11.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP, including disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services <sup>o</sup>
11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	11.6.1 Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities
	11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)
11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities	11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
	11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months
11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning	11.a.1 Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city
11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster	11.b.1 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030°     11.b.2 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies°
11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials	11.c.1 Proportion of financial support to the least developed countries that is allocated to the construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient and resource-efficient buildings utilizing local materials

Fig. 2 - Targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goal n. 11 of the 2030 Agenda

methodology, unit, data sources, scope, frequency, potential disaggregation or quantifiable derivatives, related sdg targets/indicators, relevance, suitability, feasibility, limitations, policy connection, bibliographic and URL references.

The Monitoring Framework proposes an integrated innovative mechanism to avoid the risk of an extreme sectorial approach caused by a direct relationship of one specific indicator and its target. The framework adopts a comprehensive approach to the city linking each target to the complexity of the urban features. In addition, it proposes a platform with better-integrated information contained in each indicator. In such a way it is possible to understand the multiple interactions of all thematic indicators.

Moreover, in 2012, UN-Habitat created a new global monitoring tool to measure sustainability at urban level: the *City Prosperity Index* (fig. 4), based on a holistic, integrated and systemic view of the city. Then the index was transformed into a global initiative that aims to support local and central governments in collecting data relating to spatial, demographic, economic, social and environmental challenges. The CPI has the potential to be a global framework for indicators and targets of Goal 11, because it is

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls Goals and targets (from the 2030 Agenda) **Indicators** 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls 5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by exual and other types of exploitation a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age 5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and 5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or orced marriage and female genital mutilation in a union before age 15 and before age 18 5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work 5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, hrough the provision of public services, infrastructure and by sex, age and location social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationall appropriate 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in and local governments political, economic and public life 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health 5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for 5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences care, information and education 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic 5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership esources, as well as access to ownership and control over land or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type natural resources, in accordance with national law 5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular 5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable 5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment mpowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Fig. 3 - Targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goal n. 5 of the 2030 Agenda

based on a sound statistical approach integrating different indicators. At the moment, the CPI has been proven in more than 400 cities across the world and it represents a positive way to evaluate progress towards sustainable cities.

Lookin at the *Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls* there are relevant targets and subsequently referred indicators to social themes (discrimination, violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, etc.) and only a few with reference to urban themes (unpaid care and domestic work, provision of public services, infrastructure, etc.) but there are no specific targets and related indicators to urban themes (p.e., planning and design, mobility, transport, facilities, etc.).

The New Urban Agenda monitoring and follow-up could produce more detailed indicators (especially for gender equality), in respect of the 2030 Agenda monitoring framework, to compare national contexts.

With regards to the objectives of the New Urban Agenda in reference to gender<sup>1</sup>, it appears that the possible indicators are much more than the SDGs of 2030 Agenda,

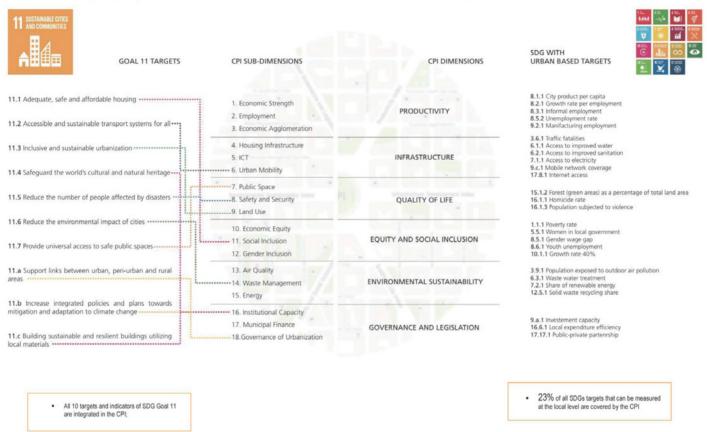


Fig. 4 - The City Prosperity Index created by UN-Habitat in 2012. (source: Goal n. 11 Monitoring Framework)

thus, monitoring the results of actions in terms of quantity and quality, becomes complicated. In order to identify the advances developed in different local and national contexts, it would be appropriate to share a data base on which we can measure progress in implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Unfortunately, the state of the policies/actions/ legislation/gender practices worldwide is monitored in a fragmented and uncoordinated way. There are several initiatives at international and national levels aimed at collecting data and indicators to measure gender inequalities and gender mainstreaming in different social themes (work, representation, violence, insecurity, etc.), while rare examples exist in urban planning. As Inès Sanchez de Madariaga suggests in her paper published in this issue, the commitment of the New Urban Agenda aiming at integrating gender perspective in the urban agenda is certainly a success but women in the document have been mentioned mainly as they belong to vulnerable groups and not as agents of change. Moreover, many of the experiences implemented in the world today are pilot projects, manuals or toolkits and ultimately rhetorical statements within the Gender Equality Plans but they are not actually implemented in urban development. Commitment to research and the academy could be, first of all, the creation of a database of information with the production of indicators to assess gender mainstreaming.

- I. Sanchez de Madariaga coordinated the conference *Engendering Habitat III: Facing the Global Challenges in Cities* in Madrid, October 2016, focusing mainly on the role of research and academia in gender mainstreaming. This issue collects selected papers written on the basis of the presentations in the conference regarding the state of the art gender expert knowledge on city planning, transport, climate change, energy, building and management, from which create strong recommendations and proposals to improve the gender inputs into many international agreements on the city. I. Sanchez de Madariaga focuses the attention on how the research and academia can contribute to the follow-up of the New Urban Agenda. She listed four existing platforms and structures of significant reference:
- a) COST policy driven network genderSTE (Gender, Science, Technology and Environment)
- b) UNESCO Chair and UNITWIN program
- c) CONICET's collaborations across Latin American countries
- d) GENPORT, Portal for EC policies on Gender in science.

These initiatives represent models for monitoring the actions and policies of gender mainstreaming ensuring multisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity, using also non academic research, new technology such as GIS, collecting and selecting disaggregated data by sex, age, and territories.

The follow-up should be built on these existing platforms, integrating and detailing the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development monitoring process and particularly the Goal n. 11 Monitoring Framework.

In addition to these, it is necessary to mention the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), founded by European Union in 2010 as an indipendent body of the EU, aiming to support gender equality. EIGE aims to create the most complete European knowledge centre on gender equality, thus it has been collecting expertise and knowledge, and sharing useful experiences. EIGE is monitoring the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action(BPfA)<sup>2</sup> in the Member States (fig. 5) and has published eight reports showing the critical points into the policymaking process through Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council. Furthermore, EIGE has produced the *Gender Equality Index* (2013), a synthetic indicator able to assess the density of gender equality topics into an unique measure. The index is produced by combining gender indicators, according to a conceptual framework, belonging to six core domains (*work, money, knowledge, time, power and health*) and two satellite domains (*intersecting inequalities and violence*) (fig. 6).

The significant element of Gender Equality Index regards the gender gaps between women and men, evaluating gender equality in a extensive approach. It considers gaps responsible for the existent disadvantages of either women or men as equally problematic. The Gender Equality Index assesses gender equality taking into account both gender gaps and produces complex information according to different levels of



Fig. 5 - The BPfA Beijing Platform for Action (source: Gender Equality Index 2015 Report)

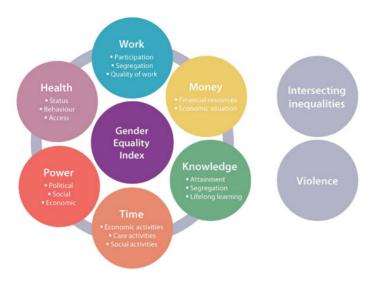


Fig. 6 - Domains and sub-domains of the Gender Equality Index (source: Gender Equality Index 2015 Report)

achievement, expressing the achieved grade of gender mainstreaming.

The agency also produced a *Gender Statistic Database* organized in 12 thematic areas with 2304 indicators: Population and demography (168 indicators); Attitudes, perceptions, and norms (44); Health and mortality (357); Education and training (243); Work and labour market (690); Financial and economic situation (345); Time use (88); Power and decision making (56); Research, science, and technology (110); Gender-based violence (128); Fertility and reproductive rights (35); Background: The national economy (40).

This latter initiative, together with the previous ones, demonstrates the potentiality of existing platforms and the fundamental contribution of research on gender in

the urban context.

Above all, research should highlight the essential role of gender sensitive planning in policies and practices worldwide applied in a systematic manner and not only as pilot project or manuals. For example, the City of Vienna, has applied gender sensitive planning in the city's transformation, improving neighbourhoods, open spaces, housing and transport. The gender mainstreaming in urban development of Vienna represents a positive model worldwide.

Some useful indicators may be extracted from the best practices worldwide focusing on urban planning/design and gender mainstreaming related to: access to employment, good housing, green space and indispensable services.

Producing gender sensitive planning and urban design indicators could be the main commitment for research and academia starting from the available data on the mentioned platforms (employment, services, safety, housing, green spaces, community participation, etc.). These initiatives can form the basis for future research and action on gender mainstreaming.

This issue has collected interesting papers on gender sensitive urban planning and design together with reference to research contribution on this challenge embodied in New Urban Agenda.

Finally, I would like to thank Inès Sanchez de Madariaga, Teresa Boccia, Inés Novella and Sonia de Gregorio Hurtado for papers selection, peer review and collaboration with the journal editorial board. Their scientific activities have been represented a valuable resource and an indispensable contribution for the publication of this issue.

## **ENDNOTES**

1 In the editorial of TRIA journal n. 16 (June 2016) I briefly listed them highlighting the main targets to be achieved in the future on gender equality.

2 In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for Equality, Development and Peace (BPfA)*, an agenda for women's empowerment. As an agenda for action, the BPfA seeks to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women throughout their lives.

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# **WEB SITES**

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