



Actions et Politiques pour l'Égalité des Genres

## **FINAL DECLARATION**

**of the International Forum**

# **DYNAMIC CITIES NEED WOMEN**

**Actions and policies for gender equality**

**Brussels, 3-5 December 2007**

We, the participants in the first international forum “Dynamic Cities Need Women”, gathered in Brussels, from December 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2007, at the invitation of the Brussels Capital Region and the Metropolis Women International Network,

CONSIDERING the fact that nearly half of the world population is urban, and the majority of the people who live in cities are women;

RECOGNIZE the essential role that women play in all aspects of urban life and their contribution to a sustainable development that benefits all;

AFFIRM that equal opportunities for participation of men and women in all aspects of public and private life are universal and fundamental rights;

CONCLUDE that significant progress has been made since the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 but that there is still much to be done in all parts of the world to ensure the full equality of women in accordance with the Millenium Development Goals and the Habitat Agenda on the equality and development of women;

APPEAL to the relevant authorities and institutions in all countries to develop and implement policies and plans and act on the following priorities:

- removing all remaining customary and legal barriers and ensure the enforcement of laws pertaining to equality between women and men;
- ensuring women security of tenure and equal property rights;
- promoting equal access of women and men to all levels of education and vocational training;
- enhancing the opportunities for women to play a full and equal role in technology, and in the economy, both as entrepreneurs and as employees,
- providing the necessary support to allow women and men to choose how to combine their careers and family life, including ready access to childcare services and care for the elderly;
- ensuring equal access of women to health care services that respond to their specific needs as women and to the social protection of unemployment benefits and pensions;
- guaranteeing a balanced representation of women and men in political life and in all public authorities, at all levels, to enable women to play an active role in the decision making process;
- according women an equal role in the development and management of cities to ensure that housing, infrastructure, water and sanitation, social services and transport systems take into account women's needs;
- integrating gender equality in the development of all areas of public policy, and allocating budgets taking into account the needs of both women and men; and strive to achieve this through participatory process.

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- making cities safe for women by providing a secure environment in public spaces, workplaces and homes through appropriate design, allocation of resources and provisions of response mechanisms; and by putting women in all positions in the police and judiciary;
- combatting all forms of violence against women, both inside and outside the home and providing support services such as medical and psychological aid, shelters and legal services;
- developing policies that provide protection to women in vulnerable positions, including women affected by wars and disasters, refugees, migrant workers and ethnic or religious minorities and handicapped;
- taking effective action against female foeticide/infanticide, child marriage, genital mutilation and trafficking in human beings;
- increasing the involvement of women in providing result-orientated solutions to climate change;

APPEAL to women in all countries:

to form networks to strengthen their position and enhance solidarity;

- to take an active role in shaping their own future and in the sustainable development of cities and societies that benefit all;

APPEAL to men in all countries:

- to recognize the essential role and contribution of women in society and address the specific needs and perspectives of women;
- to work together with women in partnership to ensure equal rights and opportunities for all;

ASK Metropolis to:

- encourage local, metropolitan, regional and community authorities to develop a gender agenda based on gender statistics;

ASK the Metropolis Women International Network to:

- provide for a follow-up committee including UN-Habitat and other partners;
- prepare for the next International Forum;

ASK the co-presidents of this Forum to:

- transmit this declaration to all relevant authorities and institutions.
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