



**THE QUITO DECLARATION**  
**GLOBAL COMMITMENT OF MAYORS TO ACCELERATE ACTION:**  
**SAFE CITIES AND SAFE PUBLIC SPACES WITH AND FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**  
**Quito, 30 November 2023**

As Mayors and representatives of local governments we hereby declare that it is our priority to ensure safe, sustainable, healthy and inclusive cities and communities that promote gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls. Crucial to addressing this priority is our partnership with other government authorities at different levels, women's rights organizations, girl-led organizations, feminist movements, youth and other community organizations, the private sector, media, academia, and UN agencies to implement and advance integrated evidence-based and human rights-based approaches to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces, including online.

The world is facing multiple and compounding crises that span from the still-unresolved challenges of the global pandemic, from the global economic divide advancing unprecedented inequities across food and energy access... to humanitarian and climate crises and conflict and instability that compromise the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and which make progress ever more uneven. Women's rights are increasingly threatened, civic space is shrinking, and there is intensified global pushback against gender equality and women's empowerment.

Now, more than ever, mayors must come together to affirm our commitment to achieving gender equality and guaranteeing the full and meaningful participation of women in all their diversity in all decisions affecting cities and communities.

Being close to people and communities, local and regional authorities are uniquely and strategically placed to combat the persistence and the reproduction of inequalities by engaging with women and girls to create cities and public spaces that are safe and sustainable.

In actioning our commitments, we will advance the localization and implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action that is nearing 30 years since its adoption, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the New Urban Agenda, and as part of Generation Equality in order to transform our cities and communities, and the world, with gender equality and women's empowerment as core commitments.

This has been made possible through UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Flagship Programme Initiative, and other women's safety initiatives that we may lead or participate in.

We recognize that sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in all settings, limit their freedom, choices and rights. All women and girls have a right to live a life free of fear, discrimination and violence in the city.

We hereby commit to:

**ESTABLISH** and strengthen strategic multi-sector and multi-level partnerships to develop, implement, monitor, evaluate and build to scale evidence-driven and human rights-based approaches to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces in partnership with women and girls. This includes measures to ensure those women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination participate meaningfully in this concerted action. It also includes the engagement of men and boys in efforts to end all forms of violence against women and girls, and support intergenerational efforts to eradicate violence, including through the Generation Equality Action Coalitions.

**PARTICIPATE** and/or support data collection on critical issues affecting women and girls, including: on the extent and nature of sexual harassment in public spaces, including online spaces and through the use of technology. Consider further investments in data collection that identifies and addresses the links with sexual and other forms of violence against women with the care economy, the humanitarian/peace and development nexus, access to technology, climate change, food security, and with appropriate disaggregation categories to allow for an intersectional analysis that applies the principle of Leaving No One Behind to inform action.

**INCREASE** women's and girls' meaningful participation, leadership, and decision-making power in cities and communities. Collect data on who participates, using disaggregation categories to inform the development of targeted outreach strategies to bring in the voices of those women who are not represented. Promote, expand and protect civic space, including online, and support women's rights organisations, grassroots women, and community organizers who facilitate women's participation, ensuring their participation and leadership in decision-making structures related to violence prevention and response.

**DEVELOP** gender responsive policies, strategies, and programmes that are informed by disaggregated data to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in cities and communities to eliminate structural inequalities. This includes efforts to prevent and respond to sexual harassment in public spaces and which recognizes women's experience of violence shaped by factors such as race, ethnicity, socio-economic and health factors or disability, among others. It includes measures that support women and girls' participation in urban development that addresses spatial and social exclusion from land management and access to physical and social infrastructure, access to safe and affordable housing, renewable energy, food security, health care and family planning, education, culture, and information and communication technologies.

**ENSURE** the development and implementation of sustainable gender-responsive budgeting or accompanying resources for a gender responsive approach and which incorporates women's safety in particular in urban and transportation planning, infrastructure development, climate and environment related plans, technology and innovation, and service delivery.

**ADVOCATE** for sustainable financial resourcing to advance gender equality and women's empowerment by addressing gender gaps identified through a gender responsive budget analysis applied to the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of policies, plans, budgets, and laws.

**SUPPORT** the capacity development and education of women and girls to enter new fields of work, including digital skills training, increasing access to digital tools, and encouraging more women and girls to enter STEM fields to gain access to jobs in the public and private sector in emerging fields, including those related to technology and innovation, or the green economy transition.

**PROMOTE** women's economic empowerment and access to decent work in workplaces that are free of violence and sexual harassment in different sectors. Increase women's access to emerging sectors, including related to green economic transition, technology and digitalization, and in sectors which are most often male dominated, including in transportation, engineering, urban planning and climate/environment. Support women to develop their financial management and budgeting skills, and promote access to credit, digital skills training, and encourage asset ownership.

**STRENGTHEN** accountability and access to justice for victims/survivors of violence against women. Improve coordination of multi-sectoral service provision and promote the benefits of gender responsive policing and support for the creation of gender responsive law enforcement institutions.

**INCREASE** awareness of and access to coordinated, survivor-centered, comprehensive, quality and affordable police, justice, health and social services. This includes access to digital tools and digital skills training to build the capacities of service providers to use technology as part of their service delivery to survivors of violence.

We acknowledge the work of UN Women for developing with its global partners in the women's safety movement, and founding city partners (in Cairo, Kigali, Quito, Port Moresby, and New Delhi), the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Flagship Programme Initiative, and its vital importance for the continuity of its comprehensive programming to end sexual harassment in 56 cities, across 31 countries, and this biennial Forum to support exchanges among these cities, and those that may join them in the future.

Adopted in Quito, Ecuador, on the thirtieth of November, two thousand twenty three.