# UTC - North America, Women and Urban SDGs: An Urban Paradigm Shift Towards Gender Equality

1. UTC Title: (*Title of your Urban Thinkers Campus)*

Urban Thinkers Campus - North America, Women and Urban SDGs: An Urban Paradigm Shift Towards Gender Equality

2. UTC Date(s): *(Beginning date of your Campus)*

Monday, March 7th, 2022

3. UTC Date(s): *(End date of your Campus)*

Tuesday, March 8th, 2022

4. Location of your UTC:

Virtually in Toronto, ON (Canada)

5. Lead organizer: *(Please provide name of organization hosting the UTC)*

Urban Economy Forum (UEF) https://www.ueforum.org/about-uef

6. Co-lead organizer: *(Please provide the Names and URL of partner organizations to be associated to the Campus)*

Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP)
Eleanor Mohammed, President, (CAP) https://www.commonwealth-planners.org/

8. Number of Participants:

140

10. Background and Objectives of your Campus: *(Please explain the background and provide the list of objectives your campus aims to achieve)*

The Urban Economy Forum (UEF) and the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP), as partners of World Urban Campaign, co-organized a virtual Urban Thinkers Campus entitled *North America, Women and Urban SDGs: An Urban Paradigm Shift Towards Gender Equality* on March 7th & 8th, 2022.

Women have historically been excluded from city-building which have led to significant gender

gaps and inequalities, especially for diverse women. Using a multi-focus gender lens these gaps

can be understood and addressed for a more woman-friendly city. Understanding the needs of

women and their empowerment require the use of a feminist perspective in urban design and

planning. It is imperative for women to be involved in all stages of development, from decision-

making to implementation to policy making. The need for a paradigm shift from a male-centric

urban development model to a gender-inclusive one is the key to designing cities that are safe,

inclusive, resilient, and sustainable (SDG #11). When women and girls are given equal

opportunities to succeed, they can be powerful agents of change to improve the quality of life

for their families and communities worldwide.

1.1 Objectives
The objectives of the UTC were three-fold.

1. To create a North American dialogue on urban sustainable development and the role of women in achieving the urban SDGs.

2.To shift an urban paradigm that is inclusive of women’s needs for a gender-sensitive urban planning model.

3. To implement a global secretariat on Women and Urban SDGs under the umbrella of the Pavilion and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

1.2 City We Need NOW Campaign

The UTC contributed to “Principle #5 – Inclusion and Gender Equality”. It advocates for a city that is inclusive, equitable and gender equal for women and girls globally.

11. Relation of your Campus to the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: *(Please explain how the theme of your campus relates and contributes to the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs (maximum 200 words)*

2.1 New Urban Agenda

Canada is committed to the 2030 Agenda and has its roots in the principles of equity, inclusiveness, diversity, dignity, respect, fairness, and equal opportunity for all. But there are particular groups that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID 19, particularly job losses and increases in domestic violence, racism, and violence. The groups who are most discriminated/marginalized against include women, Indigenous peoples, newcomers, people of color, people with disabilities, seniors, non-binary people, and youth.

2.2 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Cities have a key role to play in addressing the above issues and promoting gender equality and equity, while empowering women and girls to be active members in all aspects of society. This is critical to achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 11 - sustainable cities and communities and SDG 5 – gender equality.

In November of 2020, UEF and UN-Habitat with support from the Government of Canada and powered by The Daniels Corporation launched the World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park (Pavilion) in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The Pavilion is a global knowledge exchange hub to promote peer to peer learning, share, replicate, and scale up wise and good practices in inclusive, equitable, and sustainable urbanization. It is designed to support cities and towns in achieving the SDGs, with a specialized focus on SDG 11. Moreover, the Pavilion’s understanding of sustainable urban development acknowledges the role of women and girls as active participants in the planning and designing of cities and communities to meet the needs of all citizens. Hence, women must be equal partners in realizing the SDGs.

12. The City We Need Now - ACTION AREAS *(Please indicate which actions areas below that your UTC covers)*

1. Health and Well-being
2. Peace and Safety
3. Climate Adaptation and Resilience
4. **Inclusion and Gender Equality**
5. **Economic Opportunities for All**
6. Culture and Identity
7. Local Governance
8. **Urban Planning and Design**
9. **Housing, Services and Mobility**
10. Learning and Innovation

The Urban Thinkers Campus covered the following action areas: inclusion and gender equality, economic opportunities for all, urban planning and design, and housing. More specifically, the topic areas included: Women and Housing, Women Friendly Cities, Women’s Lived Experience and Local Community Participation, Women and Violence, Women and Urban Inclusion, and Women and the Environment.

The format of the 2-day UTC began with an opening and welcoming session followed by keynote speakers and two speaker sessions (UTC Session 1 and UTC Session 2). To discuss topic issues and identify recommendations, participants took part each day in an urban lab and plenary session. The day ended with closing remarks. Please see the UTC Program and list of speakers in Appendix B

13. List of Speakers: *(Provide name, job title and organization for each speaker and the moderator)*

MARCH 7th, 2022 (DAY 1)

9;00 AM – 9:15 AM

Opening and Welcoming Session

Land Acknowledgement

Moderator

URBAN THINKERS CAMPUS North America, Women and Urban SDGS An Urban Paradigm Shift Towards Gender Equality March 7th & 8th, 2022

PROGRAM

Eleanor Mohammed, President of the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP)

Opening & Welcoming

Video Message

Video Message

Speaker 1 Speaker 2

The Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Julie Ward, Former British Member of European Parliament & Co-Chair of North America,

Women and Urban SDGs

Reza Pourvaziry, Chair of UEF & Fazileh Dadvar, Secretariat of Canada, Women and Urban SDGs

9:15 AM – 9:35 AM

Keynote Speakers

Speaker 1 (7 - 10 min)

Speaker 2

Martha Peña, Outreach Director, Secretary of Agricultural, Territorial and Urban Development of Mexico (SEDATU)

Jan Peterson, Chair of the National Congress of Neighborhood Women (NCNW), Williamsburg NY (USA)

 9:35 AM – 10:40 AM

 Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) Session 1 - Speakers

 9:35 AM – 9:50 AM

Keynote Speaker 1

(5 min) Speaker 2 Speaker 3 Speaker 4

 UTC 1 – Women and Housing

The Hon. Leah Gazan, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg Centre (Canada) Krystal Valencia, Director of Development for Home Suite Hope (Canada)

Julia Wagner, Program Manager, The Institute of Global Homelessness (USA) (Received ppt presentation)

Glinis Buffalo, Executive Director, Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations (Canada)

 9:50 AM – 10:10 AM

Keynote Speaker 1 (5 min) Speaker 2

Speaker 3

Speaker 4

 UTC 1 –Women Friendly Cities

The Hon. Salma Zahid, Member of Parliament for Scarborough Centre (Canada)

Christine Hegel, Member of the Advisory Committee, The Global Alliance of Waste Pickers and Associate Professor of Anthropology, Western Connecticut State University (USA)

Mirana E. Del Rio Ferreira, Chief of Departmental Unit of Monitoring of International Treaties (Mexico)

(Received ppt presentation)

Meseret (Mesi) Desta Haileyesus, Executive Director, Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment (Canada)

 10:10 AM – 10:35 AM

Speaker 1 (5 min)

Speaker 2

 UTC 1 - Women’s Lived Experience and Local Community Participation Rebecca Alty, Mayor of Yellowknife (Canada

Alejandra Rios Perez, PSYDEH Fields Corp Coordinator (Mexico),

Ireri Andrea Muniz Ortega, PSYDEH MX Digital Communications Manager (Mexico), & Hanna Swenson, PSYDEH Sustainability Coordinator (USA)

Sara Tahir, Administrator & Program Coordinator, Healing As One, Regent Park, Toronto (Canada) & Pavithra Sulanthar, Community Coordinator, Regent Park Neighbourhood Association (Canada)

 Speaker 3

 Maria Sjödin, Acting Executive Director, OutRight Action International (USA) Tania Turner, Executive Director, Executive Director, Fondo Semillas (Mexico)

 10:35 AM – 10:40 AM

 Moderator Remarks

 10:40 AM - 11:40 AM

 UTC Brainstorming Urban Lab 1 3 BREAKOUT ROOMS

 Moderator

 Breakout Room #1 – Women and Housing

Sara Cumming, Executive Director, Home Suite Hope (Canada)

 Moderator

 Breakout Room #2 – Women Friendly Cities

Camilla Ween, Loeb Fellow 2008 & Director, Goldstein Ween Architects

 Moderator

 Breakout Room #3 – Women’s Lived Experience and Local Community Participation

Diana Mavunduse, Community Development Coordinator, Dixon Hall & Resident of Regent Park (Canada)

 11:40 AM – 12:00 PM

 Break

A) CCFWE #HelpUsRise2021 Campaign Animation Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13xI5NC5R8w

B) UN-Women's video – It's not too late, climate action for women by women

C) Emma Stevens – Strong Women’s Song

 12:00 PM = 1:00 PM

 Plenary Session (MAIN ROOM)

 1:00 PM – 1:25 PM

Speaker 1

 Closing Session

Sri H. Sofjan, Senior Program Administrator & Strategies, Huairou Commission (USA)

 1:25 PM – 1:30 PM

Moderator Closing Remarks

 Time (EDT) Toronto Time)

 Session

 MARCH 8th, 2022 (DAY 2)

 9:00 AM – 9:05 AM

Video Message

 Opening Session & Welcoming

António Guterres, UN

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3mhYlY0NWc

 Moderator Eleanor Mohammed, President, Commonwealth Association of Planners

 9:05 AM – 9:30 AM

Video Message

(5 min)

Video Song

IWD 2022 Video Msgs

Speaker 1 Speaker 2 Speaker 4

 International Women’s Day Messages – A celebration

https://www.ueforum.org/NA-Women-Urban-SDGs/IWD2022-Messages

Sami Bahous, Executive Director, UN Women

Emma Stevens, M’Kamaq Nation Strong Woman Song

Dr. Vasudha Sharma (author)

Wendy Sung Aad (IWD 2022 message)

Safia Yonis, Associate Program Management Officer for Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit, UN-Habitat (East Africa)

Chantal Hildebrand, Deputy Director of Alliance for Girls (USA)

 9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

 UTC Session 2 – Speakers (MAIN ROOM)

 9:30 AM – 9:55 AM

Keynote Speaker 1 (5 min)

Speaker 2 Speaker 3 Speaker 4

Speaker 5

 UTC 2 – Women and Violence

Lindsay Mathyssen, Member of Parliament London-

Fanshawe (Canada)

Kennedy Stewart, Mayor of Vancouver (Canada)

Ingrid Aurora Gómez Saracíbar, Secretary of Women of Mexico City (Mexico) Marissa Kokkoros, Executive Director & Founder, Aura

Freedom International (Canada)

Sureya Ibrahim, Supervisor of Community Connections Centre of Learning & Development, TD Centre of Learning (Canada)

 9:55 AM – 10:15 AM

Speaker 1 (5 min)

Speaker 2 Speaker 3

 UTC 2 – Women and Urban Inclusion

Nuzhat Jafri, Executive Director, Canadian Council of Muslim Women (Canada)

Adel Gamar, CEO & Founder, Gamar Leadership Group Ltd (Canada)

Ellen Woodsworth, Founder & Matriarch of Women Transforming Cities International & Former Vancouver City Councillor (Canada)

 10:15 AM – 10:35 AM

Speaker 1 (5 min)

Speaker 2

Speaker 3 Speaker 4

 UTC 2 – Women and the Environment

Kanisha Acharya-Patel, Executive Director, Women's Healthy Environment Network (WHEN) (Canada)

Maya Tait, Mayor for the District of Sooke, BC (Canada)

Mohua Mukherjee, Senior Research Fellow, Oxford Institute of Energy Studies (UK)

(Voice recording with speaker’s photo)

Dr. Robin King, Director for Knowledge Capture and Collaboration at the Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, World Resources Institute (WRI) (USA)

 10:35 AM – Moderator Remarks 10:40 AM

10:40 AM – 11:40 AM

UTC Brainstorming Urban Lab 2 3 BREAKOUT ROOMS

Moderator

Breakout Room #1 – Women and Violence Gurdeep Kaur, Planner, City of Brampton (Canada)

Moderator

Breakout Room #2 – Women and Urban Inclusion

Jillian Glover, Community Specialist, Gamar Leadership Group Ltd.

Moderator

Breakout Room #3 - Women and the Environment

Elaine Coburn, Director of Center for Feminist Research, York University (Canada)

11:40 AM – 12:00 PM

BREAK

A) CCFWE #HelpUsRise2021 Campaign Animation Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13xI5NC5R8w

B) UN-Women's Video – It’s not toto late, climate action for women, by women

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

UTC Plenary Session (MAIN ROOM)

1:00 PM – 1:25 PM

Speaker 1 (5 min)

Speaker 2 Speaker 3

Closing Session

Beeta Ehdaie, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment & Senior Advisor on Women’s Economic Issues to the Assistant Secretary of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State (USA)

Christine Auclair, Lead, Advocacy and Campaigns (World Urban Campaign), UN-Habitat

Ilda Cordeiro, Program Manager for UEF & Anantha Krishnan, Secretary General for UEF

1:25 PM – 1:30 PM

Moderator Closing Remarks

14. KEY RESULTS: *(Explain the results achieved during your campus, in particular how it will impact cities and communities and help implement the SDG and the New Urban Agenda)*

Women and Housing

The right to adequate housing is a central component of a women’s right to equality under the international human rights law. But forced evictions and other violations on the right to housing, disproportionally impact women and reinforce existing inequalities, representing a significant barrier to gender equality.

The session explored the complex terrain of diverse women’s unrealized right to adequate housing and the consequent negative implications for urban sustainability. Specifically, it engaged urban stakeholders to define priorities, actions and solutions for women and the housing sector as it related to unequal property rights and security of tenure, discriminatory and unequal access to economic opportunity, financing for home ownership or rental, and exclusion from participatory and decision-making processes which is contributing to unjust housing conditions thereby inadequately addressing the needs of women and girls.

Women Friendly Cities
A women friendly city takes into account women and girl’s issues and perspectives in the planning and decision-making process. A women friendly city is inclusive, just, safe and provides equitable access to services in housing, education, health, employment, among others.

The session explored how women are affected by urban problems and examined aspects of a Women Friendly City within the framework of gender-sensitive urban planning and egalitarian approaches to local management systems and services.

Women’s Lived Experience and Local Community Participation

When local planning and service delivery are based upon the premise that men and women have similar needs, interests realities, economic status and lived experiences, the need to have consultation processes that successfully engage women are overlooked. Recognizing women’s lived experiences and community participation is critical for good local decision making that is meaningful, transparent, and inclusive.

The session engaged urban stakeholders to define priorities, actions, and recommendations for inclusive and meaningful engagement of women in the community consultation process to ensure their needs are being met and they have a strong voice in the decisions that affect their daily lives.

Women and Violence

Violence against women is one of the most persistent and widespread human rights violations. The United Nations defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” (Krystal Valencia, Director of Development, Home Suite Hope)

The session explored the complex and nuanced link between women’s economic empowerment and violence against women and girls. Additionally, it examined how to increase safety, end gender-based violence at home, work and public spaces and improve the quality of life for women and girls in their families and communities.

Women and Urban Inclusion

Traditional city design and planning often fails to recognize the complex and unequal relations between men and women in our society. The failure to include women in the policy planning for urban development denies their right to the city. This right encompasses women’s quality of life and safe use and enjoyment of urban spaces and common assents when moving about the city. More importantly, it also demands that woman participate on equal footing in the designing, planning, and building process of urban settlements, as well as the development of urban infrastructure and services.

The session explored the perspective of women and gender minorities in the design of our cities and communities for equal access to the benefits of city life. In particular, good practices on how to incorporate a gender lens in city designs to make them inclusive was discussed.

Women and the Environment

Women are disproportionally affected by the impacts of climate change, especially in developing countries. According to the World Resource Institute, there is evidence that shows advancement in gender equality has a positive impact on social and environmental well-being. But if not managed properly, climate and environmental action can spur gender inequality. Without proactively identifying and addressing relevant gender issues, environmental projects have the potential to not only perpetuate disparities but may even widen the gap between men and women. As such, progress in climate action requires more women at the table in the decision-making process. While women, especially indigenous women and women in the global south, are leading frontline climate action and activism, they are underrepresented in environmental decision-making at all levels.

The session explored how to engage women in the decision-making process for mitigating and adapting to climate change and moving forward positive environmental action.

15. SOLUTIONS: (*Describe at least 4 solutions presented in your campus that demonstrate how to accelerate the SDG implementation in cities and communities. Explain WHERE (country, city, area), WHAT (what purpose), HOW (how it is achieved), WHO (by whom and for which beneficiary) and IMPACTS.)*

UTC Solution – Women Friendly Cities (WFC)

Women Friendly Cities, according to the United Nations Women Friendly Cities Joint Programme, are “those cities where all residents of that particular city can equally benefit from the financial, social and political opportunities presented before them.”

In particular, WFC are cities where women:

Can access health, education, and social services.

Can access employment opportunities.

Can access high quality and comprehensive urban services (such as transportation,

accommodation and security).

Can access mechanisms that will guarantee their rights in the event they are subjected

to violence.

Are cities where:

Local governments consider women’s issues and perspectives in their planning

and decision-making processes.

Women are supported and encouraged to participate in all areas of urban life on equal

basis with men.

The City We Need NOW

Participants at our UTC discussed in depth what The City We Need NOW should encompass to advance an urban paradigm shift towards gender equality at the global scale. The recommendations made are as follows.

The City We Need NOW will:

Support and promote women to take leading roles in creating a city that is inclusive, equitable, just, safe, and sustainable.

Support and promote women as equal partners in realizing the SDGs.

Establishing a taskforce of women to lobby governments for equality, inclusivity and

Transparency.

Establish a Women’s Global Secretariat under the World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park –

Powered by Daniels, a global knowledge exchange hub to share best practices,innovation and research in urban development and revitalization form countries around the world.

City design, planning and management using a gender lens.

Campaigns to raise awareness on gender considerations in policy development.

Integrates gender into housing design and neighborhood sustainable development.

Advocates for tax justice to support the most vulnerable (women and children) in

climate change impacts.

Advocate for a Women Friendly Panel in World Urban Forum 12 (WUF12) in Egypt.

17. RECOMMENDATIONS - NEW URBAN AGENDA

*RECOMMEND which areas of the New Urban Agenda should be PRIORITIZED in the next 5 years (SHORT/MEDIUM term) and 15 years (LONG term):*

Women and Housing Recommendations:

▪ Research and analyze gender segregated data-integrating grassroots, lived experience

and academia.

▪ Develop a gender equity strategy (GBA+) including gender budgeting at all government

levels.

▪ Standardize affordability based on women’s financial needs and circumstances.

▪ Ensure government commitments by putting policies in place for landlords, zoning,

and different housing models (lane housing, tiny housing, etc.)

▪ Move to different forms of home ownership (example: land trusts, cohousing, cooperative,

co-own and rent to own).

▪ Advocate for funding opportunities that address women and their housing needs.

▪ Build systems of collaboration between organizations in public and private sectors

minimize local community resources.

▪ Incorporate inclusivity – sense of belonging- in all community design, building,

planning, management, governance, and community involvement.

Women Friendly Cities Recommendations:
▪ Transition to a Women Friendly City peacefully and positively.

▪ Use a “sisterhood” approach - women supporting women.

▪ Include women (and girls) in the planning and decision-making process.

▪ City design, planning and management must be sensitive to women’s issues.

▪ Use Design Reviews to ensure women friendliness when considering planning

Applications.

▪ Integrate inclusion policies with urban policies.

▪ Apply an intersectional gender-lens within city structure.

▪ Set up a Women’s Advisory Council (link to Global Women’s Secretariat within UN).

▪ Collaborate with (i) National Government (ii) Local Authorities (iii) local bodies / respect

Hierarchy.

▪ Use Participation Forums, virtual and real, to engage women who are difficult to reach

(sex workers, refugees, migrant women, homelessness, etc.)

▪ CALL OUT DISCRIMINATION and enshrine it in law.

Women’s Lived Experience and Local Community Participation Recommendations:

▪ Develop community engagement and outreach training on how to work with diverse communities.

▪ Address systemic racism and marginalization in the planning and building sector.

▪ Provide more opportunities for residents with lived experiences to attend and

participate meaningful in various workshops and conferences such as this UTC.

▪ Change pay equity laws and policies for women in the sector.

▪ Ensure the World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park include more community voices

during their events and educational opportunities for youth.
▪ Share various successful grassroots community consultations processes across

borders including those from the Global South (example: Brazil).

Women and Violence Recommendations:

▪ Create awareness programs to educate gender-based violence at an early age.
▪ Undertake mandated workshops at schools, colleges, and workplace on violence

against women and girls.

▪ Create support groups that promote awareness on violence against women without judgement.

▪ Engage with civil society lead groups.

▪ Advocate for more women leaders in the political arena, workplace and community

lead groups.

▪ Allocate sufficient funds/budget to address women-related issues.

▪ Advocate for affordable housing to empower women to leave abusive relationships.

▪ Revisit taxation and policies that are gender friendly (women as the head of the

household).

▪ Elect policy makers who will place gender-based agenda as their priority.

Women and Urban Inclusion Recommendations:

▪ Call on governments to set a gender lens on all departments using disaggregated data to identify women’s issues/needs.

▪ Integrate gender into housing design and neighborhood development.

▪ Consider the rights of women in the workplace to support gender inclusivity and

Empowerment.

▪ Establish campaigns to raise awareness on gender considerations in policy development.

▪ Support women running for office and in the public sector.

▪ Identify distinct needs for women of all ages and capacities (planning for childcare

centers, amenities, aging in place, etc.)

▪ Develop more programs to support housing for single mothers that are accessible and

affordable.

▪ Create awareness programs to help children learn their power and importance of

equality both in the home and community.

▪ Establish a diverse task force of women to lobby governments to set up women’s

advisory committee (example: the Women’s Secretariat linked to the World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park).

Women and the Environment Recommendations:

▪ Promote the banning of plastics at the municipal level as an immediate action.

▪ Advocate for municipal minimum wage to support the least advantaged in our society

for just climate transition together with progressive taxation policies.

▪ Provide compensation for damages to countries in the global South and developing

countries since climate justice should demand reparations for past harms.

▪ Establish neighborhood pollution audits to ensure local interest in environmental

damage and ownership of knowledges related to the environment and climate

change.

▪ Support women in their quest for positive climate action since the burden falls onto

women, especially in developing countries with clean water and fuel.

▪ Make producers accountable for the pollution they produce.

▪ Responsible local tourism to be active in “protecting the winter” against climate

change and the province of Ontario’s “staycation” tax credit can be claimed during the pandemic. This measure could be extended beyond the pandemic.

▪ Provide neighborhood kits to measure environmental pollution.
▪ Women need to be involved in urban decision-making as it relates to climate change.

▪ Establish standards for capital investment with respect to climate change.
▪ Advocate for tax justice to support the climate change transition.
▪ Create a Sustainable Cities Index and make it public.

21. ACTION PLAN: *(Explain your action plan(s) to address the priority actions above)*

CONCLUSION:

The Urban Thinkers Campus for *North America, Women and Urban SDGs: An Urban Paradigm Shift Towards Equality* was a great success with over 140 participants in attendance during the 2-day event om March 7th & 8th, 2022. The focus of the UTC was to begin a North American dialogue on urban sustainable development and the role of women in achieving the urban SDGs, to advance an urban paradigm shift that is inclusive of women’s needs for a gender- sensitive urban planning model, and lastly to implement a Global Secretariat on Women and Urban SDGs in collaboration with relevant stakeholders under the umbrella of the World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park – Powered by Daniels.

Understanding the needs of women and their empowerment requires the use of a feminist

perspective in urban design and planning. In The City We Need NOW it is imperative for women

to be involved in all stages of city development - from decision-making to implementation to

policy making. Participants discussed in depth the need for a paradigm shift from a male-centric

urban development model to a gender-inclusive that will enable us to continue the process of

designing cities that are equitable, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable (SDG #11).



When women and girls are given equal opportunities to succeed, they can be powerful agents

of change to improve the quality of life for their families and communities worldwide.