Conclusions of the 58 commission on gender equality at the UN
An analysis by UCLG WS

The 58th Session Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) gathered in New York from 10 – 21 March 2014 to discuss and review the progress of the Millennium Development Goals as we approach the fifteen year deadline, coming in 2015. and address and obstacles. It also aimed at addressing the forthcoming challenges in the sustainable development agenda Post-2015 from a gender perspective.

Overall, the Commission noted that, although substantial progress has been made in many fields, no country has achieved equality for women and girls. The feminisation of poverty persists and the commission points out that women and girls face greater vulnerability to extreme poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. Furthermore, it raises that the missed goals will have serious implications for women and girls, and more specifically for those living in vulnerable conditions. The Commission therefore called for both a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women empowerment and to mainstream a gender-sensitive approach through targets and indicators into all goals of any new development framework.

The recommendations of these meetings therefore call upon Governments at all levels, along with civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, media and other relevant actors, to address 5 key areas for development, among which two are particularly pertinent from local and regional perspectives.

- **Realizing women’s and girls’ full enjoyment of all human rights** - reaffirming the need to ensure non-discriminatory gender-responsive access to, among others, high quality services and infrastructure, safe drinking water and sanitation, transport, energy, housing etc.

- **Strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality and the empowerment of women** with particular focus on international cooperation, including the role of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation on shared development priorities with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in government, civil society and the private sector.

- **Maximizing investments in gender equality and the empowerment of women**

- **Strengthening the evidence-base for gender equality and the empowerment of women**

- **Ensuring women’s participation and leadership at all levels and strengthening accountability** with focus on the participation in and contributions of women at all levels of decision-making.

While we welcome the recognition of provision of basic services as a mean of ensuring greater equality (dd.), local governments regret the Commission failed to acknowledge their crucial role in service delivery.

We also welcome the great place given to governance, including the request to “ensure women’s full and equal participation in decision making at all levels” (tt ; ggg, iii) increased participation in decision-making as we are convinced that good governance will be a key element in the implementation and realisation of the future sustainable development agenda.

We also support the call for “encouraging the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into development policies at all levels in all sectors”(jj).

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