



**Declare Our Action
Outcomes of the 2nd Women Leadership Workshop 2020 Held on 4th March
2020 in Goa, India**

[STATEMENT]

We, mayors, local and regional elected representatives and our representative associations:

1. **RECALL** that our constitutions provide equal rights to both Men and Women.
2. **REMIND** of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in particular Article 36 stating that international organisations, such as the World Organisation of UCLG and its regional sections, have an important role to play in implementing the UN Platform for Action; and Agenda 2030, in particular goal 5 and the mainstreaming of gender equality in all other goals;
3. **STATE** that we are witnessing a visible change for the gender equality and women's rights. Large number of women attended the conference concurred that the top three challenges which require immediate attention were Job Opportunities, Education & Scholarship, and Income Disparity for Similar Work & Political Participation, that women face in their daily lives. The participants stated that Lack of Community Participation, Gender Stereotyping, and Cultural Differences were the top three impediments being faced by women across the world and particularly in Asia in promoting gender equality.
4. **ARGUE** that the problems and challenges facing women are global, and yet have to be dealt with at the local level. Achieving gender equality and empowering women requires the action of sustainable, equal and democratic local governments, where women and men have equal access to decision-making, resources and services through representation at the executive and public office level.
5. **STRESS** that a renewed and powerful commitment to gender equality and women empowerment is demanded. Local and regional governments must provide women the opportunity to enter the male dominant local government bodies. Stop sexism through educating and sensitising children at an early age that women rights is essential. These contributions from local and regional governments are pivotal to achieving all 17 SDGs including SDG 5, as well as the Beijing Platform for Action.
6. **COMMIT** to improving the status of women, promoting gender equality through women representation both in quality and quantity and gender mainstreaming in local governance, and improving the efficiency of women representatives in local governments through an improved capacity building programme.
7. **CALL** upon national governments and multilateral organisations, such as the UN bodies, to increase women representation in both public offices and urban and rural local bodies.
8. **CALL** upon cities, local and regional governments women and men elected leaders across Asian region to continue the revolution which has begun but needs to be accelerated so that it can reach its logical conclusion and bring greater impact on the ground.



WE DECLARE OUR ACTIONS

We, the participants, declare our actions for promoting and achieving gender equality and women empowerment through:

- **Fostering gender equality at regional and global level** through our World Organisation, and adhere to their statement to CSW64.
- **Having ordinance and provisions for women participation in public offices:** It is important to have affirmative action in public offices of national and local governments as well as local resident welfare associations. The need is to have 50 percent reservations across all public offices for a better governance model.
- **Sharing and replicating and upscaling good/best practices models of the participating countries and cities and regions:** A large number of cities and organisations are doing excellent work in the field of women empowerment. It is important to increase the pace of Gender Equality through sharing knowledge and good/best practices. We will work to capture and demonstrate impact of woman-led programme and development.
- **Propagating the benefits of women led-development:** Women-led organisations have shown example for better governance model for replication. More enabling environment and actions need to be supported by all level of governments and various stakeholders.
- **Implement Gender Responsive Budgeting and Planning at national and local levels:** Urban and rural areas have been biased at the planning level and the budgetary governance and allocation remain disproportionate without much accountability on vulnerability of woman and girls in social and economic sector. More accountability and equity shall be emphasised with specific budgetary provision for woman empowerment and gender equality implementation.
- **Creating inclusive environment for equal economic opportunities for women:** Economic opportunity is the cornerstone for women to become truly empowered. We need to understand the value of unpaid work and to provide a conducive environment for women to work and become economically empowered. Businesses and Government needs to be encouraged to enhance their commitment on women's progress.
- **Fostering policies that acknowledge the value of the care work mostly provided by women and enhancing awareness raising in our communities by fostering respect and when possible remuneration.** More impetus and push to organise the caregiver sector as a service to vulnerable age group and individuals.
- **Providing better healthcare and safe working environment and society for women:** Women mortality due to various reasons, including lack of nutrition, working in hazardous and ambient environment, and of child birth, as well as girl child mortality, needs to be addressed urgently.
- **Having cultural and behavioral change will start locally and will expand to global level:** We need to make sure that the entrenched patriarchal society behavioral patterns are changed for the better. This must start at our home and become a movement, which is for the whole world to follow. One of the actions is through the Parents Education and Family Education Programme among others.
- **Providing education for boys and girls on gender equality at public schools:** They are our future. We need to make generation equality happen to ensure that boys-girls and man-woman do not compete but partner to create more equitable and just society.
- **Improving the access on funding:** We shall act to create multi-partner, multi-stakeholder arrangements and facility to identify scope and access funding instruments and mechanism for



catalysing action on gender empowerment. Funding for these activities is the most important aspect for sustaining this movement and for this, all institutions must come together.

Adopted by participants of the **2nd Women Leadership 2020: Mainstreaming Gender Perspective in Local Governance** held in conjunction of the **5th South Asian Cities Summit: 10 Years to SDGs** in Goa, India from 4th to 6th March 2020.
