



**High-level Political Forum 2018  
Thematic review. Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies:  
Perspectives of society: Session organized with major groups and other  
stakeholder**

**Review on SDG 11: Cities**

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de la Agenda 2030 en México)**

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Thank you moderator,

My name is Lillian Sol Cueva, I am from Mexico, and I speak on behalf of the Women's Major Group.

Patriarchy, colonialism and other systems of oppression interact to reinforce inequalities, deny women and girls their agency, and block progress toward achieving sustainable development and solving many of the ongoing global crises. This is reflected in the ways that women bear disproportionate burdens of development failures.

Unequal structures, including the current economic model, lead to: climate change and ecological degradation; militarization and conflict; unjust ecosystem, financial, trade and investment governance; corporate capture and wealth concentration; illicit financial flows; land and resource grabbing, to name only a few.

Space is closing for civil society. **Girls and Women's** and feminist groups face additional challenges. We are attacked for being women's groups - criminalized and harassed in person and online; starved of funding to do the critical **work on SDGs and structural change**. The CSW, the Human Rights Council and the Escazu Agreement adopted this year all refer to states' responsibility to take steps to protect and ensure safety of **girls and** women and environmental human rights defenders. That commitment is lacking in the Agenda 2030 but is absolutely essential to enable a holistic realization of Agenda 2030.

Members of the Women's Major Group are doing creative and persistent work in countries around the world, on implementation and accountability. We are committed to documenting that work and sharing that knowledge broadly so that civil society colleagues, the UN and Member States alike can learn from it. One example is an annual survey of women's groups' participation in the VNR processes and another is a set of guidelines to support participation in country VNRs, as well as to develop alternative reports. **Our work also includes critically monitoring the implementation of SDGs, through alternative reports using feminist development justice indicators, to shift the current power, resource and wealth inequalities.**

Feminists worldwide – not just in this room – are constantly pushing for progress and breaking down barriers. We are taking action that leaves no one behind, putting people over profit, leading to the actual transformative change that we ALL need.

Gracias!