

## **Leveraging inclusive social policies to ensure women's rights related to land, housing, and livelihoods.**

*Virtual event of the 69th session of the [Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW69\)](#)*

*Wednesday, 19th March 2025, 16:30-18:00 SAST (10:30-12:00 NY Time) (You can [check your local time here](#)).*

*Registration link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/fOkG0hIGRfWzRqklyIzsfO>*

### **Background**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognize gender equality as a cross-cutting issue and objective across all 17 goals, particularly highlighted in Goal 5, which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. This goal includes specific targets that address various forms of discrimination and violence against women, as well as their rights to economic resources, including land and housing. The New Urban Agenda (NUA) emphasizes the importance of gender equality and land rights as foundational elements for sustainable urban development. It highlights the necessity of securing land and property rights for all: particularly focusing on improving access to land for women, youth, and other vulnerable groups as essential for fostering inclusive urban environments and addressing gender disparities in land ownership, control, and usage. In this was contributing to the broader goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to poverty alleviation, food security, and gender equality.

The human right to land, which encompasses the use, access, and control of land, is critical for the realization of various fundamental human rights, including the right to adequate housing, food security, and livelihood. Particularly for women, this is directly linked to decreasing physical, social, and economic vulnerability, offers certainty and protection from encroachments and violence, and increases access to public services and economic opportunities. Further, women's economic participation including women's access to livelihoods and decent work, equal pay, and opportunities for leadership in economic sectors as well as addressing the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work that they often shoulder, is certainly essential for achieving sustainable development.

In the African region, women often face significant barriers in owning and controlling land: only about 20% of women in sub-Saharan Africa own land compared to men. The current landscape of women's right to land and housing in Africa comprises deep-rooted discriminatory customary practices, exclusionary legal frameworks that do not recognize alternative tenure arrangements, dispossession and evictions as well as patriarchal inheritance cultures. In sub-Saharan Africa, the right to livelihoods for women in the region is deeply intertwined with land ownership and control; for example, women represent over 46% of rural agricultural employment, yet they face

substantial challenges in accessing and controlling land. Further, their livelihoods are often vulnerable due to the effects of climate change and economic pressures. Women continue to face systemic barriers that hinder their economic empowerment and access to resources.

CSW 69/Beijing+30 2025 will review and assess current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Placing women's access, enjoyment, and democratic control over land within such discussions is essential. For such, the proposed event aims at engaging with the overall discussions within such a point of view, touching upon examples of policies and legislation that recognize and uphold the rights to land, housing, and livelihoods, as to foster greater gender equality, improving overall socio-economic conditions for women, and contributing significantly to broader societal progress towards sustainable development goals.

### Key themes/Lines of discussion.

- Gender disparities in land and property and housing ownership and the impact on women's livelihoods.
- Legal frameworks and alternative tenure arrangements that consider gender equality and climate resilience.
- Community-based approaches to land, housing, and livelihoods including community-public partnerships.
- How can climate considerations be better integrated into pro-poor land administration tools, such as the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) and other mechanisms for securing land tenure, especially for women?
- Breaking barriers to women's access to land, housing and tenure security: Fundamental to ensuring women's human rights.

### Program

**Moderator: Grace Chikumo, President, Habitat International Coalition,**

Section	Speaker	Time
Welcoming remarks and Context-setting. (Welcome to participants, instructions to access interpretation, introduction to Grace, the session moderator)	Genevieve Drouin, Executive Director, Rooftops Canada.	5 mins
Opening Remarks	Government of Canada	5 mins
<b>Strategies for promoting women's land and housing rights: Lessons and reflections of the Women Spaces Project.</b>		



Habitat International Coalition  
Coalición Internacional del Hábitat  
Coalition Internationale de l'Habitat  
Coalizão Internacional do Habitat  
التحالف الدولي للموئل  
अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्यावास गठबंधन

Rooftops Canada  
Abri International



Community-based approaches to land, housing, and livelihoods, including community-public partnerships.	Dorothy Baziwe, Executive Director, Shelter and Settlements Alternatives (SSA) Uganda.	10 mins
Impact of legal frameworks and alternative tenure arrangements on women's livelihoods, land and housing rights.	Lauren Royston, Director of Research and Advocacy, Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI)	10 mins
Open floor (Moderator, Grace Chikumo)	-Discussant 1. Allan Cain, Development Workshop, Angola. (5 mins) -Discussant 2 Marina Thia (Argentina)(5 mins) -All participants (10 mins)	20 mins
<b>Enhancing collaborations and partnerships in promoting inclusive social policies for women's land and housing rights.</b>		
Lessons from the partnerships and collaborations from the Women Spaces Project: Canada and project countries.	Laureen Odera, Mazingira Institute, Kenya.	10 mins
Value of regional and cross-regional exchanges in promoting women's land and housing rights	Zaida Muxi, HIC Board representative for feminist movement/ cross-regional working group of feminist approaches.	10 mins
Open floor	All participants	15 mins
Closing Remarks. <i>Key highlights, vote of thanks</i>	Grace Chikumo	5 mins