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Cecilia Martinez Leal has a PhD in Urban Design from Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, England and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and Design from Edinburg University, Scotland. She also has a Graduate Degree in Architecture from the Iberoamerican University in México.

She is the former Chief of the Regional Planning Unity of Mexico – SEDESOL and former Habitat Programme Manager for UN-Habitat Mexico. From 2003-2004, she was the Coordination Director of the Habitat Programme SEDESOL in Mexico and was also the Coordinator of the project "Urban Design Programme to the Felipe Carrillo Puerto city, Quintana Roo", Autonomy University of Yucatan, Mexico in 2003.

She has held several other positions including: Director of the Local Urban Development Programme of Coyoacan, Autonomy University of Mexico, Mexico (2003); Executive Director, International Programme on Mega Cities, Trinity College Connecticut, USA (2000-2002); and Coordinator of the interdisciplinary staff Project on urban regeneration of Market Hill, University of Mexico, Ireland (1999-2000).

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Women's Safety in Human Settlements

My presentation will focus on combating violence against women from an international perspective. Emphasis will be placed on standards and norms, policies and practices. I highlight the UN Secretary-General's campaign on ending violence against women, and discuss the challenge of putting violence against women in public spaces on the international agenda. I examine the dichotomy between violence which occur in the private and public domains and its impact on policy and programming at both global and national level. I ask the question whether or not in this 21st Century the public/private divide should be maintained, especially when half of the world is now urban with the attendant problems of safety and security. I share the UN-HABITAT experience and using examples of good practice illustrate what works and what does not work. I end by providing some recommendations on the way forward.

ICPC colloquium on Women's Safety

Queretaro, Queretaro, México

WOMEN'S SAFETY IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Cecilia Martinez

Director, Regional Office of Latin America and Caribbean.

UN-HABITAT

For UN-HABITAT the security of individuals in cities in all regions of the world is a matter of growing concern as unsafe cities restrict access and mobility for their citizens, especially women and girls. While violence and the fear of violence prevent women from full and equal participation in the social life of their communities and threaten our understanding of what should be



the democratic functioning of our society. Further, insecure and even hostile urban environments can be perpetuated by local authority's inattention to planning for women's security both domestically and in public places.

Local authorities are often faced with various types of urban violence as they try to preserve the security of their citizens, both male and female, as well as their properties. Local authorities have typically responded more to cases of drug or gun related violence than violence against women.

However, more and more local authorities are recognizing that violence against women cannot be tolerated in just, safe and healthy cities. In their mission to serve the wellbeing of all residents, they cannot ignore violence against women. Recognizing that it is predominantly women who restrict their movements in the city due to fear of violence and crime.

Local authorities in urban areas are also beginning to recognize the link between the private and public spheres and how these relations impact on social and economic wellbeing in cities. They also realize that if they are to tackle violence against women, they need to build strategic partnerships with women's groups, communities, as well as health, education, business and cultural services of the city. An integrated approach is being promoted. Local governments can play a key role as leaders in crime prevention and provide safe and secure urban settlements for all inhabitants.

Only in recent years have local authorities in both developed and developing countries begun to address issues pertaining to the quality of life of female residents. In the case of safety and security women around the world have organized themselves at the local level, inspiring a world-wide movement in favour of safer cities and a more holistic and inclusive focus on urban crime and violence. The case of Dar el Salaam, Tanzania, demonstrates what can be achieved when women's groups and local government work together in favour of safe cities for all.

Promoting women's safety in cities and towns includes a range of approaches from data collection and analysis, to changing attitudes, to strengthening local capacities, to improving urban design, planning and management of public spaces. This includes focusing issues of governance, partnerships between all stakeholders and developing strategic responses which take gender into account in the development and planning of interventions.

There is an increasing range of tools which have been developed at both community and local government level which build on partnerships and participatory approaches, e.g. the women's safety audits and exploratory



walks, manuals and guides and a many tools that will presented here at the colloquium.

In 2007, UN-HABITAT commissioned a survey too Huairou Commission, Women in Cities international and Red Mujer y Habitat LAC to conduct an international survey on organizations working on women's safety and do an inventory of the various tools that these organizations used to promote women's safety. To name a few:

- better data collection and disaggregated data and the establishment of crime and violence observatories
- awareness campaigns on local level/community level
- targeted awareness training e.g. women working in the police stations in the slums of Mumbai
- education initiatives changing attitudes and behaviours
- engaging men and boys as partners – Sonke gender justice programme in South Africa
- safety, planning, design and management of public and semi-public spaces taking to account issues of women and girls safety
- women safety audits
- Engaging leaders (political, religions and administrative) in communities to promote women's safety both in the public and in the private sphere.

This is just a sample of the achievements that have taken place, but violence against women also presents many challenges still. Just to make a few:

- A lot of current work to respond to the challenges of violence against women has focused on the private sphere – on family or domestic violence - and not so much on violence against women in the public domain. A lot of work has focused on the after care of victims and responding to its consequences rather than on preventing violence against women
- There are many regional and cultural variations that impact on the responses to violence against women – in Nairobi there is a so called women's police station which was set up to respond to the increasing reports on rape and violence in the country, but even through several trainings on how to approach and ensure that the victim is protected, can respond in way and send the victim back home to the abuser....!
- Preventive approaches are often under-resourced – government pours money into the recruitment of more police or the justice system to counter rising violence
- Gender inequality in many developing countries still inhibit women's participation in decision-making



8e Colloque annuel du CIPC, *Quertaro, Mexique*

ICPC's Eighth Annual Colloquium, *Quertaro, Mexico*

El 8o Coloquio Anual del CIPC, *Quertaro, México*

- Knowledge and capacity at local level to embrace preventive approaches.

A holistic approach to the role of gender in crime and violence prevention is required to succeed in eliminating violence against women. UN-HABITAT will continue to develop and support the safety of women in cities in the spirit of the Secretary Generals Global Campaign to eradicate violence against women by 2015. it is a tall task and lots of work needs to be done, but an increasing range of tools are becoming available to support strategies prevention at the local level, and widening the range of organizations and networks committed to working in partnership together and with local government I believe will make all the difference.