Why Cities for CEDAW?

a global roadmap for human rights

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Violence against women is a structural barrier to healthy democracies

- **Economic costs** - UN Women reports that 2 per cent of the global GDP or 1.5 trillion (US$) is lost annually due to GBV/VAW.

- Women’s political voice – VAW/GBV is a major barrier for women to participate in politics – IPU global study showed that 44.4 per cent of women surveyed had received threats of death, rape, beatings or abduction.

- Political **culture of violence** - ICAN estimated over $138,000 is spent every minute on nuclear weapons (2019) versus minute investments in health and gender equality.
Why does this matter?

“The issue of gender disparities is ultimately one of disparate freedoms.”
Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize Laureate

City officials make decisions about health services and climate change related to energy and transport yet only 15% of the world’s mayors are women.

Rural women and girls in Africa produce 80 percent of the food but own less than 2 percent of the Land.

Indigenous peoples are custodians to 80% of our biodiversity yet women environment human rights defenders face death threats.
We need a **Paradigm shift**

- **peace** = end to violence against women and is a functional prerequisite for a strong democracy

- **security** = personal security to exercise freedoms and citizen rights and economic security as well as absence of conflict
Roadmap for human rights
ratified by 187 countries, Carter signed in 1980

- Article 7 States Parties must ensure women equal decision-making power at all levels – villages, cities, states up to global level and for all races, girls and older women, ethnicities, indigenous women, elderly, disabled, etc.

- Articles 11, 13 and 15 in CEDAW hold States Parties responsible to guarantee that women will have equal economic and employment rights. This is relevant for adaptation of economies to green businesses and new technologies.

- CEDAW is the only human rights treaty that holds governments accountable for gender-based violence and women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights, including for LGBTQ communities.
Economic Policy shift – A gender lens on all policies on economic recovery plans to give value to women’s unpaid care work and erase women’s time deficit

Global data on men- WHO should do a global multi-country study on risk factors for boys and men to become perpetrators and cost-effectiveness of prevention measures

Divest in arms and fossil fuels- And mobilize political leaders to invest in the future --SG’s Summit of the Future with focus on youth
Cities for CEDAW campaign

1998 - San Francisco adopt CEDAW as a local ordinance. 1998 – 2014 – Hawaii and Berkeley adopt CEDAW.

March 2014 – The NGO CSW/NY launches the Cities for CEDAW campaign.

2021 Santa Clara County women’s commission launches the CEDAW Challenge and UNA/SF Ratify CEDAW drive.
50 + cities, counties and states