Evolution of the gender and empowerment discourse:

Towards gender transformation

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Objective of the Key Note

□ **To reflect on the gender planning framework**
  □ Its links to empowerment

□ **To introduce the new gender transformation framework**
  □ Beyond individual empowerment

□ **The future evidence base**
  □ To identify the potential for energy-related transformative interventions

Late 1970s:
The contextual origins of gender planning

❑ **Feminist Influences**

    ❑ *'Second wave feminism'*

    ❑ *USA WID/ Percy Amendment*

    ❑ *UK: IDS Subordination of Women Project on Gender and Development (GAD versus WID)*

❑**Development Debates**

❑*Urban* in focus when development focus was rural

❑Southern urban *development* planning – not Northern planning

❑Prioritization of *short course training* not academic teaching: practitioners assessed viability of frameworks

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1980s: The 'invention' of gender planning

❑ **The gender planning framework**

❑ *Challenged current western planning stereotypes around:*

  ❑ *Households structure; 'divisions of labour within it; power and control resource allocations within the household*

❑ **Three diagnostic methodological tools linked by internal logic:**

  1. *Triple role*

  ❑ **Productive, Reproductive and Community Managing**

  1. *Practical and strategic gender needs*
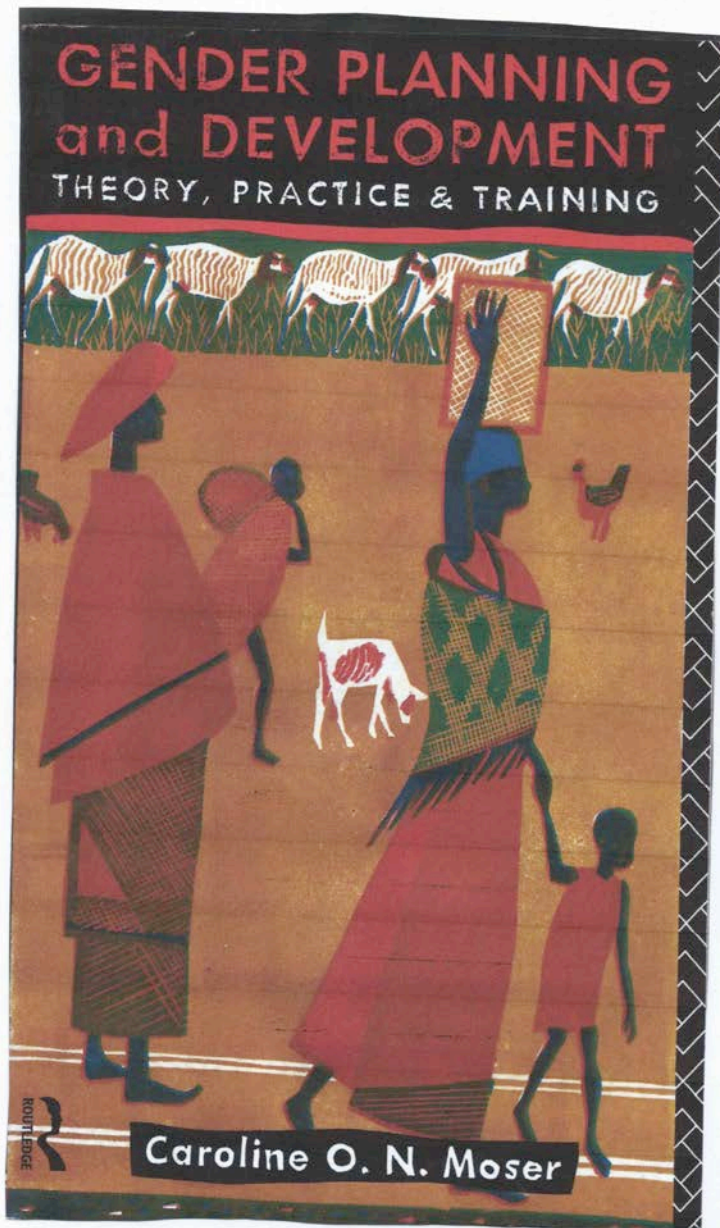
  3. *Five-fold typology of WID/GAD policy approaches*

  ❑ **Welfare, Anti-poverty , Equity, Efficiency, AND Empowerment**

❑ **Further tools**

❑ **Institutionalization of gender planning**

❑ **Operationalization of policies, programmes and projects**

GENDER PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT
THEORY, PRACTICE & TRAINING

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The success of the gender planning framework

- ❑ **Non-threatening framework – perceived of as 'technical'**
  - ❑ *In climate of intense resistance, deep cynicism by hostile technocrats*
- ❑ **Gender Planning filled a vacuum; widely disseminated through training**
  - ❑ *For example: bilaterals –DFID, SIDA, NORAD; NGOs, Southern practitioners*
- ❑ **Enthusiastic buy-in from gender/social development practitioners**

1990s: 'Diffusion': From Gender Planning to the Moser Framework

❑'Golden age' of gender frameworks and their training methodologies

 ❑Epistemological shifts in language

 ❑'DPU' became 'Moser';

 ❑'gender planning' became 'gender analysis'

 ❑Dumbing down / oversimplification

❑Moser framework widely disseminated as one of six well-known gender analysis frameworks

By 1990s: **Also 'Divergence' between feminist academic theorists and planning practitioners**

❑ **Externalities of global changes**

❑ Neo-liberalism, Structural Adjustment Policies – critique of male bias;
❑ Critique of development aid
❑ Demise of Southern (development) planning

❑ **Debate about 'political' versus 'technical / instrumental' nature of gender power relations**

❑ **Feminist critique of gender planning and its training on grounds that:**

❑ Simplification of GAD debate in gender planning…becomes 'recipes and pills'

❑ De-politicization of gender politics by shifting from interests to needs –

❑ 'Undifferentiated other' - lead on to concept of intersectionality

❑ Training: from 'quick fix' panacea to 'ubiquitous' problem

1995 + 'Convergence': Gender Mainstreaming

❑ **Endorsement by Beijing Platform for Action**

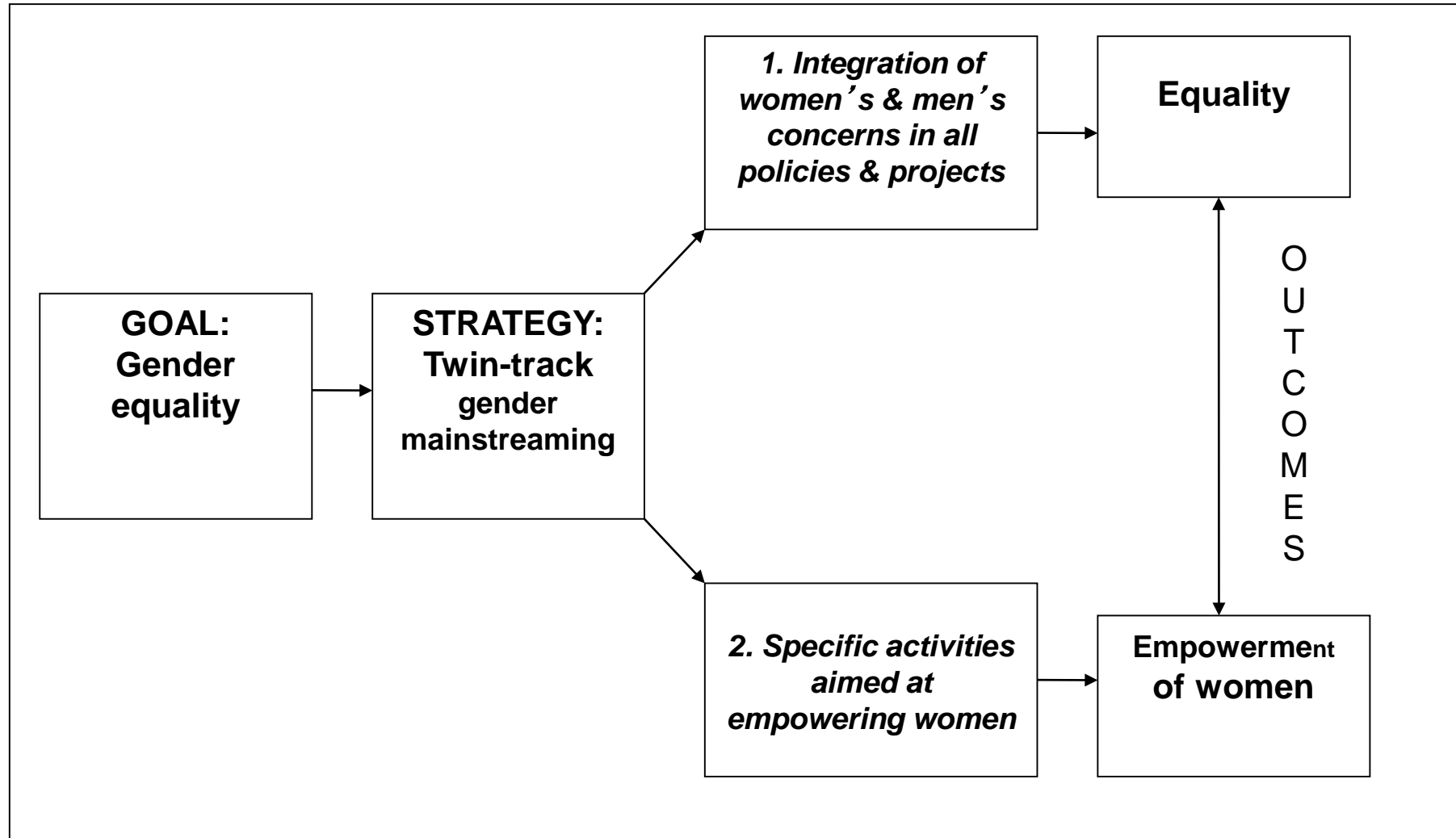   ❑ 1997 adopted by the UN; very rapidly became dominant policy approach

❑ **Did gender planning disappear?**

   ❑ GM Not a straightforward planning blueprint

   ❑ GM incorporated elements of 1990s frameworks

❑ **Changing the paradigm or becoming instrumental?** *(Eyben)*

   ❑ Victory for Southern feminists, but turned a *'radical movement idea into a strategy of public management'*

   ❑ For some the political dimensions of power diluted, and became instrumental in implementation

   ❑ For others PM became the *'site around which global politics operates'*

Diagrammatic representation of
Gender Mainstreaming Strategy

1. Integration of women's & men's concerns in all policies & projects

Equality

GOAL: Gender equality

STRATEGY: Twin-track gender mainstreaming

OUTCOMES

2. Specific activities aimed at empowering women
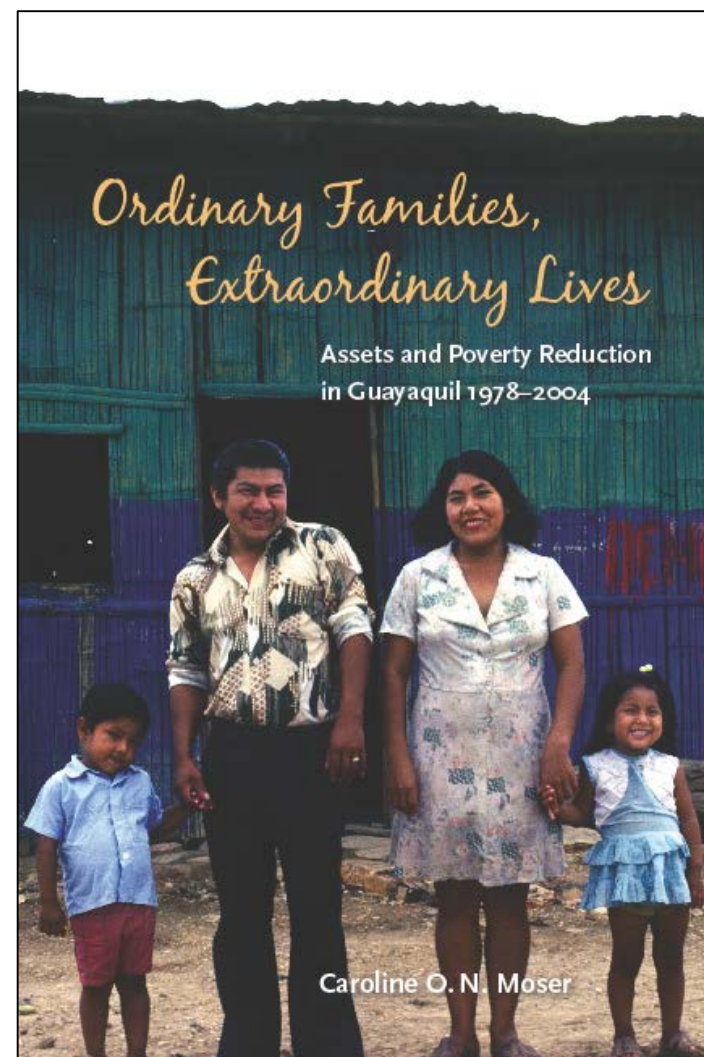
Empowerment of women

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❑ **Gender mainstreaming:**

❑ Dominant approach since 1995 Beijing Platform for Action

  ❑ Cities, governments and civil society have used gender mainstreaming

  ❑ *'integrating the concerns of both women and men into urban policies and programs*

  ❑ *to achieve equality and the empowerment of women'*

❑ **So what's new or different now?**

❑ Gender transformation represents a **fundamental paradigm shift in policy focus on women in cities**

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Background: Moving towards gender transformation

Culmination of decade's work on gender, assets and transformation and associated publications:

❑ '*Ordinary Families, Extraordinary Lives*: *Assets and poverty reduction in Guayaquil 1978-2004',* (2009)

❑ DPU Working Paper *'Gender planning and development: Revisiting, deconstructing and reflecting'* (2014)

  ❑ Edited book *'Gender, Asset Accumulation and Just Cities'* (2016)

  ❑ Environment and Urbanization article *'Gender transformation in a new global agenda'* (2016)

  ❑ Three recent website blogs on gender transformation linked to Habitat III: *Citiscope; Next City; The Conversation*

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What is the differences between gender empowerment and gender transformation?

❑ **Current popularity of the term 'transformation' in development work**

    ❑ For example Habitat III identifies as its main objective - *'transforming cities'*

    ❑ **But no shared understanding of the term**

    ❑ **Popularity means likely to become meaningless**

❑ **Importance difference between the following:**

❑ **Gender empowerment:**

    ❑ Commonly associated with gender mainstreaming

    ❑ Describes how **individual women** through their agency increase bargaining power in public and private spheres to participate fully in economic and political life.

❑ **Gender transformation:**

    ❑ Describes an inherently political act.

    ❑ It is closely associated with **structural change in gender power relations**, it emphasizes **collective action**, contestation and negotiation.

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Gender Transformation Framework

❑**Links gender transformation to the accumulation of assets**

❑**What is an Asset?**

❑*'stock of financial, human, natural or social resources that can be acquired, developed, improved and transferred across generations. It generates flows or consumptions as well as additional stock'*

❑**Assets give people the capacity to be and to act** *(Bebbington 1999)*

❑ **Assets creates agency, which is linked to the empowerment of individuals and communities** *(Sen 1997).*

❑Assets exist within social processes, structures, and power relationships

❑ **Asset accumulation not only empowers women but also can lead to transformation**

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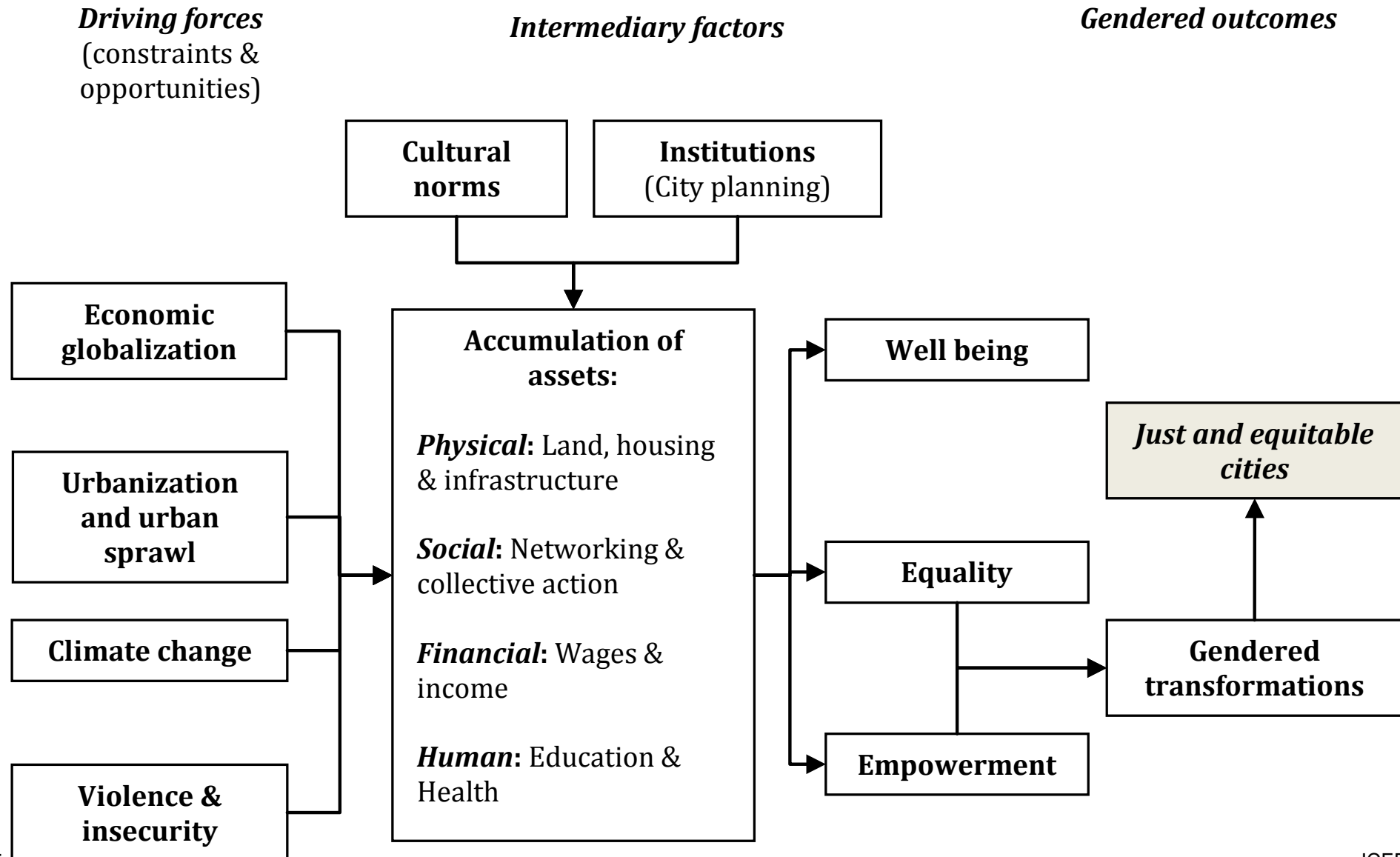## Gender Transformation Framework (GTF)

❑ **Urban Asset accumulation strategies relate to:**

    ❑   Physical capital (land and housing)

    ❑   Financial capital (income generating activities)

    ❑   Human capital (health and education)

    ❑   Social capital (household and community level)

❑ **GTF shows that the accumulation of assets can**

❑ *Reduce poverty* – reach practical gender needs

❑ *Empower individual women* – individual strategic needs and interests

❑ *Through transformative processes successfully challenge power relations*

❑ The importance of collective action and institutional partnerships is critical

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Pathways to gendered asset accumulation, transformation and just cities

Driving forces
(constraints &
opportunities)

Intermediary factors

Gendered outcomes

Cultural norms

Institutions
(City planning)

Economic globalization

Urbanization and urban sprawl

Climate change

Violence & insecurity

Accumulation of assets:

Physical: Land, housing & infrastructure

Social: Networking & collective action

Financial: Wages & income

Human: Education & Health

Well being

Equality

Empowerment

Just and equitable cities

Gendered transformations

Example of commitments with transformative potential: Habitat III New Urban Agenda

❑ **Land tenure rights**

   ❑ security of land tenure for women as key to their empowerment

❑ **Safety and security**

   ❑ cities without fear of violence and intimidation

❑ **Informal economic opportunities**

   ❑ Livelihoods, income security, legal and social protection

❑ **NUA commitments for effective implementation less optimistic**

   ❑ Despite 'measures to promote women's full and effective participation and equal rights in all fields'

   ❑ 'Dilution' at implementation level

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Examples of structural transformative interventions

Structural Transformative Intervention	Institutional partners: state and civil society
Land titling for women *Land titles in Ponte de Maduro Plan, Recife*	Huairuo Commission; Recife Planning Department
Incremental housing upgrading: *Women's security in Zimbabwe*	Slum Dwellers International (SDI);Local government
Legal rights for informal economy women: *SEWA India*	WIEGO; Local government
Urban safety in public spaces **as a right** not a security issue: *Jagori Women's Resource Centre Delhi*	Local government; public transport authority

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The energy evidence base:
Identification of energy-related transformative interventions

❑ **India's Barefoot College for off-grid solar engineers**

   ❑ The college runs 6 month courses for rural women, often illiterate and also elderly, to train them as off-grid solar engineers

   ❑ This not only empowers them individually as they are paid for fabricating, installing and maintaining solar-powered household lighting system

   ❑ It also transforms gender power relations when solar electrified villages are controlled by women

   ❑ Knowledge transfer means the programme not only extends across 16 Indian state but has also been replicated in 24 other countries in S. Asia, Africa and Latin Americ**a**

❑ **This symposium there provide concrete examples that provide the evidence base on transformative practice**

   ❑ Also the identification of gender networks and other institutional partners to find entry points for implementation

   ❑ **This presentation hopefully will contribute to setting the framework**