

## Sheela Patel - Pitch

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I am primarily a grassroots activist who through the decades of my work has begun to increasingly be called upon to make representation on behalf of and in support of the urban poor who live informally in city's of the global South while I run an organisation in India which works with social movements I also have the honour of having been one of the founders who set up SDI shack dwellers international in 1996 And presently has over Social movements of the urban poor in 33 countries and over 300 city's in Asia Africa mainly but also some in Latin America as members who collectively seek to present the perspective and the right to the city to development duty bearers in their own country and globally

In today's world Europe remains one of the few region with champions social justice and equity globally and has worked and meet commitments to just climate change for all the urban poor all over the world this is something that is a serious Requirement as in most of our countries and all around the world more and more people are getting impoverished while a few are doing very well

It would be both an honour and a privilege for me to participate in debates discussions and representations in your view house process with powerful european leadership and bring into those discourses the needs aspirations and expectations of an expanding volume of the urban poor in city's of the global South I hope in this process to bring especially the voices of women and young people who presently do not have A right to make demands on their city's or on their nations and whose habitat has produced deep intergenerational poverty

In 2020 when Covid has ravaged all of us the burden of the urban poor be it hunger loss of wage dense informal settlements where people have been locked into their homes during lock down challenges of poor health facilities and uncertainty about what's going to happen next have exacerbated not only their situation of poverty and impoverished even more people but the huge incidences of climate episode be there flash floods fires very high temperatures tornadoes cyclones drought all these have directly and indirectly impacted the lives of the poor effort to bring that representation into a conversation that examines the role of Europe in this transforming take it to come would indeed be a privilege thank you for considering this possibility for me to make a representation as part of this process thank you

Sheela Patel