HIC Annual Report 2018
Global network for habitat rights and social justice

Housing and Land Rights

Gender Equality

Right to the City

Social Production of Habitat
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There is no doubt that we are living in extremely challenging times. Multiple crises encompassing widespread human rights violations, rocketing inequality, environmental destruction and the weakening of democracies now affect the living conditions of the vast majority of the population around the world. Globalized corporate powers continue to criminally drive forward the commodification of all forms of life and the aggressive privatization of common goods, while undermining the public sphere and polarizing our communities at an unprecedented scale.

In such a context, the strong voices and long-standing transformative experiences of social movements and civil society organizations are more necessary than ever. Despite the extremely difficult conditions under which they are mobilizing and working, I am convinced that HIC Members and Allies at local, national and international level have a great deal to contribute to a shared vision for a more just and sustainable planet. Our collective knowledge, institutional intergenerational memory and critical approach are crucial factors if a full range of options and the active engagement of affected individuals and groups are to be taken into consideration.

In short, that means putting housing and land rights at the center, which include not only the provision of four walls and a roof, but adequate services, facilities, location, accessibility and security of tenure. Because over and over again, in the Global South and in the Global North, we are called upon to confront states that do not respect their obligation to refrain from evictions, displacements, raising rents and other such violations. Moreover, and in compliance with the goals set by the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, this will imply reviving indigenous and traditional techniques as well as prioritizing the use of local and renewable materials.

The following pages provide a rich account of the continuing efforts that HIC and its partners are undertaking to defend, promote and fulfill the wide range of human rights related to habitat, in urban and rural areas, in every region. While the signs for growing concern, despair and fear are everywhere around us, this report seeks to highlight the reasons to believe in our cooperative and caring capacity to persist in building another world, from the ground up.

Lorena Zárate
HIC President
HIC in the world

The Coalition has 354 Members (of which 60 have the right to vote) and 69 Friends. In addition, 1,807 organizations and individuals form the HIC Social Base. The figures below present the geographic distribution of HIC Members, Friends, and the Social Base:

The Coalition

Habitat International Coalition (HIC) is the global network dedicated to action for the recognition, defense and full implementation of the right of everyone to a secure place in which to live in peace and dignity, in all countries.

Specifically, HIC acts as an international collective of civil society organizations, social movements and Individuals that mobilizes and advocates in defense, promotion and enforceability of the Human rights of homeless, evicted, displaced, landless and inadequately housed people and communities, including those under occupation, in urban and rural areas. HIC seeks to empower people and communities to improve their living conditions based on the principles, norms and standards of Human rights, diversity, gender equality, social production and environmental sustainability. HIC promotes public awareness about habitat issues and serves as a platform for the formulation of programs, policies and strategies for constituent social movements and civil society organizations working to promote the Human rights to housing, land, and the city, and acts as their representative to public, national, regional and international bodies and forums.

The Association aims to attain these objectives by means of:

(a) Mobilizing and advocating, independently or in co-operation, with other civil society entities, grassroots and popular organizations, social movements, independent institutions, academic networks, and activist platforms;
(b) Organizing forums, seminars and conferences, lectures, public hearings, and exchange visits;
(c) Publishing statements, reports, newsletters, and other studies and informative materials;
(d) Conducting research and fact-finding missions to document Human rights related to Habitat violations and positive experiences;
(e) Supporting and strengthening networks and promoting information exchanges among its members and other civil society entities;
(f) Conducting training, Human rights education and other activities to build capabilities of constituent members and affiliates; and
(g) Any other activities compatible with these objectives.
# HIC Members

### Africa / 73

- **Angola**
  - Development Workshop - Angola
  - ONG BETHESDA/Département Développement Communautaire et Assainissement du Milieu
- **Benin**
  - Association d’appui aux conducteurs de chariots du Congo / Coalition des Organisations de la Société Civile pour le Suivi des Réformes et de l’Action Publique R.Congo
- **Botswana**
  - Groupe d’Action pour le Droit au Logement Togo
  - Integrated Holistic Approach Urban Development Programme
- **Guinea**
  - Acteurs Pour Habitat
  - Action Internationale de Développement Intégral / Femmes Côte d’Ivoire Expérience
- **Kenya**
  - Association for the Physically Disable of Kenya / Dajopen Waste Management Project / Eastern Africa Coalition on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights / Kituo Cha Sheria (Legal Advice Centre)
  - Mazingira Institute / National Cooperative Housing Union Ltd / Pamoja Trust Young / Muslim Association / Kenya Social Movement Network
- **Mali**
  - Association Action Solidarité Couches Défavorisées / Association Féminine des Femmes de Magnambougou / Association pour le Progrès et la Défense des Droits des Femmes / Filles / Coopérative Féminine pour la Protection de l’Environnement / Coopérative Multifonctionnelle des Femmes de Badialam III / Coopérative Multifonctionnelle des Femmes de Magnanibogon / Fonds de Garantie Hypothécaire / GIE Foulani-Service / Groupement d’Intérêt Économique GIE SANYA
  - Mauritius
  - Development Indian Ocean Network Namibia
  - Namibia Housing Action Group
  - Contribution au Développement Rural / Réseau des Femmes Habitanntes Nigeri
- **Niger**
  - Senegal
  - Association d’aide sanitaire aux plus démunis / Association de Développement de Jeunes d’Ousouge / Environnement et Développement du Tiers-Monde / Habitants et Travailleurs Baraka / Initiative pour le développement communautaire intégré / Solidarité Internationale pour la Promotion de l’Habitat Social / Stratégies Alternatives pour un Habitat et un Environnement Elargis
  - South Africa
  - Built Environment Support Group / Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies University of Witwatersrand / Development Action Group / PLANACT / The New Housing Company-S.A
- **Tanzania**
  - Habitat for Humanity of Tanzania / Women Advancement Trust
  - Togo
  - Centre de Recherches Concertées sur le Développement
  - Uganda
  - Grassrootst Women Development Organisation / Shelter and Settlements Alternatives: Uganda
- **Zambia**
  - Mihiza Housing Cooperative Society
  - Housing People of Zimbabwe / Zimbabwe People’s Land Rights Movement

### Asia and Oceania / 38

- **Australia**
  - Australian Council of Social Service
  - Azerbaijan
  - Malaysian Council of Social Service
  - Azerbaijan Women and Development Centre
  - Bangladesh
  - Women in Development & Environment
  - Bangladesh
  - Women Environmental Programme

### Other Regions

- **India**
  - Samyukta / Punjab Action Group / Development Alternatives / Karnataka Kolageri Nivasigala
  - Arsitek Indonesia / Urban Poor
  - South Africa
  - Built Environment Support Group / Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies University of Witwatersrand / Development Action Group / PLANACT / The New Housing Company-S.A
  - Tanzania
  - Habitat for Humanity of Tanzania / Women Advancement Trust

### Other Countries

- **Philippines**
  - Alternative Planning Initiatives Inc. / Billerbeck Architekten / Center for Housing and Human Ecology Development Foundation, Inc. / Dedicated Involvement of Women for Housing Actions / Freedom to Build Inc / Kongress NG Pagkakaisa

### Additional Information

- **HIC Annual Report 2018 / 03**
NG MGA / Leaders and Organizers of Community Organisation in Asia / Marian Housing Foundation / Pagtambayong Foundation for Mutual Aid / Urban Poor Associates
Papua New Guinea
National Committee for Urban Shelter - Department or Architecture
South Korea
Asian Bridge
Thailand
Asian Coalition for Housing Rights / Human Development Centre

Middle East and North Africa / 41

Afghanistan
Agency of Consultancy for Training Egypt
Better Life Association for Comprehensive Development / Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services / Egyptian Association for Collective Rights / Egyptian Center for Public Policy Studies / Egyptian Centre for Housing Rights / Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights / Habi Center for Environmental Rights / Land Center for Human Rights / Nawaya Egypt / Nuba Mountains International Association / Together Association for Development and Environment
Iraq
Office of Human Rights & Forced Migration / Together to Protect Human & the Environment Association/
Israel
Mossawa Center -The Advocacy for the Arab Palestinian Citizens of Israel / The Association of Forty Jordan
Amman Center for Human Rights Studies / Dana and Qadisiyyah Local Community Cooperative
Mauritania
Association Mauritanienne pour le Bien Etre et le Secours de l'Enfant et de la Mère
Morocco
Environnement Développement et Action au Maghreb / Association Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme / Espace Associatif / Right to Water Forum in Arab Region
Palestine
Al-Maqdese for Society Development / Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem / Arab Center for Agricultural Development / Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights / Civic Coalition for Defending Palestinian Right in Jerusalem / Democracy and Workers’ Rights Center in Palestine / Land Research Center

Latin America and the Caribbean / 113
Argentina
Asociación Civil Canoa / Asociación Civil Madre Tierra / Asociación Civil Nueva Democracia por la Vivienda, Salud y Educación de los Humildes / Asociación de la Vivienda por la Igualdad y la Justicia / Asociación de la Vivienda Económica - Centro Experimental de la Vivienda Económica / Centro de Comunicación Popular y Asesoramiento Legal / Centro de Estudios Urbanos y Regionales (Centro de Estudios Avanzados de la Universidad de Buenos Aires) / Centro de Estudios y Acción por la Igualdad / Centro de Intercambio Subregional Cono Sur - Argentina / Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios Territoriales / El Ceibo TB (Red Hábitat Argentina) / Federación de Villas, Núcleos y Barrios de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires / Federación Tierra y Vivienda / Fundación Vivienda y Comunidad / Grupo de Investigación Vivienda Social y Ciudad - FADU UNL / Instituto de Investigación y Desarrollo en Vivienda-Instituto para la Comunidad y el Hábitat / Instituto Internacional de Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo / Movimiento de Ocupantes e Inquilinos / Proyecto Habitar / Secretariado de Enlace de Comunidades Autogestionarias / Servicio en Promoción Humana / Servicio Habitacional y de Acción Social / Taller 36 Arquitectura Ciudad / Taller Libre de Proyecto Social / Un Techo Para Mi Hermano / Vecinos Sin Techo y por una Vivienda Digna Asociación Civil
Bolivia
Centro de Estudios de la Realidad Económica y Social / Fundación Pro Hábitat / Red Nacional de Asentamientos Humanos / Taller de Proyectos e Investigación del Hábitat Urbano-Rural
Brazil
Brazilian Movement in Defense of Life / CEARAH Periferia / Centro de Assessoria a Autogestão Popular / Centro Gaspar Garcia de Direitos Humanos / Cidadania e Direitos Humanos / Confederação Nacional de Associações de Moradores / Escola Politécnica da Universidade de São Paulo / Federação dos Órgãos para Assistência Social e Educacional / Fundação Centro De Defesa Dos Direitos Humanos Ribião / Instituto de Estudos Socio-Económicos / Instituto Pólis / Movimento Nacional de Luta Pela Moradia / Movimento de Defensa Do Favelado / Pastoral da Moradia Arquidiocese de São Paulo / Sindicato de Arquitetos do R.J. / União Dos Movimentos de Moradia de São Paulo / União Nacional Por Moradia Popular
Chile
Corporación de Desarrollo Social JUNDEP / Observatorio de la Reconstrucción / Servicio Latinoamericano y Asiático de Vivienda Popular / SUR Corporación de Estudios Sociales y Educación
Colombia
Asociación Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo / Asociación de Vivienda AVP / Corporación Región para el Desarrollo y la Democracia / Escuela del Hábitat / Foro Nacional por Colombia
Costa Rica
Urbarium / Fundación Promotora de Vivienda
Cuba
Centro de Intercambio y Referencia de Iniciativas Comunitarias / Centro Memorial Martin Luther King Jr.
Dominican Republic
Centro Dominicano de Asesoría e Investigaciones Legales / Ciudad Alternativa / Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos / Comité de Desarrollo del Tamarindo / Comité para la Defensa de los Derechos Barriales / Consejo de Desarrollo Comunitario de la Caleta / Consejo de Unidad Popular
Ecuador
Asociación Cristiana de Jóvenes del Ecuador / Centro de Estudios y Tecnología para Asentamientos Andinos / Centro de Investigaciones CIUDAD / Corporación de Estudios Regionales - Guayaquil / Foro Urbano / Fundación Ecuatoriana del Hábitat / Somos Ecuador
El Salvador
Coordinadora Centroamericana Autogestionaria de la Vivienda Solidaria / Fundación Salvadoreña de Desarrollo y Vivienda Mínima / Guatemala
Asociación para el Mejoramiento Habitacional de Guatemala / Asociación Servicios a Programas de Desarrollo e Investigación / Instituto para el Desarrollo Económico Social de América Latina
Honduras
Instituto para la Cooperación y Autodeterminación
Jamaica
Construction Resource & Development Centre Ltd. / Habitat for Humanity, Jamaica LTD
Mexico
Nicaragua
Centro de Investigación y Promoción del Hábitat / Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Municipales / Centro de Promoción del Desarrollo Local / Movimiento Comunal Nicaragüense Panama
Centro de Capacitación Social de Panamá / Instituto de Estudios Peru
Alternativa, Centro de Investigación Social y Educación Popular / Centro de Estudios y Prevención de Desastres / Centro de Estudios y Promoción de Desarrollo / Centro de Investigación, Documentación y Asesoría Poblacional / Instituto de Desarrollo de la Vivienda Económica / Instituto de Desarrollo Urbano - CENCA / Movimiento para la Realización del Hábitat Social / Soluciones Prácticas ITDG
Trinidad & Tobago
Sou-Sou Land Co-Operative Society Limited
Uruguay
Centro Cooperativista Uruguayo / Federación de Cooperativas de Vivienda de Usuarios por Ahorro Previo / Federación Uruguayo de Cooperativistas de Vivienda por Ayuda Mutua / Unidad Permanente de Vivienda, Facultad de Arquitectura, Universidad de la República
Venezuela
Facultad de Arquitectura y Universidad Central de Venezuela / Fundación Vivienda Popular
Europe / 59
Belgium
ASBL Habitat et Participation / Post Graduate Centre / Vlaams Overleg Bewonersbelangen / Periferia
Denmark
Foreign Student Department of School of Architecture / The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Dept. of Human Settlements
France
Germany
Deutsche Entwicklungshilfe Für Soziales Wohnungs-UND TRIALOG eV. / Habitat Netz
Italy
Unione Inquilini
Norway
Habitat Norway / Network of international diplomacy of international law and human rights
Netherlands
International Council for Building Research Studies & Documentation / International Society of City and Regional Planners / Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies / AgN-Consult / Arcilla Research / Sean Devereux Human Rights Organization
Russia
International Association / Community Development Center CITIZEN FOUNDATION / Russian Housing Federation
Spain
Club de Amigos de la UNESCO de Madrid / Arquitectos sin Frontera - España / Plataforma Habitat Española / Observatorio DESC / Alternativas Sostenibles de Desarrollo / Asociación Al-Gea / Ingeniería Sense Fronteras Catalunya / Asociación de Amistad con el Pueblo Saharaui de Sevilla
Sweden
International Union of Tenants / Housing Development and Management / ARC Peace
International, Architects, Designers, Planners for Social Responsibility KTH
Switzerland
Laboratoire de Sociologie Urbaine / International Network for Urban Research and Action / UrbaMonde
United Kingdom
Schumacher Centre for Technology and Development / Housing Policy and Practice Unit / The Bartlett Development Planning Unit / World Habitat (ex-BSHF)
North America / 30
Canada
Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario / Canadian Housing & Renewal Association / Center for Equality Rights in Accommodation / Centre for Human Settlements, University of British Columbia / Development Workshop-Canada / Habitat for Humanity Canada / Homes First Society, Community Development Officer / Housing Committee of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women / Movement Action Chômage de Longueuil / National Housing and Homelessness Network / Réseau Québécois des OSHLD d Habitation / Rooftops Canada / Abri International / Tenants’ Rights Action Coalition / Wellesley Institute
United States
Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
Welcome to our new Members 2018!

During 2018, HIC received 11 new applications for membership (from 10 organizations and 1 individuals). Of the complete applications (with full institutional documents for Members’ applications or personal CV for Friends’ applications) received for membership, HIC approved and welcomed 5 new organizations as Members.

Habitar Argentina / Argentina

Taller Libre de Proyecto Social / Argentina

Taller de Vivienda. Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana / Xochimilco/

Nawaya / Egypt

Kenya Social Movement Network / Kenya
HIC Global Data

On December 31st, 2018, HIC had 354 Members (organizations that applied to the Membership, were formally approved and had contributed at least once with in-kind contributions or annual fees).

Between January 1st, 2018 and December 31st, 2018, the online system received 11 new applications for membership (from 10 organizations and 1 person). 5 organizations were approved in the considered period. Regarding Membership fees payment, a total amount of US$1,135 and €931.33 were received through 22 payments. In addition, 12 HIC Members had contributed through in-kind contributions.

HIC Mailing List also received 56 new subscription requests reaching a total amount of 1,807 Subscribers between Allies/Partners, and Social Base. It’s important to highlight that an important part of the HIC Social Base is composed of active organizations which are not included in this definition of Members. Instead, they are considered as Allies or Partners (the list is available and updated in this Annual Report 2018).

Other relevant figure is the number of individuals related via HIC Social Media Tools, which surpassed 5,000 in 2018. More precisely, 5,502 individuals follow HIC’s Facebook page, getting 500 followers in this period; HIC mailing lists’ have 2,207 subscribers; HIC’s Twitter account has 2,991 subscribers getting 691 followers in this period.

Note: The amount of Members might vary from a year to another due to the fact that some organizations cease to work, others are victims of repression in their countries and are obliged to cease activities.

The elections processes of Representatives at the HIC Board or HIC Presidency always represent, for the General Secretary, an opportunity to review and update the membership list, and for the Members, to reaffirm or dismiss their participation in the activities of the Coalition.
Structures’ Reports

HIC is composed of a variety of organizations sharing a common mission and is enriched by a variety of realities, methods and cultures. The interconnection of such a vast diversity poses a challenge when trying to establish coordinated activities within the Coalition; but this diversity is what strengthens our actions as a whole.

HIC President Report

As in previous years, the activities of the Presidency during 2018 were focused on strengthening and publicizing the work of the Coalition, while broadening and deepening coordination and alliances with key organizations and actors with whom we share objectives and strategies for the defense, promotion and fulfillment of every person’s right to a safe place to live in peace and with dignity.

As part of her most relevant institutional tasks, Lorena Zárate, HIC President, was actively involved in the organization and follow-up of multiple face-to-face and virtual meetings with HIC Members and Allies in various countries, as well as with Board Members and staff from regional and thematic offices. In close coordination with the General Secretariat, these actions contributed to the coordination and delivery of the General Assembly (online). These meetings further facilitated the development of proposals for regional and international projects, including in the African region in collaboration with Rooftops-Canada, the Mazingira Institute, HLRN and other institutions. Other such proposals included a joint project with the Development Planning Unit of University College London (DPU-UCL), which was not approved, and another with the Polis Institute of Brazil to continue the work of the Global Platform for the Right to the City, approved for the period 2018-2021.

As a representative of HIC, Lorena was invited to moderate the civil society round table during the 9th World Urban Forum held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) in February 2018, where she also participated in the Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, and sessions with Members and Allies on the social production and management of habitat in Africa, and slum upgrading in Latin America.

Taking advantage of an invitation to present HIC’s work at the International Conference on Global Development in an Urbanized World held in Frankfurt (Germany), our President had the opportunity to meet MISEREOR’s international and regional teams in Aachen, as well as representatives of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and Bread for the World in Berlin. There, she was also able to meet with activists defending the rights of tenants and make visits to social housing projects.

During a stay of several weeks in Mexico City, Lorena dedicated herself to strengthening the work carried out with the HIC-AL office as well as with local and national Members and Allies. Lorena participated in meetings with the Human Rights Commission, the HIC-AL evaluation process, and the panel presentation of the book *Utopias en construcción. La producción y gestión social del hábitat en América Latina* (Utopias under Construction: Latin American experiences of the social production of habitat), held in June.

Additionally, throughout the year several trips allowed for her participation in public events and coordination meetings with various movements and organizations in Atlanta, Boston, Miami and New York (USA), Barcelona (Spain), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Montevideo (Uruguay), Ottawa and Toronto (Canada), Paris (France) and Quito (Ecuador).

In terms of involvement in international initiatives, the presence of HIC in the ‘Make the Shift’ campaign promoted by the UN Special Rapporteur on the
Right to Adequate Housing, Leilani Farha, must be highlighted, as well as the launch of the Municipalist Manifesto for the Right to Housing and the Right to the City promoted by the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) network and the Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau. Lorena participated alongside them in the public events held within the framework of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, held at the United Nations headquarters in New York in July.

In addition to the usual talks at universities and meetings with students and academics in several countries, Lorena was involved in webinars promoted by various institutions and collaborated on research and training initiatives run by the Development Planning Unit of University College of London (HIC Member in the United Kingdom). She further contributed as an evaluator in the competition on Transforming Cities organized by the Transnational Institute based in Amsterdam, and was invited to form part of the Advisory Committee of the Global Cities Programme led by CIDOB (Centre for International Affairs of Barcelona), and as a Member of the Academic Committee of the 3rd International Congress on Housing and the City around the New Urban Agenda, organized by the Faculty of Architecture, Urbanism and Design of the National University of Córdoba, Argentina. At the express request of HIC Members in Chile and Peru, Lorena sent letters to authorities and other relevant actors expressing deep concern about eviction situations in Antofagasta and the lack of fulfillment of commitments with regard to guaranteeing the security of tenure of families relocated by the construction of the metro in Lima. At the beginning of October, a message with similar contents was circulated widely on the occasion of World Habitat Day.


As part of the Support Team for the Global Platform for the Right to the City, Lorena actively participated in planning, training, coordination and advocacy activities such as those in Atlanta, Kuala Lumpur, New York and Quito. At the same time, she was the promoter of the International Meeting for Equal Cities organized by several HIC Members and Allies in Buenos Aires at the end of October, however she was unfortunately unable to participate due to other commitments.

For more details on these and other activities see the Annex detailing the list of participation in conferences and publications for the period 2016-2018.
In 2018 the HIC General Secretariat (HIC GS) renewed its commitment towards its Members and the most disadvantaged communities in rural and urban areas by advancing on the implementation of HIC’s mission and its four central objectives, i) Advance toward gender equality and equity, ii) Defend the right to a healthy environment, iii) Promote and implement the Social Production of Habitat, and iv) work in the defence, promotion and realization of human rights related to housing and land, while fighting against violations of all rights related to habitat in both rural and urban areas.

On the eve of feasible global recession which will mainly affect the most disadvantaged communities, with existing conflicts still unfolding and with climate change effects already impacting on poor communities, 2018 saw an increase on the inequalities faced by our societies globally. This continued to have a reflection on the human settlements and the territories in which we live, both in the countryside and in the city. The growth of habitat rights violations occurred in parallel to a decrease of democratic liberties and a widespread privatisation of public goods such as land, water, food systems and housing. This comes at a moment where conservative trends are on the rise, with a shift to far-right and authoritarian governments in power. This has had a direct impact in the living situation of marginalized communities, with an alarming increase of misogyny, racism, discrimination and xenophobia, while the freedom of speech and to protest against these trends seems to be at stake.

But 2018 was an important year at the international level in order to advance on the implementation of global agendas related to human and habitat rights, such as the New Urban Agenda, the Charter of Principles of the World Social Forum and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The year started with the ninth edition of the World Urban Forum (WUF 9), held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in February, marking the first session to focus on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) adopted in Habitat III. This was followed by the World Social Forum (WSF 2018), which took place in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, in March, and reflected the current landscape of threats and violation of rights with urgent calls for joining forces to resist this new moment. Finally, July saw the 2018 edition of the High-Level Political Forum, with a strong presence of HIC Members and Allies around the discussion of SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

Beyond these global events, HIC GS also searched to strengthen the regional ties with and between its Members. Examples of such effort were the Africities Summit held in Marrakech in November, with the presence of HIC Members and Staff; as well as the Right to the City International Conference organized by the HIC GS and HIC Member Observatori DESC in May. The debate, organized around two sessions, gathered representatives from cities such as Barcelona, Vancouver, Marseille, Paris, Berlin, London and New York in order to discuss the global and complex nature of the housing crisis with solutions proposed by the civil society movements, focusing on two main issues: gentrification and rent control.

2018 also saw the completion of long-standing projects and the beginning of new ones. First, the book “Habitat International Coalition and the Habitat Conferences 1976-2016” was published on October
on the occasion of the World Habitat Day. The publication has been a joint work that aims to serve as an inspiration for the coming years, to motivate the continuation of the fight for a habitat underpinned by Human rights at local, national and international levels. In addition, it is a reflection and critique of the Habitat Conferences and the role of HIC since 1976. In a similar effort to preserve the memory of the Coalition and to lay the ground for its future, the HIC GS started putting forward plans to redevelop its website, with the intent of improving both its internal and external communication and particular efforts on integrating Members and all the documents and resources produced over the years.

2018 saw the first coordination efforts of an Action Research in collaboration with HIC Members as part of its project "Asserting Peoples Habitat Rights at All Levels." Specifically, the action research seeks to fulfil the objective 2 of such project: "Civil society and grassroots organisations, in partnership with local governments and Academic and Training Institutions, should have improved knowledge of strategies at the local level that can aid in the promotion of equity and environmental sustainability. These strategies should be able to influence local, regional, or global charters, policies, action plans, programmes and development in line with R2C and Social Production for Habitat principles". The results of the action research, providing answers to these three objectives, are to be compiled in a final report due to be published in 2020.

The year ended with the General Assembly 2018, carried out for the first time online, in order to make sure that all those who wish to participate in the process were able to do so. Finally, regarding the HIC Board, 2018 saw the election of new Representatives and Alternates at the Board from Africa and Latin America: Ifeyinwa Ofong from Women in Development & Environment, Nigeria as Representative and Moussa Ka, Habitants et Travailleurs Baraka, Senegal as Alternate and Ana Pastor from Asociación Civil Madre Tierra, Argentina as Representative and Ramiro Garcia, Centro de Estudios y Promoción de Desarrollo, Peru; as Alternate respectively.


Finally, the HIC GS benefitted from an intense collaboration with HIC Presidency and HIC Board which played an essential role guiding the HIC GS and making recommendations. A special mention goes to Lorena Zárate, HIC President, who implemented an intense global agenda of conferences, meetings and actions representing HIC worldwide. 2018 saw as well regular coordination with HIC Reference Centers (Mexico DF, Cairo and New Delhi) and continuous communication and collaboration with HIC Members and Allies. A fundamental collaboration was also further developed with POLIS Institute, HIC Member co-coordinating the Global Platform for the Right to the City.
During the year, HIC-AL continued to promote strategies aimed at strengthening the Coalition through greater participation and coordination with and by Members. It also continued to carry out advocacy work and the strengthening of popular processes in the areas of human rights related to habitat, the social production of habitat (SPH) and the Right to the City. Among the most relevant activities, the following are worth mentioning.

Building a Strong Coalition

In April, the Third HIC-AL Strategic-Participatory Workshop was held in Lima, focusing mainly on the Andean region. The event saw the participation of 23 people from 17 organizations from Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia and Mexico. The meeting resulted in the collective development of the strategic plan for 2018-2019. Other important spaces for collaboration were the regional level thematic working groups and the holding of regular virtual meetings.

Very close work with the Members was also carried out in the framework of the election process for regional representatives to the HIC Board for the period 2018-2022, which took place in December 2018. From the total of 38 organizations with voting rights registered on the Latin American electoral roll at the time of the election, 36 entities from 12 countries participated in this process, reaching a quorum of 94.73%. Ana Pastor from Asociación Civil Madre Tierra [Civil Association Mother Earth] is the current regional representative, while Ramiro García, from the Centro de Estudios y Promoción del Desarrollo [Centre for Development Studies and Promotion] (DESCO) is the alternate.

The year ended with the launch of the new website, which aims to give visibility to the work of the Members of the region. HIC-AL also created a Facebook page dedicated exclusively to the region, as well as a Twitter page. Both networks are growing significantly, allowing HIC-AL to increase its visibility of the region’s work. When monitoring the communication system with Members, 90.5% of 42 organizations from 11 countries that responded to a questionnaire focused on this believe that in the last three years communication has improved significantly. Further, Members considered the regional WhatsApp group the most appropriate tool through which to circulate information.

Advocacy on Human Rights related to Habitat and Strengthening Popular Processes

In January, at the request of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, HIC-AL organized the agenda for her unofficial fact-finding visit to Mexico to gather data for her Report on informal settlements in collaboration with various Allies. The document, which also benefited from other visits such as the one to Argentina, in which Member
organizations from the country collaborated, was presented before the UN General Assembly by Leilani Farha in September. The activity allowed for closer ties with the Rapporteurship and facilitated the dialogue that has been maintained since then on violations of the human right to adequate housing in the region.

In March, the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) examined Mexico’s fifth and sixth periodic reports (E/C.12/MEX/5-6) as well as the “Joint Civil Society Report on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights in Mexico (2018)” in which HIC-AL and Member organizations such as Casa y Ciudad [House and City] collaborated on the section on the right to adequate housing and forced evictions. Taking up much of the data we shared and the concerns we raised about the ineffectiveness of policies aiming to adequately address the housing deficit — in particular the availability of social housing and affordable housing for the most disadvantaged groups, and the absence of adequate procedures and legal protection for individuals, families and communities who have been evicted — the CESCR issued five recommendations on this issue to the Mexican State.

With regard to forced evictions, work continued during the year to raise awareness on the problem, support the coordination of social actors interested in the issue, build information, denounce violations thereof and carry out advocacy work. To this end, texts and publications on the subject were prepared, and support was provided to the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing in the preparation of communications and actions of solidarity. HIC-AL also collaborated with the Popular Urban Movement, neighborhood organizations and people affected by forced evictions in Mexico City in defense and advocacy actions, and with the Mexican Movement of People Affected by Dams and in defense of Rivers.

In terms of the social production of habitat, HIC-AL promoted the “Latin American recognition for cases of the social reconstruction of habitat post-disaster 2018” that we organized in coordination with the Faculty of Architecture of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), in which 12 national cases and three from other countries in the region competed, in addition to six investigations on the subject. This resulted in the public presentation of the book “Utopias under construction: Latin American experiences of the social production of habitat” in different countries, which arose from the work of the regional working group on Social Production of Habitat in which more than 30 organizations from all over Latin America participated. We also focused on supporting, connecting and making visible the efforts undertaken by our Members and Allies in Mexico in relation to the reconstruction they carried out in one of the areas most affected by the 2017 earthquakes, the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Oaxaca. To this end, opinion articles were prepared on the subject and we participated in television and radio programs. Further, more than five workshops, courses and lectures were given on the subject; field visits and meetings with authorities were carried out; and the systematization of the cases was favored through interviews with the organizations involved and files that will be published in the course of the following year, as well as through a video focused on the advocacy and dissemination of the results and obstacles faced, which will be ready on the second anniversary of the earthquake in 2019.

In addition, a bibliographic analysis was undertaken on local materials and traditional construction technologies with lower costs and lower impacts on the environment and CO2 production to provide more arguments in favor of their use, which was severely hindered by the federal government. At the end of the year, a session to exchange experiences and build knowledge on the social reconstruction of habitat was organized, which saw the participation of six national and international experts on public policies and local materials who, together with Members and Allies, learned about reconstruction experiences in the states of Oaxaca and Morelos, in addition to participating in internal workshops.

HIC-AL and a significant number of Members from the region continued to work for the recognition and implementation of the right to the city, both locally and internationally. The latter was primarily carried out within the framework of the Latin American working group of the Global Platform for the Right to the City. In Mexico, we are collaborating on the development of the secondary legislation that derives from the first Constitution of the City approved in 2017 which, thanks to the work of HIC-AL and its Allies, recognized this right (art. 12).
HIC in Sub-Saharan Africa

HIC Members in Africa continue to be active and are among the founding organizations of the African Urban Research Initiative (AURI) Network, which includes the Members Development Workshop Angola and ENDA RUP. Many other AURI Members are well known or have already collaborated with the Mazingira Institute SINA Network, which is one of the two Reference Centers for HIC-SSA. The two networks previously co-organized an event on the co-production or self-production of habitat during the Global Platform for the Right to the City meeting in September 2017. In this sense, AURI should become a strategic partner of HIC in Africa. The ninth session of the World Urban Forum also saw some events led by HIC Members.

It should be recalled that in the past there have been joint actions between HIC in Africa and other networks such as ANEW African CSO on water and sanitation in Addis Ababa, as part of the definition of Africa’s action plan towards the SDGs on responsible consumption, water, sanitation and integrated water resource management.

HIC, together with the Global Platform for the Right to the City, also attended the Africities Summit, in Marrakech to support the activities of its Members within this framework. A debate was organized in this framework with civil society, local authorities and researchers to analyze African realities and perspectives on the Right to the City.

Action Research

Africa is seeing some of the most brilliant advancements in driving bottom-up policy influence in the world today — in some cases, even leading to radical new progressive relationships between the urban poor and urban policy. In collaboration with our Members, Allies, and new Friends in Africa, HIC is excited to announce that the African portion of our Action Research into the relationships between activists and practitioners, local government policy, and the retention of progressive policies, is nearing conclusion.

The research, conducted through interviews with roughly 10% of HIC Members in Africa, represents a diverse range of organizations, from issue-focused grassroots activists to long-standing NGOs, spread across different countries. The research has also drawn on interviews and publicly available documents, seeking to answer questions such as: “How have actors fought to achieve policy change at the local level?”. However, drawing sweeping conclusions has proven to be impossible — there are no “truisms” to be found when it comes to comparing the strategies employed by such a varied group of organizations across such different political and social contexts. Yet, clear trends have certainly emerged, which we hope will impart valuable lessons for activists and practitioners everywhere engaged in these issues.

The African Region component was launched in July 2018, calling for interviews with HIC Members across the continent. In total, the final draft of the Action Research project, which is due to be completed soon, is to contain interviews with nine organizations. The conclusions of this component of the Action Research project offer insight through the wide-ranging experiences of fighting for habitat rights and for the Right to the City. These include the efficacy of the use of contentious strategies such as protest in the contexts of Kenya and South Africa, as used by Muungano wa Wanavajiji and Abahlali baseMjondolo respectively; the navigation of the exceptionally tense political situation in Côte d’Ivoire by Action Internationale de Développement Intégral [International Action for Integral Development] in a country where activism is easily captured by political interests; and the benefits and drawbacks of influencing policy through grassroots community projects as opposed to lobbying, as in the cases of Shelter and Settlements Alternatives, and Dajopen Waste Management.

Poverty Eradication: From Policy to Local Action event at the UN

Under the leadership of Women in Development and Environment (WorldWIDE Network Nigeria) and the HIC General Secretariat, the event “Poverty Eradication: From Policy to Local Action” was organized on 6 February 2018, moderated by Dr. Amina Smaila (Former Vice-Chair of the UN Commission for Social Development). Further information on Global Activities can be found on page 27 of this report.
Among the networking functions of HIC-MENA in 2018 was in response to the request of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for HIC-HLRN to serve as secretariat for the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC) in the region. Accordingly, HIC-HLRN joined with GAIA Association (Lebanon) in February 2018 to organize the 2nd regional CSO Consultation with FAO’s Near East/North Africa regional office in preparation for the 34th Near East Regional Conference of governments and other stakeholders to review the program and determined future priorities of FAO in the region. The CSO Consultation partners issued the declaration “No Hunger on Earth as of Today” calling for integrating states’ Human rights obligations in FAO’s work, accountability for the crises and shocks and reparation to small-scale producers for violations beyond the technical dimensions the minimal pursuit of their “resilience.”

In March 2018, HIC-MENA participated in the General Assembly of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty, held in Cape Town, South Africa, where HIC-HLRN’s Legal Researcher presented the regional CSO networking process to facilitate the coordination among CSOs in the region, and to provide a wider participation with FAO programming.

The first CSO Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the region took place in April 2018, involving HLRN in the development of a monitoring mechanism on the implementation of 2030 Agenda in Arab countries and the formulation of joint recommendations for the Arab Forum for SDGs. Then in September 2018, HIC-HLRN engaged in a group of the region’s CSOs to launch the Majalat initiative to conduct a structured dialogue between the EU institutions and CSOs in the Southern European Neighborhood. HIC-MENA is a main partner for Majalat’s Working Group on Economic Development and Social Dialogue, focusing on the common economic, social and cultural Human rights obligations of the regions’ states, including the extraterritorial obligations that arise from cross-border operations. That led to the of Majalat’s first CSO forum in December for dialogue with the EU institutions at Brussels. HIC-MENA’s role has been to advocate and give practical application of the Human rights-based approach to European Neighborhood Policies, including the EU partnership agreements with the governments of Southern Mediterranean countries.

In October 2018, HIC’s HLRN published and distributed the 16th issue of its periodic publication "LandTimes/ضرألا لاوحأ ةرشن" which highlighted civil society efforts and the activities and events that HIC-MENA program engaged with during the year at regional and global level. And in December 2018, HIC-HLRN updated its encyclopedic publication: The Land and its People, which contains the outcomes (working papers, analyses and testimonies of land struggles) captured in six rounds of the MENA Land Forum over the period (2009–17). HIC was represented in the 1st Arab Land Governance Conference, at Dubai, UAE, presenting “Challenges and Priorities for Arab Land Restitution within International Law Norms.” HIC-HLRN focused on the normative framework of international law, as summarized in the
Pinheiro Principles, toward restitution of housing, land and property of the over 33 million refugees and IDPs across the region.

Despite the dramatic and inhuman situation for the people of Yemen, HIC-HLRN received the final draft of case studies from the Yemeni field researchers in the project “Land Reparation as a Component of Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding in Yemen”, originally supported by United States Institute of Peace. HIC-MENA is working to provide the legal analysis and proposals for a civil society-driven “land observatory” to uphold the struggle of the people in Yemen. The land observatory will be proposed to document the impacts of the land rights violations incurred under the previous regime and ongoing conflict to ensure reparation, including non repetition, for the foregoing gross violations.

HIC-MENA’s regular documentation efforts involved the maintenance of the HLRN Violation Database (VDB). During 2018, the HIC-MENA program registered 10 prominent cases of housing and land rights violations in the region, including cumulative entries for the year in Palestine, Syria and Yemen.

HIC advocacy efforts involved joint interventions with Members Adalah, ARIJ, BADIL and El Mezan (Palestine), the Saharawi Association of Mine Victims and Saharawi Campaign against the Plunder (Western Sahara) at the 38th and 39th Human Rights Council (HRC) sessions to highlight the nexus between land and self-determination. In a public event, HIC-HLRN’s Coordinator presented the evolution of institutionalized material discrimination against the indigenous Palestinian people throughout Israel’s colonization project, culminating in the new Basic Law: “Jewish Nation State, which the Knesset adopted in 2018. In an oral intervention before the 28th HRC special session, HIC reminded the Council of the decades-old policies violating Palestinian land rights through breaches of peremptory norms in the international law without the corrective intervention obliged of all states. By way of comparative analysis, HIC-HLRN also sponsored a side event at the HRC on the Israeli occupation of Palestine and Moroccan occupation of Western Sahara that both involve the exploitation of the indigenous peoples’ land and other natural resources, denying their means of subsistence.

During the HLPF in July 2018, HIC-HLRN worked intensely with the NGO Major Group the deliver of civil society messages to the High-level Political Forum on the Voluntary National reviews (VNRs). HIC inputs provided critical reviews of the SDG performance by reporting states Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and UAE.

A submission on Yemen to the 32nd Universal Periodic Review session at Geneva joined the efforts of FIAN International and Social Democratic Forum in Yemen. The joint report cited the targeting of civilians, as well as, the destruction of housing, land and properties in the war, using hunger as “lethal weapon of war” for which both internal and external parties to the conflict are culpable.

In 2018, HIC-HLRN conducted an intense consultation with, and audit of HIC Members preceding the end of the term of Rajaa al-Kassab (Instance nationale de protection des biens publics au Maroc), representing the region to the HIC Board since 2010.
HIC Housing and Land Rights Network

HIC-HLRN has worked through 2018 to support the Coalition to maintain HIC Members’ leading role and voice in the various international legal and policy forums related to habitat. From its base in Geneva, HIC-HLRN has represented HIC in the UN Human Rights System. Its coordination office in Cairo supports the regional and global efforts of HIC Members and partners to integrate Human rights norms and corresponding obligations of states in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda and New Urban Agenda, developing and applying the Human Rights Habitat Observatory (HRHO) approach that draws on the many tools and techniques designed to support civil society in pursuing a home and community in which to live with peace and dignity through the full and progressive realization of the Human rights to adequate housing and land.

Networking and Coalition Building

HIC-HLRN has ensured that HIC is well represented in important platforms such as the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) for the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), at FAO in Rome. While HIC represents the issues and interests of the Urban Food Insecure Constituency in the CSM, HIC-HLRN efforts also helped develop the new Landless Constituency and its working methods through 2018.

HIC-HLRN also coordinated HIC’s participation in the International Planning Committee (IPC) for Food Sovereignty, which facilitates civil society cooperation and policy development with FAO. HLRN officers play facilitating roles in both the Near East/North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa regions. As in all regions, urban and rural habitats face multiple threats, and HIC-HLRN has been finding ways to work with FAO not only to improve food security for people in cities, but also to support the bundle of small-scale farmers’ embattled Human rights, while promoting agroecology as a needed environmentally friendly and planet-cooling alternative to dominant trends.

As an outcome of the Habitat III process, UN Habitat has been renewing its leadership and governance structure. In parallel, HIC-HLRN has responded to the call to revise civil society stakeholder engagement with UN Habitat in the form of a self-organized mechanism. Accordingly, HLRN has been working with allied organizations and networks to assess the stakeholder experience since the 1st Habitat Conference (1976), culminating in a report to the Global Stakeholder Forum at the 1st UN Habitat Assembly in 2019.

Knowledge Creation, Capacity Building and Methodology Development

One of the tests of this Human Rights Habitat Observatory (HRHO) approach is in the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2018, HIC-HLRN represented HIC within the NGO Major Group to realize the integrated Human rights-based development approach as promised in the 2030 Agenda. This took the form of assessments of seven National Voluntary Reviews in the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, drawing on the consultation and input from numerous civil society organizations in the reporting countries.

HIC HLRN’s "Women’s Land and Home" project advanced throughout the year with Human rights
learning and technical workshops in India and Kenya, expanding activities also to Uganda at the end of the year. The project seeks to genderize HLRN’s Violation Impact-assessment Tool to capture the values and voices of women facing dispossession of their land and home. The in-depth quantification process applied to emblematic cases seeks full reparation for victims, greater awareness in the public and deterrence of further deprivation in future.

Advocacy

HIC-HLRN has taken the multi-dimensional Human Rights Habitat Observatory (HRHO) approach into the advocacy work developed with HIC Members and Partners. HIC-HLRN has increased its presence and activity at Geneva, in particular, before the UN Human Rights Council, Special Procedures and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Through these functions of the Human Rights System, HIC-HLRN has advocated greater attention to economic, social and cultural rights in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of states, the multidisciplinary approach to recognition of a Human right to land, a comparative analysis of land grabbing and prolonged occupations, and greater solidarity among people under occupation.

The context of UN Human rights advocacy has been noticeably shifting in 2018. HLRN has noted greater political attention and other resources are being directed to such “voluntary” reviews as UPR and HLPF, where states mutually evade the subject of their solemn Human rights and other obligations under international law. This, coupled with the notable decline in multilateralism, has effectively eclipsed the Treaty System, culminating in a budget crisis in the treaty bodies by 2019 due to defunding and delaying contributions. This distorting trend has added a sense or urgency to civil society’s advocacy agenda, prioritizing the call for greater support of the UN’s very functions that uphold Human rights and world order. HIC-HLRN remains dedicated to a solution based on the paramountcy of Human rights.
This was an active year for HIC European Members, as they took part in a series of events, networking activities and mobilization platforms, campaigns, disseminating information through news articles to promote the right to housing, land and social justice.

Members of HIC in Europe have also engaged in campaigns, declarations and calls for action, focusing on issues around homelessness, evictions, and securing right to adequate housing. For example, the World Urban Forum 9 saw different events including the event organized by Urbamonde: Social Production of Habitat: Building the African Case in the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

HIC GS engaged with European Members in different activities, in concrete with Observatorio DESC, in the organization of an international meeting to gather experiences to face the Housing Crisis at the International Conference on the Right to the City in Barcelona.

On the occasion of the 50th year anniversary of the publication of Henri Lefebvre’s “Right to the City”, the Conference aimed to contextualize the Right to Housing under the larger framework of the Right to the City, understanding housing as a basic right that is closely linked to the way in which we interact with our communities, both in an immediate (neighborhood) and a larger scale (city).

Report of the sessions:

-> The International Conference on the Right to the City in Barcelona analyzes the global crisis of the right to housing

-> International experiences to face the housing crisis

All these activities and other news articles have been reported by HIC European Members consistently at HIC website. For instance, HIC Members in Europe organized different events on the occasion of Urban October. Habitat Norway organized an open international conference on Forced Evictions: "Urban Exclusion versus inclusion: the global challenges of housing Evictions"

People are the solution: The benefits of community-led housing

Community-led housing has shown to be an efficient solution to the lack of access to adequate housing all over the world.

6 organizations, including HIC Members from Europe and other regions, came together to create the Platform of Social Production of Habitat, renamed as Co-Habitat Network, aiming at giving a voice to the people who create new innovative housing solutions on a grassroots level. With the collaboration of the UN Rapporteur to Adequate Housing, Leilani Farha, this platform documents community-led housing projects, through collective, non-speculative, people-led solutions make them visible and link them with Allies. At the same time, the communities will develop new solidarity mechanisms in order to scale up their models.

HIC also joined the manifesto for the immediate recovery of Law 24/2015, the “Housing Emergency Law” in Catalonia with different civil society organizations, including HIC Member Observatorio DESC.

Translocal Pedagogies in Planning Education for Urban Equality

The Bartlett Development Planning Unit of UCL (DPU-UCL) organized an event with the participation of HIC President, Lorena Zárate. The workshop aims were to facilitate an exchange of ideas and experiences for innovative practices and pedagogies that have the potential to transform current planning education through providing more responsive learning environments and strengthening capabilities to address urban inequality.
Global Activities

HIC at High-Level Political Forum

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. In 2018 HIC together with the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) brought a dedicated programme to the High-Level Political Forum within and outside of the United Nations building.

This programme focused on drawing attention to the local and global struggles of communities around the world that work every day to defend the right to the city, facilitating the participation of organizations and groups whose voices are often silenced or not heard. The participation of HIC and the GPR2C aimed to give visibility and raise awareness about local and global struggles for the Right to the City and to monitor the implementation of the SDG’s, particularly Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, which was set for revision during the 2018 event.

One of the main goals of HIC’s and GPR2C’s programme during the event was to bring the perspective and experience of social movements to the general discussion. At a stand dedicated to it, HIC and the Global Platform for the Right to the City echoed the denunciations, demands and proposals of the comrades of Abahlali Base Mjondolo and also from many other struggles for the democratization of decision-making spaces, for the preservation and expansion of public spaces, and that no person or social group suffers discrimination.

Linking global and local struggles is essential to raise awareness about a global demand from citizens for more participation in decision-making and greater access to the material, political and symbolic benefits that our cities and societies have to offer. For that reason, the activities organized by HIC and the GPR2C within the HLPF included some meetings with local movements for the right to housing. These included a public hearing with the New York City Housing Authority, an outdoor networking event with local and international activists at a conversation on building a global movement for housing as a human right and a special session on the Right to Housing and Cities for housing Declaration, co-organized by the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights.

Beyond these events, the GPR2C presented the “Right to the City Agenda”, a document which advocates the Right to the City as a new and necessary perspective for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, as well as a specific declaration for the event.
After a year of strategic planning during 2017, the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) started implementing its 4-year plan in 2018 with a big focus on institutional strengthening. As one of the organizations coordinating the Ford Foundation Build Grant that is funding the GPR2C, HIC has played an essential role in providing the necessary support to facilitate the working groups, organize online and in-person meetings and events, as well as producing dissemination materials and campaigns.

In terms of institutional strengthening, the Platform has made a big jump ahead by consolidating its four working groups: Advocacy, Communications, Research & Training (for now limited to the Latin American Region but expanding to Africa and Asia in 2019) as well as the Facilitation Group (composed by the long-lasting Member organizations). These groups meet online at least once every two months and have developed their own internal communication tools including specific mailing listings, shared folders and whatsapp groups. In addition to these groups, the Gender working group was created as a thematic group to work transversally on the issue of gender. Finally, the Latin America regional group was also created and it is expected that other regional groups could be created in the future to ensure region-specific perspectives.

In the period 2014-2016 the Platform made great progress in introducing the Right to the City in international forums. The introduction of explicit mentions to the Right to the City and many of its components in the New Urban Agenda (NUA) is probably the most visible result of that advocacy work. More recently the Right to the City has also been a topic of discussion as part of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the Sustainable Development Goals thanks to GPR2C activities organized both inside and outside the UN Headquarters. In 2018, the Platform organized a training session and installed an exhibition space inside the UN. Another training session and a community event were also organized outside of the United Nations, with the participation of several local groups.

One of the main takeaways from the GPR2C’s participation at the HLPF was the preparation of the Right to the City Agenda document outlining the links between the SDGs and the NUA in regards to the inclusion of the Right to the City components in them. This document has become the main advocacy tool to argue for the implicit recognition of the Right to the City in the SDGs.

At the regional level, the GPR2C was active in most regions in 2018. In Africa, the GPR2C organized a working session with civil society groups and local government representatives as part of the Africities forum in Marrakesh, Morocco. The Platform also supported and
promoted the [Triennale des Habitants in Cameroon](#) a major gathering of civil society groups in the country. In Latin America, The GPR2C took part in the [International Meeting for Equal Cities (Encuentro Internacional por Ciudades Igualitarias)](#) in Buenos Aires, Argentina parallel to the U20 gathering of city mayors. A [regional workshop was also organized in Lima](#), Peru with the Members of the LA regional group right before the HIC regional meeting. In Europe several activities were organized to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Henry Lefebvre’s book on the Right to the City, including seminars, conferences, workshops and demonstrations across France. A Right to the City conference was also organized in Barcelona with representatives from several cities from Europe and North America to talk about the challenges of the financialization of the housing market and gentrification.

Following the communication workshop in Nairobi in 2017, the communication working group consolidated its plan for the 2018-21 period. The general objective of this plan is to promote the active participation of Members in the GPR2C, mobilize the community, and raise awareness and make the right of the city known to the general public.

This group launched 3 campaigns ([HLPF, World Day for the Right to the City](#) and [Human Rights Day](#)) and supported several Members and Allies campaigns. These campaigns serve to: i) strengthen the network, the GPR2C presence and relevance in social networks has increased considerably; ii) value the work of the GPR2C, giving visibility to Members sharing [R2C initiatives, videos, and violation cases](#); and iii) support advocacy delivering the messages to the right audience, such as the [Right to the City Agenda](#). In addition, the communication tools were improved, with the update of the [logo](#), new newsletter design and [website](#).

Moving forward, the Platform is ready to use its improved internal organization to pursue ambitious goals in terms of advocacy, dissemination, research and training, and to continue working to achieve just, inclusive, safe and sustainable cities and human settlements for all. As part of the Support Team, HIC is an instrumental partner to ensure the success of this process.

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**RIGHT TO THE CITY**

*International Conference Barcelona*

10th May 2018 - 17:30h

- **Gentrification and Eviction of Neighbours**
  - Opening: David Madden
  - LSBN: “The city of housing” and Katrin Gaulke-Pongratz (Berlin, Germany), and UK

- **Andy Tan**
  - York University, Vancouver

- **Patrick Lacoste**
  - AMLI and an action of the neighborhood of the city

- **Richard Brown**
  - Independent Architect in Canada

- **Vanessa Valdés**
  - Barcelona City Council

17th May 2018 - 18:30h

- **Regulation of the housing market and rent control**
  - Anna Vegós
  - University of Barcelona

- **Gritche Dufman**
  - Montpellier University, France

- **Ilan Rossetti**
  - Mayor of the municipality of Paris

- **Francois Solauté**
  - Urbanist, architect, Paris, France

- **Moderators: Isabela Iriondo**

#RightToTheCity

Register at www.right2city.org

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Following the communication workshop in Nairobi in 2017, the communication working group consolidated its plan for the 2018-21 period. The general objective of this plan is to promote the active participation of Members in the GPR2C, mobilize the community, and raise awareness and make the right of the city known to the general public.
2018 saw the start of the definition and development of the new version of our global website: www.hic-net.org, with a new design, as well as new usability features and available functions.

HIC’s new global website project aims to:

--> To publicize the Coalition in a section that presents the mission, history, who is part of the Coalition, and general information about transparency, among others.

--> To disseminate the Coalition’s latest news, events, newsletters and recent documents and publications on the work being carried out to ensure human rights related to habitat.

--> To share the knowledge and tools created by HIC and its Members in a space dedicated to the delivery of the Coalition’s collective knowledge and expertise.

HIC’s global website displays at all times the contact details and access to the different regional and thematic Reference Centres and Focal Points that integrate the Coalition.

The new advanced search system also allows you to find in-depth information on activities, Members, events and publications under specific themes of our work, made even easier with pre-defined searches on the main areas of HIC’s mission.
As a component of HIC’s ongoing project “Asserting People's Habitat Rights at All Levels being carried out between 2018 and 2020, HIC is conducting an Action Research entitled “A Framework for Understanding The Nature, Efficacy & Lessons of Civil Society Movement Strategies for Influencing Policy Towards Adherence to Human Rights and the Right to the City”. This Action Research is being conducted in collaboration with two HIC global Teams, the HIC General Secretariat (HIC GS) and HIC América Latina (HIC-AL). The results of the action research (AR) are to be compiled in a final report due to be published in 2020.

The action research seeks to fulfill the following objectives:

1. To understand how local governments have incorporated Human Rights and Right to the City elements to their management and public policies.
2. To analyse strategies used by HIC members, as well as social movements/civil society actors pertinent to habitat struggles with whom HIC has a developing or strong relationship, to ensure that local governments address these elements in their management and public policies.
3. To understand how local governments preserve policies that incorporate Human Rights and Right to the City elements when there’s a change in political leadership or other external challenges such as migration, environmental damage or economic crises, among other factors.

The African Region component was launched in July 2018, calling for interviews with HIC Members across the continent. In total, the final draft of the AR, is to contain 9 interviewed organisations. The conclusions of this component of the AR offer insight via the wide-ranging experiences of fighting for the Right to the City and habitat rights; the efficacy of the use of contentious strategies such as protest in the contexts of Kenya and South Africa as used by Muungano wa Wanavajiji and Abahlali base Mjondolo respectively; the navigation of the exceptionally tense political situation in Côte d’Ivoire by Action Internationale de Développement Intégral, in a country where activism is easily captured by political interests; the benefits and drawbacks of influencing policy through grassroots community projects as opposed to lobbying, as in the cases of Shelter and Settlements Alternatives and Daiopen Waste Management.

The Latin American regional component was launched in July 2019, being conducted from the HIC-AL office. The specific case studies in question are (1) Argentina (the Buenos Aires Fair Access Law; Housing and Habitat Institute of San Martín de los Andes; Urbanization of Popular Neighbourhoods in Buenos Aires.); (2) Brazil: Urban Development Fund of the Municipality of Sao Paulo.; and (3) Mexico: Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City and article on the right to the city in the Constitution of Mexico City.

The first phase of the European section took the form of a collaboration with post-graduate students from the University of Sheffield. a literature review of trends pertaining to the strategies of actors campaigning for HRS and the R2C; of movements that have successfully secured positions of authority within LGs, namely in Barcelona; and an analysis of the means through which these trends have sought to be retained.

The second component of the European Research shall deal more robustly with analysis and data-collection, with attention given to case studies of particular interest identified in the literature review in France (Paris), Spain (Barcelona) and Germany (Berlin). The Spain component has been conducted in collaboration with HIC Member Observatori DESC, who was commissioned to conduct the in-depth research into the case studies of Barcelona. HIC Member in France, AITEC is responsible for the analysis of France case while the Germany component has been developed by the HIC-GS.
On the occasion of the G20 meeting held in Buenos Aires at the end of 2018, the mayor of the host city, together with the Mayors of Paris, proposed holding the Summit of Mayors of Global Cities-Urban 20, with the goal that the national states gathered to take decisions on the future of the economy would also contemplate the voices of cities.

Parallel to this event, more than 25 institutions and individuals committed to equality, human rights and sustainability organized the Encuentro Internacional por Ciudades Igualitarias that took place from 28 to 31 October 2018 in the City of Buenos Aires. The activity was linked to the World Day for Zero Evictions and the World Day for the Right to the City. Within this framework, the aim was to open a space to discuss an alternative position to neoliberal urban management and to exchange ideas and experiences on the cities to which we aspire in an international context of economic, social, environmental and political crisis. To this end, it was necessary to listen to the least heard voices of our cities, address the root causes of impoverishment, exclusion and inequality and exchange experiences of resistance and transforming proposals from neighbourhood organizations and collectives.

With the baggage of articulations, agreements and learnings that have been constructed in the world, regional and thematic social forums during the last two decades, the intention was to advance in the implementation and conquest of the right to the city and the deepening of the new municipalism as a tool of alert and mobilized citizenship. The event also sought to contribute to the follow-up of the obligations and commitments incorporated in the New Urban Agenda (Quito, October 2016) as well as with the Declaration of Cities for the Right to Housing and the Right to the City (New York, July 2018) and the Make the Shift Campaign, promoted by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing with the support of the network of United Cities, Local and Regional Governments (UCLG).

The ElpCI included a series of activities such as a cultural event, a session of the International People’s Tribunal against Evictions focusing on the gentrification process in the La Boca neighbourhood, a workshop on the right to the city and thematic panels on urban inequalities, the care of common goods, feminist urbanism, the future of work, the integration of migrants and refugees, the role and challenges of intermediate cities and sub-national financing. There was also an Assembly of social movements coordinated by HIC-AL and the International Alliance of Inhabitants, and a roundtable discussion with progressive Mayors from different cities around the world. It was also prepared with a collective document that engaged, from a critical point of view, with the main topics of debate raised by the institutional summit: action for the environment, decent employment for the future, policies for social integration and equality. The declaration was delivered to the Mayor of Buenos Aires to be presented in front of Urban 20.
The side event “Poverty Eradication: From Policy to Local Action”, organized by Women in Development and Environment (WorldWIDE Network Nigeria) took place on the 6th of February 2018. It was Moderated by Dr. Amina Smaila (Former, Vice Chair of the Bureau of the UN Commission on Social Development) and had the participation of H. E Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General, United Nations; H. E. Samson Itegboje, DPR, Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the UN; Ms. Bettina Luise Rurup, Executive Director, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, New York; Dr. Babatunda Omilola, Head of Development Planning and Inclusive Sustainable Growth Team at UNDP; Mr. Yahaya Hamza, Deputy Director & Head of Sectors, OSSAP-SDGs, Nigeria; Mr. Vince Chipatuka, Program Manager, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Zambia; Mr. Enemona Adaji, Researcher, University of Nottingham, UK and Ms. Rosario Diaz Garaviito, E.D. The Millennial Movement, Peru.

The objectives of the side event was to identify the Key Players in the actions to eradicate poverty in the state. The event also examined specific strategies and programmes embarked by the government and other key players towards poverty eradication, progress made and challenges so far. Another objective of the event was to highlight how rights based social protection can lead to poverty eradication. The event also looked at how proper financing and public expenditure strategy can contribute to poverty eradication.

During the discussions, the benefits of the SDGs was applauded and seen as a way to eradicating poverty. The role of accurate and disaggregated data was emphasized for proper planning of poverty eradication interventions. The multi-dimensional character of poverty was highlighted and the need to tackle it from all angles. Other Key messages include the democratization of poverty eradication programs which will include the participation of beneficiaries in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The link between economic growth and poverty eradication was emphasized, as well as the need to grow and diversify the economy in order to eradicate poverty. It was discussed that growth should occur in labour intensive industries such as agriculture and that it must provide employment opportunities for young people. Thus youth empowerment is a strategy for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Other stakeholders such as community leaders, religious leaders and civil society should be seen as partners and engaged by government in the action to eradicate poverty. It came out strongly that poverty eradication is not just the ability to satisfy the fundamental needs of the population, but also the effective participation and impact of the entire population.
World Habitat Day: “Land, housing, city - Our rights are not commodities!”

On the occasion of the 2018 World Habitat Day (7/10), HIC launched a publication to commemorate its 40 year anniversary (celebrated 2 years before during Habitat II), entitled "Habitat International Coalition and the Habitat Conferences 1976-2016".

Moreover, HIC issued a message from its President, Lorena Zárate, to denounce the processes of impoverishment, exploitation, dispossession and displacement suffered by thousands of families and communities and “make visible the violations of the rights to land, housing, the city and the habitat of ever larger groups of the population, often committed in the name of “development” and “improvement of the quality of life (...)”. In face of this challenges, the declaration calls for showing the strength of our initiatives as a network and joint actions around critical and urgent issues. Among them:

- Recognition and support for the processes of social production, reconstruction and management of habitat;
- Security of tenure and the promotion of a wide range of alternatives to guarantee the right to housing, including public provision, social renting, cooperatives, trusts and other collective forms of use and enjoyment;
- The social function of property, the right to the city and the creation of adequate and violence-free housing and public spaces for women and girls, LGBTIQ groups, indigenous groups and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities or suffering from chronic diseases, migrants and refugees and other marginalized or vulnerable groups requiring priority attention.

Declaration on Human Rights Day and the World Day for the Right to the City

The text shows how this is unacceptable, particularly given the obligations of states and cities to respect, protect and fulfill the Human right to adequate housing and land. Ultimately, the declaration calls for the urgent application of human rights methods of governance in managing urbanization and migration, in particular, as more and more people find refuge in cities, fleeing from war, occupation, rural impoverishment, famine and disaster. Finally it makes the case for the implementation of the preventive and corrective Human rights approach and to embrace the Right to the City in a Human Rights Habitat as a common framework upholding the global policy commitments to address the challenges of our time with equality in rights for women and men, and to achieve social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom for all.

Following the mobilizations in october for the World Habitat Day and the World Day for the Right to the City, on December 10th December, HIC, The Global Platform for the Right to the City and other Members and Allies celebrated the Human Rights Day by taking the opportunity to denounce Human Rights violations and strengthen the connection between Habitat Rights, the Right to the City and Human Rights Cities.
HIC Africa Board Members Elections

In August 2018, the process of election for the Africa Representative at the HIC Board for the period 2018-2022 was concluded. 22 organizations had the right to vote in this election, a total of 17 votes were received, from which 16 are valid. These 16 valid votes represent the participation of 72.7% of the voting members and meet the required quorum of 10% of the roster of voters. The final results were:

11 votes for Mrs. Ifeyinwa Ofong, Women in Development & Environment, Nigeria
3 votes for Mr. Moussa Ka, Habitant et Travailleurs Baraka, Senegal
2 votes for Mrs. Fatimata Sore/Zongo, Coalition Nationale de l’Habitat, Burkina Faso

According to these results and the requirements of the HIC By Law, Mrs. Ifeyinwa Ofong was elected as Representative and Mr. Moussa Ka as Alternate for Africa at the HIC Board for the period 2018-2022.

HIC Latin America Board Members Elections

The electoral process for the election of the Latin America Representatives to the HIC Board for the period 2018-2022 was successfully concluded in December 2018. As stipulated, both the nomination and the voting processes were carried out via email. Three people were nominated, representatives of HIC Member organizations, of which 2 accepted their nomination. Of the total of 38 organizations with voting rights registered on the roster at the time of the election, 36 entities from 12 countries participated in this process: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru. The quorum of this election was, therefore, 94.73%.

According to what is established in the By Law to guarantee gender balance Ana Pastor will act as Representative Member, while Ramiro García will act as Alternate.

Following a decision of HIC’s Board and approved by the active African Members, Mrs. Yao remained as a Board Member until December 31, 2016, in order to participate in the Board meetings as the representative of African Membership.
HIC advocated before these international institutions in 2018

- Advisory Committee of the UN Human Rights Council
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
- Committee on Global Food Security (CFS)
- Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP)
- Governing Council of UN Habitat
- High Level Political Forum (HLPP)
- Human Rights Council (HRC)
- United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP)
- Universal Periodic Review - UN Human Rights Council
- Urban 20 (U20)
- World Urban Forum 9 (WUF)

HIC cooperated with multilateral organizations in 2018

- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council
- UN Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)
- Committee on NGOs, Department of Social and Economic Affairs NGO Branch, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

HIC Funders in 2018

- Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer pour le Progrés de l’Homme (fph)
- Ford Foundation
- Misereor
- United States Institute for Peace
- Wellspring Advisors
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<td>Cities for Adequate Housing</td>
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<td>Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) for the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)</td>
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<td>Displacement Research and Action Network, Massachusetts Institute of Technology</td>
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<td>Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance</td>
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<td>International Food Security &amp; Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism</td>
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HIC Financial Statement 2018

Following the recommendation of its Donors, HIC changed some of its Auditors in 2018. This change has delayed the 2017 Audits and the publication of the HIC Financial Statement. This information will be published on HIC’s website, and the Annual Report will be updated as soon as the auditing is finished.

The Annual Report 2018 has been edited by Habitat International Coalition General Secretariat.
HIC is the global network for rights related to habitat and social justice.

Through solidarity, networking and support for social movements and organizations, HIC struggles for social justice, gender equality, and environmental sustainability, and works in the defence, promotion and realization of human rights related to housing and land in both rural and urban areas.
Habitat International Coalition

For more information on HIC and its centers of reference, please refer to the following websites

HIC-Latin America
Coordination Office, Ciudad de México - HIC AL
www.hic-al.org
hic-al@hic-al.org

HIC Middle East and North Africa
Coordination Office, Cairo - HIC MENA
www.hic-mena.org
hic-mena@hic-mena.org

HIC Sub-Saharan Africa
Focal Point, Cotonou - HIC SSA (Benin)
www.bethesdabenin.org
jyz.dcam_bethesda@yahoo.fr

HIC Sub-Saharan Africa
Focal Point, Nairobi - HIC SSA (Kenya)
www.mazinst.org
mazinst@gmail.com

HIC General Secretariat
Coordination Office, Barcelona - HIC GS
www.hic-net.org
gs@hic-net.org

HIC Housing and Land Rights Network
Coordination Office, Cairo - HIC HLRN
www.hlrn.org
hlrn@hlrn.org

Social Networks

Facebook
www.facebook.com/habitatinternationalcoalition

Twitter
@habitat_intl

HIC Video Channel
www.youtube.com - Habitat International Coalition

HIC photo gallery
https://photos.app.goo.gl/7wqUAQQuomBGn8HX8