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There is no doubt that we are living in extremely challenging times. Multiple crisis encompassing widespread Human rights violations, rocketing inequality, environmental destruction and weakening democracies now affect the living conditions of the vast majority of the population around the world. Globalized corporate powers keep criminally pushing forward the commodification of all forms of live and the aggressive privatization of the common goods, while undermining the public sphere and polarizing our communities at an un-precedent scale.

In such a context, the strong voices and long-standing transformative experiences of social movements and civil society organizations are more needed than ever. Despite the extremely difficult conditions under which they are mobilizing and working, I am convinced that HIC Members and its Allies at local, national and international level have a great deal to contribute to a shared vision for a more just and sustainable planet, strengthening the commitments and hope that the new generations are claiming from us all. The struggle to guarantee every person’s right to a place to live with dignity and peace is necessarily entangled with the pursue of social justice, self-determination and an ethics of care: that conviction is a guiding principle for the strategic networking and collaborations we pursue, inside and outside our Coalition.

As daily media coverage and electoral debates at both the national and municipal level evidence, inadequate housing conditions and housing affordability are back at the forefront of the political agenda. This certainly represents an important opportunity, but not without risks. 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 going to be taken into consideration.

In few words, 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 to confronting 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 Agenda 2030 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 realize 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 building another world,

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:

- **Africa**: 73 Members, 7 Friends, 10 Members with right to vote and 183 Social Base
- **Asia and Oceania**: 38 Members, 11 Friends, 2 Members with right to vote and 203 Social Base
- **Middle East / North Africa**: 41 Members, 4 Friends, 4 Members with right to vote and 137 Social Base
- **Latin America and the Caribbean**: 113 Members, 23 Friends, 39 Members with right to vote and 697 Social Base
- **Europe**: 59 Members, 15 Friends, 2 Members with right to vote and 443 Social Base
- **North America**: 30 members, 11 friends, 3 Members with right to vote and 144 social base
- **Total**: 354 Members, 69 Friends, 60 Members with right to vote and 1,807 Social Base in the world

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 cooperation, 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
Benin
ONG BETHESDA/Département Développement Communautaire et Assainissement du Milieu
Botswana
Cooperation for Research, Development and Education
Burkina Faso
Centre Regional pour l’Eau Potable et l’Assainissement / Coalition Nationale pour l’Habitat
Cameroon
D.R.Congo
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
Groupe d'Action pour le Droit
Ethiopia
Integrated Holistic Approach Urban Development Programme
Guinea
Acteurs Pour Habitat
Ivory Coast
Action Internationale de Développement Intégral / Femmes Côte d'Ivoire Expérience
Kenya
Association for the Physically Disabled 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 Magranbogon / Fonds de Garantie Hypothécaire / GIE FOULANI-Service / Groupement d’Intérêt Economique GIE SANIYA
Mauritius
Development Indian Ocean Network Namibia
Namibia Housing Action Group
Niger
Contribution au Développement Rural / Réseau des Femmes Habitanates
Nigeria
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 Élargis
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
Grassrootsof Women Development Organisation / Shelter and Settlements Alternatives: Uganda

Human Settlements Network / Social Peace Initiative for Sudan
Zambia
Mizhipa Housing Cooperative Society
Zimbabwe
Housing People of Zimbabwe / Zimbabwe People’s Land Rights Movement

Asia and Oceania / 38

Australia
Australian Council of Social Service
Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan Women and Development Centre
Bangladesh
Dustha Shasthya Kendra / Shelter for the Poor
Hong Kong
Society for Community Organization
India
Indonesia
Center of Housing and Human Settlements, Dep. of Architecture, Petra Christian University / Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia / Urban Poor Consortium
Malaysia
Eaford - Pam Centre
New Guinea
National Committee for Urban Shelter - Department or Architecture
Pakistan
Orangi Pilot Project, Research and Training Institute / Sewa Development Trust Sindh
Philippines
Alternative Planning Initiatives Inc. / Billerbeck Architeken / Center for Housing and Human Ecology Development Foundation, Inc. / Dedicated Involvement of Women for Housing Actions / Freedom to Build Inc / Kongress NG Pagkakaisa
NG MGA / Leaders and Organizers of Community Organisation in Asia / Marlian Housing Foundation / Pagtambayang 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 / Habitat 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 Qadisiyah Local Community Cooperative

Mauritania
Association Mauritanienne pour le Bien Étre 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 Civil 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 / Confederacao 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 Rubião / Instituto de Estudos Socio-Económicos / Instituto Pólis / Movimento Nacional de Luta Pelaa Moradia / Movimento de Defesa 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 / Corporación de Desarrollo Social JUNDEP / Observatorio de la Reconstrucción / Servicio Latinoamericano y Asióstico 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 Autoconstrucción / 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 del 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 Uruguaya 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 e.V. / 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 Españ / Observatori DESC / Alternativas Sostenibles de Desarrollo / Asociación Al-Gea / Engineering Sense Frontières 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

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 OSBL 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 12 new applications for membership (from 10 organizations and 2 individuals), and 56 new subscribers to HIC News. 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
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 articulations and alliances with organizations and key actors with whom we share objectives and strategies for the defense, promotion and realization of the right of everyone to a safe place where to live in peace and 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 elaboration 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 include a joint project with the DPU-UCL of London, which was not approved, and another with the Polis Institute of Brazil for the continuity of 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 roundtable within 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 habitat production and social management 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 articulated 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 Utopías en construcción. La producción y gestión social del hábitat en América Latina (Utopias in Construction - The Production and Social Management of Habitat in Latin America), held in June.

Additionally, throughout the year several trips allowed for the 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).

Within the 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 Mayoress of Barcelona, Ada Colau. Lorena participated with them in the public events held within the framework of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) for the follow-up of the Agenda 2030 at the United Nations headquarters in New York in July.

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 fulfilment of commitments with regard to guaranteeing the security of tenure of families relocated by the construction of the metro in Lima. With similar contents, at the beginning of October a message circulated widely on the occasion of World Habitat Day.


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 with research and training initiatives run by the Development Planning Unit-University College of London (HIC Member in the United Kingdom). She further contributed as an evaluator in the competition on Transforming Cities organised by the Transnational Institute based in Amsterdam, and was invited to form part of the Advisory Committee of the Global Cities Programme of the 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 organised by the Faculty of Architecture, Urbanism and Design of the National University of Córdoba.
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 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 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 between 2018-2020." 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 Promocion 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.
HIC in Latin America and the Caribbean

During the year, HIC-AL continued to promote strategies aimed at strengthening the Coalition through greater participation and articulation with and by Members. Advocacy and strengthening of popular processes in the areas of Human rights related to habitat, social production of habitat (SPH) and the right to the city continued. Among the most relevant activities, the following are worth mentioning.

Building a Strong Coalition

In April, the Third HIC-AL Strategic-Participative Participation Workshop was held in Lima, focusing mainly on the Andean region. 23 people from 17 organizations from Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia and Mexico participated. The result of the meeting focussed on the collective elaboration of the strategic plan 2018-2019. Other important spaces for articulation were the thematic working groups at the regional level and the holding of periodic virtual meetings.

Very close work with the Members was also carried out in the framework of the process of electing 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 is the current regional representative, while Ramiro Garcia, from the Centro de Estudios y Promoción del Desarrollo (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 reach a greater visibility of the region work. When monitoring the communication system with members, 90.5% of 42 organizations from 11 countries that have responded to a questionnaire focused on this believe that in the last 3 years communication has improved significantly; the whatsapp group of the region is the tools considered the most appropriate 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 for her the agenda of the 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 in Argentina, in which Member organizations from this country collaborated, was presented by Leilani Farha in September before the UN General Assembly. 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 collaborated on the section on
the right to adequate housing and forced evictions.
Taking up much of the data and the concerns we
raised about the ineffectiveness of policies aimed at
adequately addressing 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 articulation of social actors interested
in the issue, build information, denounce violations
derived from them and advocate. To this end, texts
and publications on the subject were prepared,
and support was provided in the preparation of
communications to the Special Rapporteur on the
Right to Adequate Housing and in solidarity actions. It
also collaborated with the Popular Urban Movement,
neighbourhood organizations and people affected
by forced evictions in Mexico City in defence and
advocacy actions, and with the Mexican Movement
of People Affected by Dams and in defence of Rivers.

In terms of social production of habitat, we promoted
the “Latin American Recognition for cases of social
reconstruction of habitat post-disaster 2018” that
we organized in coordination with the Faculty of
Architecture of UNAM in which 12 national cases
competed, 3 from other countries in the region
in addition to 6 investigations on the subject. The
results were that, in different countries, there were
public presentations of the book “Utopias under
construction: Latin American experiences of social
production of habitat” which arose from the work of
the regional group of social production of habitat in
which more than 30 organizations from all over Latin
America participated. We also focused on supporting,
relating and making visible the efforts undertaken by
our Members and Allies in Mexico in relation to the
reconstruction of the areas most affected by the 2017 earthquake, the Isthmus
of Tehuantepec in Oaxaca. To this end, opinion articles
were prepared on the subject and we participated in
television and radio programs; more than 5 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 incidence and dissemination of the results and
obstacles faced, which will be ready on the occasion
of the anniversary of the two years 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 impeded by the federal government. At
the end of the year, an exchange of experiences and
construction of knowledge on social reconstruction
of the habitat was organized with the participation of
6 national and international experts on public policies
and local materials who, together with Members and
Allies, went to learn 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 realization of the Right to the City both locally
and internationally. The latter is mainly 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 in the elaboration of
the secondary legislation that derives from the first
Constitution of the City that was approved in 2017
and in which, thanks to the work of HIC-AL and its
allies, the recognition of this right was achieved (art.
12).
HIC in Sub-Saharan Africa

HIC Members, are active and are among the founding organizations of the African Urban Research Initiative (AURI) Network, including 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 Centres for HIC-SSA. The two networks co-organized an event on co-production or self-production of habitat previously during the Global Platform for the Right to the City meeting in September 2017. Thus AURI should be a strategic Partner of HIC in Africa. The World Urban Forum 9 also saw some events of HIC Members.

Currently within the framework of the Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme, the 3 continental networks in Africa, Europe and Latin America are working together on issues of interest to HIC such as access to socio-economic services in southern cities. This highlights the relevance of a possible global partnership.

Finally, 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 CSD on responsible consumption, water, sanitation and integrated water resources management.

During the Africities Summit, HIC together with the Global Platform for the Right to the City attended this event in Marrakech to support the activities of its Members.

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 with interviews with roughly 10% of HIC Members in Africa represents a diverse range of organisations, from issue-focused grassroots activists to long-established NGOs spread across a wide spread of Anglophone and Francophone countries, has drawn on interviews and publically available documents has sought to answer: how have actors fighting to achieve policy change at the local level? 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 organisations across such different political and social contexts. However, 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 Anglo/Francophone HIC Members across the continent. In total, the final draft of the Action Research, which is due to be completed soon, is to contain 12 interviewed organisations. The conclusions of this component of the Action Research offer insight via the wide-ranging experiences of fighting for a Right to the City; 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 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), the event Poverty Eradication: From Policy to Local Action was organized on the 6th of February 2018, was moderated by Dr. Amina Smaila (Former Vice Chair of Bureau of the UN Commission on social Development)- More info on Global Activities in this report (page 27).
HIC in the Middle East and North Africa

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 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 for the CSOs 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.

HIC-MENA’s research and publication efforts produced The Right to the City in Greater Beirut: Context Assessment in Light of the Refugee and Displacement Crisis in April 2018. The book reflects the outcome of training, a survey and consultations conducted with municipalities, refugees and displaced persons and civil society in Lebanon and an evaluation of the Human rights norms, refugee law and principles of good governance that guide local government in the midst of the region’s current displacement crisis. The annexed draft “Right to the City Charter of Greater Beirut” applies those findings as principles as a civil society instrument for building democratic local administration and needed social cohesion, where the global responsibility for the refugee crisis is discharged locally.

In October 2018, HIC-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 Coordinator focused on the normative framework of international
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, ARUJ, BADIL and El Mezan (Palestine), the Sahrawi Association of Mine Victims and Sahrawi 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, 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 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.
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, 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**

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, HLRN efforts also helped develop the new Landless Constituency and its working methods through 2018.

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.

**Knowledge Creation, Capacity Building and Methodology Development**

One of the tests of this HRHO approach is in the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2018, 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.
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

HLRN has taken the multi-dimensional HRHO approach into the advocacy work developed with HIC Members and Partners. 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, 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. HLRN remains dedicated to a solution based on the paramountcy of Human rights.
This was an active year for HIC Europe 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 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 Europe 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, 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 documented community-led housing projects, make them visible and link them with support actors and public authorities. 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.

Translocal Pedagogies in Planning Education for Urban Equality

The Bartlett Development Planning Unit of 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.

For next year, HIC Europe hopes to continue the fantastic campaigning activities locally and internationally, but hope to build on synergies and alliances to consolidate a strategy of its Members regionally, feeding into priorities locally and globally.
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 **4 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.

In terms of institutional strengthening, 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 our network - the GPR2C presence and relevance in social networks has increased considerably; ii) value our work - giving visibility to Members sharing R2C initiatives, videos and violation cases; and iii) support advocacy - delivering our 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.
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), and in addition supports a third global HIC Team, Human and Land Rights Network (HLRN). 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 Anglo/Francophone HIC Members across the continent. In total, the final draft of the AR, is to contain 12 interviewed organisations. The conclusions of this component of the AR offer insight via the wide-ranging experiences of fighting for a Right to the City; 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 Dajopen 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 Argentina (the Buenos Aires Fair Access Law; Housing and Habitat Institute of San Martín de los Andes; Urbanization of Popular Neighbourhoods in Buenos Aires.); Brazil: Sao Paulo Law on Technical Assistance for Social Housing.; Mexico: Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City and article on the Right to the City in the Constitution of Mexico City.; Colombia: Medellin, historical memory and Human rights linked to habitat. Resources and time permitting, legislation in Peru and El Salvador shall also be examined.

The first phase of the European section took the form of a literature review of trends pertaining to the strategies of actors campaigning for a Right to the City; of movements that have successfully secured positions of authority within local governments, 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, taking place in the second half of 2019, shall focus on case studies of cities in France, Spain, Germany and the Western Balkans.
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 social organizations, popular movements, civil society networks such as HIC, academics and local authorities 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 MakeTheShift 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.

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.

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.
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, Habitants et Travailleurs Baraka, Senegal
2 votes for Mrs. Fatimata Soré/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.

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 Advocates before 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 (HLPF)
- Human Rights Council (HRC)
- United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP)
- Universal Periodic Review – UN Human Rights Council
- Urban 20 (U20)
- World Urban Forum 9

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
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations Department of Global Communications – NGO Branch (UN DPI NGO)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights (DPA)
- United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)
- United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

HIC Funders in 2018

- Cities Alliance
- Misereor
- United States Institute for Peace
- Wellspring Advisors
- Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer pour le Progrés de l’Homme (fph)
- Ford Foundation
- Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung
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<td>Oakland Institute</td>
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<td>Palestine Return Centre</td>
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<td>Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing</td>
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<td>Nonviolence International</td>
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<td>Organisation de la Femme du Secteur Agricole et Forestier</td>
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<td>People’s Health Movement</td>
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<td>Right to Food and Nutrition Watch</td>
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<td>Union of Indigenous Nomadic Tribes of Iran</td>
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<td>URGENTI The International Network for Community-supported Agriculture</td>
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<td>World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples</td>
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<td>Norwegian Refugee Council</td>
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<td>Peoples Movement for Human Rights Education</td>
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<td>RIPESI - Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity</td>
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<td>The Global Network on Disability Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development</td>
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<td>United Cities and Local Governments</td>
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<td>Servicios para una Educación Alternativa</td>
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<td>Stop the Wall Campaign</td>
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<td>Teachers Creativity Center</td>
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<td>The Schools of Public Engagement - The New School</td>
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<td>Transparency Forum / Land Reparations Project</td>
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<td>UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)</td>
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<td>Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México / Facultad de Arquitectura</td>
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<td>Universidad del Medio Ambiente</td>
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<td>Universidad d’Alger, Faculté de Droit</td>
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<td>Urban Reform Coalition</td>
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The Annual Report 2018 has been edited by Habitat International Coalition General Secretariat.
Habitat International Coalition - HIC

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