HIC Annual Report 2019
Global network for the right to habitat and social justice
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This annual report serves as evidence of the vitality and breadth of HIC’s work to advance the defence, promotion and realization of the right of everyone to a secure place in which to live in peace and dignity. The challenges are undoubtedly enormous, but the accumulated experience and daily commitment of the hundreds of organizations and thousands of activists who make up our network shows that different kinds of territories, towns and cities are not only possible but are already under construction. From the denunciation and prevention of evictions and displacements, to the promotion of initiatives for the social production of habitat and participatory design, including tenants’ rights and feminist urbanism, research, training, mobilization and advocacy, related actions are growing in depth and are being articulated at all levels.

The institutional evaluation process carried out during the year allowed us to update a debate - with multiple internal and external voices - about our strengths and the elements that need to be given more attention in the years to come. The Evaluation highlights the unique character of our Coalition, based on a consistently comprehensive approach to habitat issues from a perspective focused on human rights, social justice and care for the planet. It is also very positive that we maintain ambitious goals, while effectively managing the resources available and a great deal of flexibility in facing the challenges we face.

As you know, 2019 marks the end of my second term as President of HIC. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my gratitude to all the member organizations and allies of our Coalition for the opportunity to take on this role and the support they gave me. Working more closely with you in all regions was an enormous privilege for me, with invaluable learning that will accompany me from now on. I will of course continue to be closely involved in the work of our network, in which I have spent almost half of my life, and to contribute in whatever way is appropriate. I congratulate the membership on the election of Adriana Allen as incoming HIC president, and I am sure that she will guide you in the right direction.

Fraternally,

Lorena Zárate
former HIC President
Dear HIC comrades,

As I joined you as HIC President at the end of 2019, this report gives me a learning window into the amazing work done by everyone in the Coalition, prior to what was to signal not only an important transition year for HIC but also more broadly, for the world. Marked by the devastating impacts of the ongoing COVID19 pandemic and the resurfacing of wide social mobilization against racism, patriarchy, neoliberalism and colonialism, 2020 has shown the strength of HIC to advance habitat rights during both widely recognized crises and ones that are less acknowledged but not less pervasive.

The 2019 Annual Report offers a glimpse of what our Coalition is capable of doing and of the commitment of everyone – members, friends and allies – to work for a just world. JUSTICE is written with capital letters in everything HIC does, whether by resisting evictions and dispossession or through the construction of viable and radical alternatives to secure everyone’s right to a safe and dignified life. HIC’s rights based approach seeks to realize the material conditions that underpin such rights but also to realize the most intangible conditions that make women and men, girls and boys entitled citizens, with voice and agency to shape their own collective present and future.

Over forty years after HIC’s creation, the annual evaluation conducted in 2019 recognizes the essential and relevant role that our Coalition still plays today in the everyday defense and construction of habitat rights. The evaluation reveals HIC’s vitality and responsiveness to old and new challenges and its simultaneous capacity to learn from its rich and long history and to anticipate and imagine transformative change at multiple scales. I recently had the chance to reflect on the qualities that make HIC a unique and transformative Coalition in an interview published by the Radical Housing Journey, which you can access here. Above all, HIC’s power lies, in my view, in its endless capacity of ‘doing commoning’ and ‘becoming commoning’, in other words, its capacity to collectivize what we do and how we go about it.

The challenges we face today - both internally and externally - are far from over, but I have deep confidence in what we can do together to advance and strengthen the work and impact of the Coalition within and across all regions. This is a key moment to reflect collectively on what works and what needs to change, to listen and learn from each other and to act together, and to coalesce once more as part of a wider movement striving towards greater justice socially and environmentally, across rural and urban areas, across gender, age, class, race and faith.

Until we meet again – virtually or face to face – I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for being such a huge source of learning and inspiration, of active caring and solidarity, of strategic action and political incidence. Big thanks also to Lorena and Alvaro for their many years of invaluable work and dedication to HIC! Together with Yolande Hendler – our new Secretary General – the GS and reference center teams and Board members, we are here to continue building, consolidating and expanding our Coalition’s legacy with each and all of you.

In solidarity,
Adriana Allen

Adriana Allen
new HIC President
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.

The Coalition

HIC in the world

At the moment of the publication of this report, the Coalition had 353 Members (of which 80 have the right to vote) and 224 Friends. In addition 1,734 organizations and individuals formed the HIC Social Base. The figures below present the geographic distribution of HIC Members, Friends and the Social Base:
HIC’s Members per region and country

**Africa / 73**

**Angola**
- Development Workshop - Angola

**Benin**
- ONG BETHESDA/Département Développement Communautaire et Assainissement du Milieu
- Centre Régional pour l’Eau Potable et l’Assainissement
- Coalition Nationale pour l’Habitat

**Botswana**
- Cooperation for Research, Development and Education

**Cameroon**
- Association des Amoureux du Livre ASSOAL
- Coalition des ONG et OCB du Cameroun Oeuvrant dans le Domaine des Établissements Humains
- Collectif Interafriçain des Habitants
- Comité de Développement Intégré de Kouabang - Gamougoum
- Comité Diocésain des Activités Sociales et Caritas de l’Archidiocèse de Douala
- Fondation des Femmes Actives Pour la Promotion de L’Education de la Femme et de l’Enfant
- Humanitas Solidaris
- Réseau National des Habitants du Cameroun

**Congo - Republic of the**
- Association d’appui aux conducteurs de chariots du Congo
- Groupe d’Action pour le Droit

**Ethiopia**
- Integrated Holistic Approach Urban Development Programme

**Guinea**
- Acteurs Pour Habitat

**Ivory Coast**
- 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
- Kenya Social Movement Network
- Kituo Cha Sheria (Legal Advice Centre)
- Mazingira Institute
- National Cooperative Housing Union Ltd
- Pamoja Trust
- Young Muslim Association

**Mali**
- Association Action Solidarité Couches Défavorisées
- Association Féminine des Femmes de Magnambougu

**Mauritius**
- Development Indian Ocean Network

**Namibia**
- Namibia Housing Action Group

**Niger**
- Contribution au Développement Rural
- Réseau des Femmes Habitantes

**Nigeria**
- Center for Advancement of Development Rights
- Centre for African Settlements Studies and Development
- Community Conservation & Development Initiatives
- Development Initiatives Network
- Female Architects of Nigeria
- Lagos Group for the Study of Human Settlements
- Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team
- Social and Economic Rights Initiative

**Senegal**
- Association d’aide sanitaire aux plus démunis
- Association de Développement de Jeunes d’Ousouge

**South Africa**
- Built Environment Support Group
- Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies - University of Witwatersrand
- Development Action Group

**Tanzania**
- Habitat for Humanity of Tanzania
- Women Advancement Trust

**Togo**
- Centre de Recherches Concertées sur le Développement

**Uganda**
- Grassroots Women Development Organisation
- Shelter and Settlements Alternatives: Uganda Human Settlements Network
- Social Peace Initiative for Sudan

**Zambia**
- Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat

**Asia and Oceania / 38**

**Afghanistan**
- Agency of Consultancy for Training

**Australia**
- Australian Council of Social Service

**Azerbaijan**
- Azerbaijan Women and Development Centre

**Bangladesh**
- Dustha Shasthya Kendra

**India**
- ActionAid India/Citizens’ Rights Collective
- Ahmedabad Study Action Group
- Association for Voluntary Action and Services
- Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society
- Institute for Development Education & Action
- Karnataka Kolageri Nivasigala

**Indonesia**
- Centre of Housing and Human Settlements, Dep. of Architecture, Petra
- Mizhipa Housing Cooperative Society
- Zimbabwe People’s Land Rights Movement
- Housing People of Zimbabwe
- ActionAid India/Citizens’ Rights Collective
- Ahmedabad Study Action Group
- Association for Voluntary Action and Services
- Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society
- Institute for Development Education & Action
- Karnataka Kolageri Nivasigala
- Samyuktha
- Punjab Action Group for Rural Development
- Sathi All for Partnerships
- Women’s Voice
- Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action

**Social Peace Initiative for Sudan**
- South Africa
- Australia
- India
- Indonesia
- Asia and Oceania

**Zimbabwe**
- Zimbabwe People’s Land Rights Movement
- Housing People of Zimbabwe
Humanos
Ciudadanía e Dereitos Humanos
Confederación Nacional de Asociaciones 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 Socioeconômicos
Instituto Pôlis
Movimento Nacional de Luta Pela Moradia
Movimiento de Defensa Do Favelado Pastoral da Moradia Arquidiocesano 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 JUNDEF
Observatorio de la Reconstrucción Servicio Latinoamericano y Asiático de Vivienda Popular
SUR Corporación de Estudios Sociales y Educación
Colombia
Asociación de Vivienda AVP
Asociación Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Corporación Región para el Desarrollo y la Democracia
Escuela del Hábitat Foro Nacional por Colombia
Costa Rica
Fundación Promotora de Vivienda Urbairum
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 Autodesarrollo
Jamaica
Construction Resource & Development Centre Ltd.
Habitat for Humanity, Jamaica LTD
México
Casa y Ciudad A.C.
Centro Operacional de Vivienda y Poblamiento A.C.
Centro Perifería de Estudios de la Vivienda
Cooperación Comunitaria CC ONG México A.C.
Fomento Solidario de la Vivienda A.C.
Grupo Ciudad y Patrimonio A.C
OCUPA TU CIUDAD A.C.
Taller de Arquitectura Popular
Taller de Vivienda. Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Xochimilco
Tu Techo Mexicano de Occidente A.C.
Unión Popular Valle Gómez
Nicaragua
Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Municipales
Centro de Promoción del Desarrollo Local
Movimiento Comunal Nicaragüense
Panamá
Centro de Capacitación Social de Panamá Instituto de Estudios
Perú
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 and 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
Middle East and North Africa
Egypt
Better Life Association for Comprehensive Development
Egyptian Association for Collective Rights
Egyptian Centre for Housing Rights
Habi Center for Environmental Rights
Land Center for Human Rights
Nawaya Egypt
Nuba Mountains International Association
Iran
Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment
Iraq
Iraqi University Civil Community Foundation
Iraqi National University for NGOs, Human Rights and Migration Bureau
Together to Protect Human and 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
Dibeen for Environmental Development Association Mauritanienne pour le Bien Être 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 Mezan Centre for Human Rights
Al-Haq Law in the Service of Man
Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem
Arab Center for Agricultural
Welcome to our new Members 2019

During 2019, HIC received 20 new applications for membership (from 13 organizations and 7 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 6 new organizations as Member and 2 new Friends.

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<th>North America / 29</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aciicultores Saharauis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sisters Arabic Forum for Human Rights (Muntada al-Shaqa’i’q al-Arabi li Huquq al-Insan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Democratic Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yemeni Youth Development Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canadian Housing &amp; Renewal Association Center for Equality Rights in Accommodation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centre de transformation du logement Communautaire / Community Housing Transformation Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centre for Human Settlements, University of British Columbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Habitat for Humanity Canada</td>
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<td>Homes First Society, Community Development Officer</td>
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<td>Housing Committee of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women</td>
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<td>Mouvement Action Chômage de Longueuil</td>
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<td>Civic Coalition for Defending Palestinian Right in Jerusalem</td>
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<td>Democracy and Workers’ Rights Center in Palestine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Research Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palestinian Commission for the Protection of Refugee Rights</td>
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<td>The Wall Committee</td>
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<td>Sudan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entishar Charity Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Association pour la Sauvegarde du Patrimoine Archéologique et Ethnographique de Boughrara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enda Inter-Arabe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Cooperatives of Central Union of Turkey (Türkiye S.S. Yapi Kooperatifi Merkez Birliği)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Sahara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saharawi Association for Victims of Mines</td>
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<td>Saharawi Union of Farmers / Union de Agricultores Saharauis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sisters Arabic Forum for Human Rights (Muntada al-Shaqa’i’q al-Arabi li Huquq al-Insan)</td>
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<td>Social Democratic Forum</td>
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<td>Yemeni Youth Development Organization</td>
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| 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 |
| Bahai’I International Community |
| Global Communities |
| Henry Street Settlement House |
| Institute for Transportation and Development Policy |
| International Real Estate Institute |
| International Rivers Network |
| Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless |
| National Alliance of HUD Tenants |
| National Alliance to end Homelessness |
| National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials |
| National Coalition for the Homeless |
| Pathways to Peace |
| Planners Network |
| Public Interest Law Center of New Jersey |

| Humanitas Solidaris / Cameroon |
| Habitar Argentina |

| Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat Zambia / Zambia |
| Dibeen for Environmental Development / Jordan |

| Association for Democratic Prosperity – Zid / Montenegro |
| Centre de transformation du logement Communautaire / Community Housing Transformation Centre / Canada |

| Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment / Iran |
HIC Global Data

On December 31st, 2019, HIC had 353 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, 2019 and December 31st, 2019, the online system received 20 new applications for membership (from 13 organizations and 7 persons). 7 organizations and 2 individuals were approved in the considered period. Regarding Membership fees payment, a total amount of 3,354 US$ and 2,130€ were received through 42 payments. In addition, 31 HIC Members had contributed through in-kind contributions.

HIC Mailing List also received 38 new subscription requests reaching a total amount of 1,734 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 2019).

Other relevant figure is the number of individuals related via HIC Social Media Tools. More precisely, 5,753 individuals follow HIC’s Facebook page, getting 251 followers in this period; HIC mailing lists’ have 1,734 subscribers; HIC’s Twitter account has 3,851 subscribers getting 860 followers in this period. Regarding HIC Global website, launched in October 2019, 1,876 users visited www.hic-net.org between October and December 2019, to check how HIC, Members, Friends and Allies are working so that everybody has a safe place to live in peace with dignity.

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 election 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.
HIC Wisdom Keepers

Han van Putten
(1922-2009)
The Netherlands

Diana Lee
Kenya

Barry Pinsky
Canada

Davinder Lamba
Kenya

Tabitha Siwale
Tanzania

Eike Schuetz
Germany

Ana Sugranyes
Chile

Enrique Ortiz
Mexico

HIC Board Members

Lorena Zárate
President
FOSOVI - Mexico

Ifeyinwa Ofong
Africa
Women in Development and Environment - Nigeria

Alexandre Apsan Frediani
Europe
The Bartlett DPU UK

Ana Pastor
Latin America
Civil Association Madre Tierra Argentine

Raja Kasab
Middle East / North Africa
RWFAR Morocco

Stéphan Corriuveau
North America
The Community Housing Transformation Centre Canada

HIC Board Alternates

Maartje van Eerd
Europe
IHS - The Netherlands

Ramiro García
Latin America
DESCO - Peru

Moussa Ka
Africa
Association Habitants et Travailleurs de Baraka - Senegal

Aref Al-Maqrami
Middle East / North Africa
CIHLHR - Yemen

HIC References Centers Staff

Davinder Lamba
HIC-Africa Focal Point Nairobi

Yves Joël Zoffoun
HIC-Africa Focal Point Cotonou

Ahmed Mansour
HIC-HLRN Cairo

Heather EL Aydi
HIC-HLRN Cairo

Joseph Schechla
HIC-HLRN Cairo

Yasser Abdel Qader
HIC-HLRN / Cairo

Blanca Hernández
HIC-Latin America Mexico

Claudia Hernández
HIC-Latin America Mexico

Maria Silvia Emanuelli
HIC-Latin America Mexico

Norma Aguilar
HIC-Latin America Mexico

Peter Slits
HIC Liaison Officer in the Netherlands

HIC General Secretariat

Álvaro Puertas

Isabel Pascual

Marie Bailloux

Eduard Cabré

Irene Fuertes

Francis Clay

Sophia Torres
The year 2019 marked the end of Lorena’s second mandate as HIC President. It was, without a doubt, an intense year in terms of activities with Members and Allies, as well as institutional transitions and new personal projects. Among the tasks to strengthen the coalition, the external evaluation process commissioned by MISEREOR for the period 2014-2019, in which she actively participated in meetings, interviews and the review of materials, can be highlighted. The final report gives an account of the most relevant achievements and challenges our network has faced, and constitutes a fundamental resource to guide the planning of our objectives and actions in the medium term.

Throughout the year, Lorena maintained close collaboration with the HIC General Secretariat, as well as regular communication with Board members and the regional and thematic offices, in order to follow up on the various ongoing initiatives. Within this framework, she contributed to the organization of presencial and virtual meetings to discuss institutional issues and strategic projects, including the General Assembly meeting of Members in which the incoming HIC President, Adriana Allen, was welcomed. At the same time, taking advantage of invitations to participate in various events, Lorena had the opportunity to meet with Members and Allies of the Coalition in Barcelona (Spain), Havana (Cuba), Medellín (Colombia), Mexico, San Juan (Puerto Rico), New York (USA), Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa (Canada).

The promotion of links and partnerships was a central objective within the mandate of our President, in order to expand the scope of HIC’s work. In this sense, special mention should be made of the coordination undertaken with the network United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) towards the development of a policy paper and a meeting to exchange on public policy linked to the implementation of the Right to the City, as part of their General Assembly held in Durban, South Africa. In this period, she was also invited to join the UN-Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group on multi-level and multi-actor partnerships to advance the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Further, Lorena had the opportunity to participate in the strategy and evaluation meetings of international projects promoted by the Development Planning Unit of University College of London (DPU/UCL) on practices and narratives to comprehensively improve neighbourhoods, and the co-creation of knowledge towards urban equality. At the same time, she formed part of the Evaluators Team of the international competition on Transformative Cities, promoted by the Transnational Institute in Amsterdam and was a reviewer of proposals for the EcoCity conference that took place in Vancouver.

As in previous years, training and communication activities with a range of actors constituted an important part of our President’s work in 2019. Within this framework, she participated in talks on the social production of habitat, the right to the city and new municipalism in virtual courses organized by the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, FLACSO) and the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales, CLACSO), as well as in presencial forums promoted by social movements, professional support teams and public institutions. Among the latter, the conferences driven by Corporación Región [Corporation Region] and the Global Platform for the Right to the City in Medellín and Valle de Aburrá, Colombia, around the events and thematic article on 'The Right to the City: Utopia in Movement' can be highlighted, as can the exchange of experiences and the international conference on community land and property trusts with organizations and networks of the five continents, promoted by Caño Martín Peña in San Juan,
Last but not least, within the academic sphere, she was invited to participate in a round table on ‘Decolonizing the Urban in a Time of Neocolonialism’ at the conference Feminist Explorations of Urban Futures (GenUrb) that took place at York University in Toronto, where she also coordinated a training workshop on the right to the city together with Collective Point 6 from Barcelona and the network Women in Cities International. Additionally, she participated in talks at Carleton University in Ottawa, including the presentation of the book Free Public Transit (Black Rose Books, 2018) within which she authored a chapter on the right to mobility in Mexico City.

For more information on the HIC President’s activities, see the full report presented at the 2019 General Assembly.

HIC General Secretariat

2019 was a particularly intense year for the HIC General Secretariat (HIC GS), with a strong engagement in meetings at all levels and a focus on the preparations for the HIC Evaluation that was held between May and October 2019. As in previous years, the 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 as well as its four key objectives: gender equality and equity; the right to a healthy environment; the social production of habitat; and safeguarding the human rights related to housing and land, including the fight against habitat rights violations.

While early warnings of clusters of cases of “pneumonia of unknown cause” in Wuhan were reported in 2019, nothing could have foreseen its catastrophic impacts on the most disadvantaged communities the following year. Unaware of this, the HIC GS continued to denounce habitat rights violations, as well as working to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable sectors of the population. The crisis that began to unfold at the end of 2019, and which exploded in 2020, reminds us of how important the right to housing is to ensure a life of dignity, in peace and with security. This would have been the main tool to fight the pandemic; and it is the struggle on which the HIC GS has focused its efforts in this regard.

HIC engagement in global and regional meetings in 2019 began in New York at the 57th Commission for Social Development, where the African representative of HIC’s Board Dr. Ifeyinwa Ofong and the HIC GS organized a side event entitled ‘Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion: Housing and evictions, extractive industries and land grabbing’.

Later, in May, at the UN-Habitat Assembly, the HIC Housing and Land Rights Network (HIC HLRN) and the HIC GS called for clarity and guidance for a rational and consultative approach to stakeholder engagement.

Two international events saw the participation of the HIC GS team at different levels: the International Social Housing Festival (June 2019) and the High-Level Political Forum 2019 (July 2019), the latter in collaboration with the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C).

1 For further information on this case, see https://www.urbanet.info/cano-martin-pena/
The event ‘Right to Adequate Housing and Western Balkans – From idea to implementation’ (October 2019), organized in cooperation with HIC Member ADP-Zid, an organization coordinating the Platform for Development of Adequate Housing in Montenegro, is also worth highlighting.

As part of the GPR2C’s support team, HIC participated in the 2019 UCLG Congress: World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders (November 2019).

HIC also joined forces with HIC Member Asociación de Amistad con el Pueblo Saharaui de Sevilla (Association of Friendship with the Sahrawi People in Seville, AAPSS) on the occasion of the The European Conference of Support and Solidarity with the Saharawi People (EUCOCO) (November 2019).

Finally, the HIC GS partnered with MISEREOR, the GPR2C, HIC AL and HIC Members during The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25) (December 2019). Among several side events and round tables, HIC issued the statement ‘Tackling climate change through human rights related to habitat and the right to the city’.

2019 also saw the completion of long-standing tasks as well as the beginning of new ones. First was the launch of the new website, which merges the HIC Portal and the General Secretariat website. This major effort by the HIC GS involved improving both its internal and external communication as well as integrating Members and all the documents and resources produced over the years. In addition to granting access to the websites of all HIC Reference Centers, this global site has reorganized all the available information into three main sections: ‘The Coalition’; ‘What’s Happening’; and ‘Knowledge and Tools’. Each section has been redesigned to facilitate consultation by Members, Allies and the general public, including new features such as the ‘HIC Remembers’ and ‘Transparency’ sections.

Further, 2019 saw progress in its 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 Objective 2 of this project: “Civil society and grassroots organizations, 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 the right to the city (R2C) and social production of habitat principles”. The results of this Action Research are to be compiled in a final report due to be published in 2020.

The year ended with the 2019 General Assembly, which coincided with the HIC Evaluation Workshop and the Annual Board Meeting. Finally, regarding the HIC Board, 2019 saw the election of HIC’s new President Adriana Allen, who took office at the end of 2019 following the two mandates of Lorena Zarate, the outgoing President, who provided a great deal of support to the Coalition and the HIC Secretariat during this time. The new Board Representative of Women’s and/or Feminist Movements, Ana Falú, was also appointed this year.
Concerning HIC’s economic sustainability, in 2019 the HIC Secretary General visited funders to ensure support for the next project cycle (2021-2023). Among them we can cite MISEREOR, The Rosa Luxemburg Foundation (RLS), Bread for the World (BFDW) and the Catalan Agency for Cooperation and Development (Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament, ACCD).

HIC in Latin America and the Caribbean

During 2019, the HIC Office in Latin America carried out countless advocacy actions, work to strengthen popular processes with relation to the right to adequate housing and the right to water, the social production of habitat (SPH) and the right to the city, as well as actions destined to bring together the membership and improve coordination. Among the most relevant activities, the following should be mentioned:

**Advocacy on human rights linked to habitat and the strengthening of popular processes**

In terms of participation in regional and international advocacy spaces, the Office had the opportunity to participate in the 25th Climate Summit at the invitation of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. During one of the events, together with the HIC Secretariat, the Salvadoran Foundation for Development and Basic Housing (Fundación Salvadoreña de Desarrollo y Vivienda Mínima, FUNDASAL), MISEREOR, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Water and a representative for the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, the Local Materials Initiative was presented, arousing much interest among the audience, who mainly hear about the supposed benefits of green capitalism in these forums.

The objectives of this effort were: to argue that the combination of local materials, conventional wisdom related to construction and adequate technical advice can guarantee structural safety; to demonstrate that the durability of buildings can be prolonged with adequate maintenance, which can be carried out by the users themselves if they have the necessary materials at hand and if they know the appropriate techniques; to demonstrate that the ecological footprint (CO2 emissions, among others) of a building made with local materials is low, in terms of production, transportation and final disposition of the materials; to generate information on the damage done by contemporary/industrialized construction systems and their disadvantages in different sectors (economic, socio-cultural and physical-environmental); to demonstrate that local materials have considerable advantages in matters of habitability, such as thermal and acoustic comfort; and to exhibit that spaces for collective use built with local materials promote their use at a domestic level. The actions of the Initiative were supported by 10 organizations that are HIC Members or Allies, as well as networks in Mexico and Central America.

In relation to advocacy work in Mexico, HIC-AL, together with Member and Ally organizations, participated in the development of the National Human Rights Plan 2020-2024, was consulted on the development of the National Housing Programme 2019-2024, and continues to contribute to the debates related to the new General Water Law. It is also participating in the Group of Strategic Advisors of the Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development (Secretaría de Desarrollo Agrario, Territorial y Urbano, SEDATU).
With regard to forced evictions, during the year HIC-AL was collaborating with the Urban Popular Movement, neighbourhood organizations and people affected by forced evictions in Mexico City, in defence and advocacy actions, through which it achieved the launch of a inter-sectoral body with authorities of the country’s capital to address this issue. It was also involved in lobbying actions related to the Mexico City Law on Human Rights and its Guarantees (Ley Constitucional de los Derechos Humanos y sus Garantías de la Ciudad de México) so that an article on forced evictions would be enshrined within it. The Law was published in February 2019 including the proposed article, which was amended by the City's Congress, following a strong campaign against it, on 31st May 2019. Subsequently, the Human Rights Commission in Mexico City decided to bring an action of unconstitutionality before the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación, SCJN), arguing that this amendment implied a violation of the principle of non-regression. The action is still to be decided upon by the SCJN. The Office also developed a request for communication from the UN’s Special Rapporteur on Housing with regard to an eviction in Mexico City and the drafting of a supporting statement. The Rapporteur delivered her communication as requested.

With regard to work on the social production of habitat, the 4th meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Social Production of Habitat[1] (Grupo de trabajo regional sobre producción social del hábitat) was held in the month of August. Within this framework, the representatives of the 30 organizations who attended exchanged experiences, and the collective medium-term work plan was updated and elaborated upon (Report of the meeting and Final Declaration).

Throughout the course of 2019, the publication entitled ‘Social Reconstruction of Habitat: Catalogue of experiences’ was also expanded to include seven new cases. The complete publication will be available in 2020.

Building a strong Coalition

The Office widely disseminated various local and subnational policy proposals, conflicts and struggles that arose from Members and Allies, achieving support and increasing their visibility within Latin America. This is also evident through the analysis of the gradual and sustained increase in the number of followers of our regional social networks.

We also carried out virtual meetings open to all Members in the region and members of the Working Group on Habitat Capacity Building, which largely focused on the execution of the First Ibero-American diploma course in sustainable participatory habitat design as a tool for the production and social management of habitat and for the exercise of rights. As mentioned above, the Regional Working Group on the Social Production of Habitat held their annual meeting in August in a presencial format.

On the other hand, the 4th Sub-regional Workshop on Participatory Strategic Planning took place with the participation of 18 people from 15 organizations from Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay on 29th and 30th October in the facilities of the PÓLIS Institute (Instituto Pólis), São Paulo, Brazil. The general objective of the activity was to update and expand the collective work agenda of HIC Member organizations in the Southern Cone. Participants included HIC Board Representative for the Region Ana Pastor, and the Representative of Women’s and/or Feminist Movements Ana Falú. On 31st October, World Cities Day, the participants took part in the public event organized by Instituto Pólis “People Meet in the Street”. The activity consisted of three tours in different public spaces that reflected the presence of the black population, informal workers and the LGBTTTTI population. In the evening, there was an open discussion about public space and the right to the city. Finally, visits were also made to get to know the self-managed housing projects of the União Nacional Por Moradia Popular [National Union for Popular Housing].

To coincide with World Cities Day, HIC-AL supported the HIC Secretariat in the execution of another campaign, in which seven organizations from the region participated[3].

3 The organizations are: Somos Ecuador, Ecuador; Centro de Intercambio Subregional Cono Sur - Argentina (CICSCA), Argentina; Instituto de Desarrollo Urbano CENCA, Peru; Centro Operacional de Vivienda y Poblamiento (COPEVI) and Cooperación Comunitaria, Mexico; Instituto Pólis, Brazil; and the Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios sobre el Desarrollo (CIEDUR), Uruguay.
HIC in Sub-Saharan Africa

There is no doubt that we are living in extremely challenging times. Multiple crises 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 continue to criminally push forward with 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 this sense, Sub-Saharan Africa is the fastest-urbanizing region in the world. With rural-urban migration at around 77%, this has had a great impact on both rural and urban communities in the region. As the population continues to grow in the region, which has generally been largely rural, land as a source of livelihood is becoming more scarce and struggles linked to access to land-based resources are emerging by the day.

Documenting land rights violations

Most governments in Sub-Saharan Africa have long been overwhelmed by the enormous demand of urban housing as cities grow. Habitat is now a hotspot for gross human rights violations, as witnessed by the increase in forced evictions in rural resettlement areas and urban communities. The HIC Member Zimbabwe People’s Land Rights Movement (ZPLRM), in partnership with HIC-HLRN, has been documenting habitat violations in Zimbabwe through the Housing and Land Rights Violations Database. In early 2019, a Joint Urgent Action Appeal to stop forced rural evictions in the country was launched: letters were sent to the relevant authorities and a report on forced evictions in the country was carried out. HIC-HLRN also expanded its Women Land and Home Project to Zimbabwe, and the better half of the year was spent on planning for workshops and the commencement of the project. The violations database is going a long way in documenting cases, thereby keeping forced evictions in check, since any increase in the numbers is quickly noted and action taken. At the same time, urgent action appeals have been useful in stopping pending evictions, which were on the increase during that period. HIC has supported Members in making visible the human rights violations related to habitat through the use of social networks, the media and other outreach tools.

Gender at the heart of the debate

The need for safe and affordable housing is one of the most pressing issues that concerns women in the region. Many women face unique barriers when it comes to accessing homes and affordable housing, due to power and control coupled with the economic situation of the country. In Nigeria, for instance, as the Women Protection Organization (WOPO) reports, women cannot rent a home without presenting a male to stand for them, either as a husband or family member. Without this, it is extremely hard to be granted access to homes, in particular by the house owners or building developers in Lagos State, despite the laws of land rights. They believe that committing a home to the hands of man is unique and is viewed as a sign of respect; committing houses to women is seen to put their dignity into concern, which raises issues of inequality and the violation of women’s human rights.

HIC Members’ and Allies' activities and actions in the region have been focused on advancing towards gender equality and equity. For instance, WOPO’s activities include raising awareness on this issue, meeting with the community’s building developers/agencies and women, in particular widows and single mothers. They aimed to achieve that any woman seeking housing will acquire a house without bringing a man to act for her, with the condition that she must hold a reputable job that can cover the annual payment.

Moving from Nigeria to Uganda, similar challenges can be seen in terms of gender equality. In order to advocate for Women’s Housing and Land Rights, HIC-HLRN, together with the Mazingira Institute, the Pamoja Trust (Kenya) and Shelter and Settlements Alternative - Uganda Human Settlements Network (SSA: UHSNET) (Uganda), developed and implemented a women’s housing and land rights strategy based on research and advocacy. In addition, HLRN conducted a workshop under the title: “Women, Land and Homes: Assessment of impacts of dispossession” from 10-12 April, and carried out subsequent follow-up consultation meetings to apply HLRN’s Violation Impact Assessment Tool (VIAT) to cases of women’s housing and land rights deprivation in a national campaign to advocate for policy and legislative reform.
Stories of transformation for environmental sustainability

In 2019, the HIC Member Dajopen Waste Management community-based organization was able to conduct a clean-up at Kitale municipal market and the Tuwan slums. It was a voluntary exercise aiming to educate the community and make the informal settlement habitable. Of the waste collected, 80% was biodegradable with the remaining 20% inert materials. The activity took place in the town of Kitale, Trans-Nzoia County, Kenya.

This was a great achievement, since the biodegradable waste was converted into organic fertilizers. The organic fertilizer was used by local small-scale farmers to improve soil fertility, which has been depleted by the over-use of agricultural chemical inputs since the colonial era in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The activity was recognized by the African Regional Centre of Expertise in August 2019, and awarded the 2019 Transformative Cities People’s Choice Award by the Transnational Institute.

The challenges of the project include the transportation of biodegradable waste from the informal settlements, as well as animal waste from marketplaces and slaughterhouses to the composting site. However, thanks to this initiative, citizens gained the right to clean up their habitat, and this is why the community worked together, through a community-based model, to clean their environment and make it habitable for both fauna and flora. For more information, please visit: https://planetheroes.pl/.

Influencing public policies related to housing and habitat at a global level

Over the course of 2019, HIC Members in the region carried out numerous activities to promote HIC’s mission and support communication processes towards the construction of alternative approaches to achieve a good quality of life with dignity for all people. HIC Member Worldwide Network Nigeria carried out an activity called “Youth Leadership and Entrepreneurship: Key to Addressing Inequalities and Challenges to Social Inclusion”. This activity explored public policies and programmes to support stronger social cohesion and aimed to underline how young people are a heterogeneous and important population in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In March 2019, HIC participated in the 57th Commission for Social Development in New York, coordinated in collaboration with Worldwide Network Nigeria. Further, in May 2019, HIC participated in the UN-Habitat Assembly to advocate for a stronger participation of civil society and other stakeholders in the new UN-Habitat governance structure (additional information on global advocacy activities can be found in the chapter of this report dedicated to the Coalition’s advocacy work).

The year 2019 also saw the finalization of the Action Research in Africa carried out by HIC with the support of Members. The report offers an overview of regional strategies to influence local, regional and national policy processes, with inputs from seven Members and two Allies from Africa.

HIC in the Middle East and North Africa

Within the coalition-wide HRHO approach, activities and programming in MENA have focused on supporting and engaging with HIC Members and Allies to achieve legal and political impact within a range of forums and mechanisms. By definition, those efforts have sought to maintain the human rights-based approach of binding obligations in international law that correspond to states’ policy commitments. Among these efforts, the following should be highlighted: HIC-MENA’s engagement in the UN’s annual High-level Political Forum (HLPF), assessing progress on the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the UN Human Rights System; a regional CSO partnership with the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in support of food security; and stakeholder engagement with UN-Habitat and the “Arab Land Initiative” of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN).

Networking and coalition building have seen the HLRN aligning strategies, dividing labour, complementing efforts, pooling resources and joining forces with seven HIC Members, as well as Allies and platforms like the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples’ Mechanism (CSM) for relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security, and the NGO Support...
HIC's engagement with current and new MENA Members emphasized the Coalition's four main fields of competence, welcoming new Members from Iraq and Jordan. Meanwhile, HLRN officers have served as both the secretariat and facilitators of the IPC Facilitating Committee in MENA. One major outcome of this service has been the new HIC-HLRN-produced database of partners across the region, which aims to showcase civil society's competence and cooperation with the FAO.

HLRN continued to support the “landless” constituency within the CSM, updating a literature review and global inventory of landless communities and CSO constituents. In November, six Members and 11 Allies joined in the HLRN-organized MENA regional consultation with the FAO in Beirut, involving a critical examination of the FAO's regional small-scale farming support strategy.

Within HIC's inner world, in 2019, the MENA region prepared for the much-anticipated election of its HIC Board representative, dedicating five months to HIC-HLRN cooperation with the GS to assess HIC-MENA Members' contributions and certify their eligibility to nominate, run for the position and vote.

HIC-HLRN’s mission of knowledge creation involved the regular updating of the HIC-MENA website and Landpedia with 100 English and Arabic news items and entries added to the HLRN Violation Database, which numbered 21 cases affecting 1,016,826 persons in Palestine, Syria and Yemen. In order to develop its capacities, HLRN takes a pedagogical approach with HIC Members and Allies on human rights-based policy analysis. HLRN updated its “Human Rights Obligations of Local Governments and Local Authorities” and produced analytical outputs at the request of Members and Allies, such as “What Sort of Humanitarian Aid for Western Sahara?” and “Development in the Arab Region: Challenges and Recommendations” [Arabic], produced with the Arab SDG Platform. Others included parallel reports to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR): “Israel’s Implementation of Covenant Rights and Obligations Related to Habitat”, as well as joint parallel reports to CESC and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on Israel’s treaty performance. HIC-HLRN also conducted joint research with the School of Geography and Planning at Cardiff University (Wales) on Cairo's informal economy in transition, within the framework of the project “Economic Recovery in Post-Conflict Cities”. In March and July 2019, HLRN also published and distributed two expanded issues of Land Times (Nos. 17 and 18) [Arabic and English], covering both regional and international developments.

HLRN provided two training workshops for HIC Member Al Haq and 46 CSOs in Palestine on the methodology for monitoring economic, social and cultural human rights. The first, in September 2019, focused on the human right to adequate housing and land, and the second, in November, was on the human right to health, focusing on health-sector policy analysis.

In terms of HIC-MENA’s advocacy efforts, HIC-HLRN continued to work with the NGO Major Group and other stakeholders at the HLPF (New York), monitoring the Voluntary National Reviews of SDG progress in six Arab countries (Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Palestine and Tunisia) as well as Israel. Working with the NGO Major Group enabled HLRN to mentor new NGOs in the SDG review process, and introduce them to the prior human rights obligations of states relevant to their SDG performance.

With Members and Allies cooperating with the FAO, HLRN conducted a much-needed critical review of the FAO’s small-scale farming support strategy and its new policy guidance for investment in agricultural water in MENA. These form bases of critical dialogue with the FAO in an effort to encourage specialized UN agencies to respect their UN charter-based human rights obligations in their policy formulation and field operations.
Activities in 2019 also involved participation in the Majalat Civil Society Forum with two workshops to foster dialogue between the south Mediterranean countries and the European Union in Beirut and Brussels. Regular global-level advocacy saw HIC promoting the human rights to adequate housing and land in UN Human Rights Council processes, including technical support to the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing for her 2019 report on Egypt.

The year also culminated decades of advocacy on other global questions of our age, not least including sustainable development, climate change, food security and the perennial scourge of conflict, occupation and war.

HLRN’s engagement through HIC in the work of the Rome-based agencies has continued with new HIC Member officers André Luzzi (Instituto Pólis, Brazil) and Saadia al-Salhy (Together to Protect Human & the Environment Association, Iraq) assuming the responsibility to represent HIC and serve the urban food-insecure constituency within the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples’ Mechanism (CSM) for relations with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Added to that important HIC contribution is the work of Heather Elaydi (HLRN-Cairo) as Co-Coordinator of the CSM’s Monitoring Working Group effort to assess the implementation of CFS policies globally. Most significant among these is the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA), the adoption of which HIC-HLRN helped to negotiate in 2015. This important work will continue into 2020 in the form of an online survey, the collection of civil society experiences, the compilation of a CSM monitoring report and a Global Thematic Event at the upcoming 47th session of the CFS, as well as a model methodology for monitoring the implementation of such global policies. These outcomes also reflect the HLRN mission to develop the tools and techniques for civil society to apply human rights criteria in monitoring and advocacy on matters affecting our human habitat.

HLRN has also adopted the approach of HIC’s Human Rights Habitat Observatory (HRHO), which embodies the cumulative processes of norm setting in the UN Human Rights System within the formulation and implementation of global policy. Rooted in the struggle of 2014-2016 to preserve already agreed-upon principles in Habitat III, HRHO emphasizes states’ temporary commitments of cyclical UN policies combined with their permanent and binding obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights.
The HRHO method has been put to the test in monitoring and reporting on the 2030 Agenda for “transforming our world” through 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Again in 2019, HIC-HLRN worked with the NGO Major Group and other stakeholders at the UN High-level Political Forum to analyze seven states’ Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and intervene in the Forum with the needed civil society development narrative. In addition to formal advocacy, HLRN also mentored new-coming NGOs on the methods of monitoring and evaluation of SDG performance. These analytical processes were memorialized in more explanatory policy briefs for each reporting delegation that also serve as exemplars for HIC Members and other civil society actors engaged in SDG monitoring and reporting.

HIC-HLRN recognizes that the proliferation of policy guidance and the normative framework challenge states and their successive governments, as well as other international development actors, to achieve a much sought-after policy coherence. Likewise, HLRN recognizes that civil advocacy is becoming commensurately more complex and challenging, requiring the combined efforts and complementary expertise of multiple civil society HIC Members and Allies. This lesson came through loud and clear in 2019, making certain tools such as HLRN’s Violation Database, Urgent Action System and the ever-expanding HICtionary of key habitat terms essential tools for HIC Members and their Allies, not only to do the good they want to see, but to do it well and together.

HIC in Europe

In the year of 2019, we have seen a consolidation of the struggles for habitat rights in the European region. There has been an increased expression of habitat rights violations in cities across the region, especially due to greater precarity of work conditions, insecurity of tenure and increased costs of housing. At the same time, there has been a growing recognition of the existence of global drivers of habitat insecurity, demanding concerted global action from civil society networks. For example, the rise of the climate justice movement internationally in 2019 has been crucial to demand habitat rights movements engage with underpinning climate and environmental justice concerns.

Meanwhile, we have also seen productive entry points to promote habitat rights through local governments in the region. For example, in 2019, community land trusts were backed by several mayors in Europe as a strategy to address the housing crisis in Europe, and local municipalities found ways to meaningfully intervene in the rental market, for example through the implementation of rent control in Paris and Berlin. However, homelessness and the connection between housing and poverty continue to be critical issues in the region, not being explicitly addressed by public action.

As a result, HIC Members in Europe have been involved in European and Global coalitions focusing on habitat rights. Our main achievements this year include: being able to strengthen our network, especially among organizations involved in the collaborative housing network; supporting community processes by supporting local action, like the activities in the Western Balkans and Germany; and strengthening collective action within the region, aimed at influencing housing and habitat policies, for example, by supporting the European Citizens’ Initiative #HousingForAll calling on EU countries to ensure access to affordable housing.

For 2020, our aim is to continue to support the activities of European Members, in ways that we can support local actions while also establishing links with wider global processes and struggles. In this sense, HIC’s engagement in Europe with a view to 2020 is about pushing for policies locally and in the region, making explicit the links between the financialization of housing and the habitat vulnerabilities that it generates;
pushing for local and regional governments to intervene more meaningfully in housing markets, making them more affordable and just; and calling for a greater recognition of and support for collective and community-led housing processes. In 2020, it will be crucial to think about these struggles not only as European struggles, but as part of a wider engagement calling for habitat rights. Therefore, for HIC Europe, one of our key priorities is to continue building activities and alliances among members across regions, nurturing global exchanges and actions. At a time in which we are seeing a rise in extreme right-wing nationalism, it is crucial to reaffirm the role that international movements of solidarity play in advancing habitat rights.
HIC’s work at a glance in the 2019 evaluation: Asserting people’s habitat rights at all levels

The HIC external evaluation of the MISEREOR projects implemented jointly by HIC-GS and HIC-HLRN took place between June 2019 and February 2020 and concentrated on the current project (03/2018-12/2020) and the two previous projects, thus covering the overall implementation period since January 2014 until December 2019. The evaluation concentrated on the work done by the HIC General Secretariat (GS), in charge of the global membership, communication, networking, global project implementation and reporting, and HIC-HLRN (Housing and Land Rights Network), a thematic reference centre focused on global human right advocacy, knowledge creation and training. HIC global bodies (HIC President, HIC Board, HIC General Assembly of Members), other HIC Reference Centres (HIC-Latin America and HIC-MENA), Focal Points and a selection of HIC Members and Allies participated in the evaluation process as key informants. The aim of the evaluation was to explain: (1) To what extent is HIC fulfilling its mission through the MISEREOR projects; (2) Recent challenges faced by HIC and ways to overcome them; and (3) Recent achievements and advantages from the current roles of the HIC-GS and HIC-HLRN.

The answers to the three evaluation questions were the following:

1. To what extent is HIC fulfilling its mission through the MISEREOR projects?

MISEREOR has particular importance for HIC’s mission related to strengthening of solidarity, networking and support for social movements and organizations and for the promotion and realisation of human rights related to housing and to habitat. MISEREOR’s support to HIC has promoted important global initiatives and campaigns as well as the participation of Members at significant global events. MISEREOR is helping HIC to better structure its global efforts. It is an important discussion partner, frequently questioning HIC’s actions in order to bring HIC back, if necessary, to its own objectives and tracks. MISEREOR has been also putting HIC in contact with other likeminded organisations external to HIC Membership and current HIC Allies, thus expanding the scope of HIC’s work and helping in the construction of new alliances and partnerships. MISEREOR continues to be the most important donor and ally for HIC when fulfilling its mission.

2. What recent challenges are faced by HIC and what ways are applied to overcome them?

A main challenge for HIC is the fact that its sheer mandate is huge but the available resources are not sufficient to completely fulfil it. HIC needs to consistently develop strategies where and how to engage in the best way. HIC is facing a particular challenge with regard to its Asia related involvement. Current opportunities, which at the same time are challenging HIC, are the increasing global recognition of the importance of a human rights approach, of climate change and of housing issues. HIC has to show presence at the important fronts (OHCHR, COP, UCLG, HLPF, CSocD...), to provide its expertise, to receive acknowledgement – and HIC is doing so, adapting to the upcoming opportunities in a flexible way. There are many other challenges faced by HIC, and particularly by its Members: changing political situations and available spaces to work; instrumentalisation of civil society engagement in international development efforts; increasing violation of human and of habitat-related rights; shrinking spaces to civil society actors; or scarce funding to support HIC Members’ daily operations. These are huge threats affecting directly Member organisations, and subsequently making the network much more fragile and vulnerable. An important means to confront these threats is their worldwide publication and dissemination.

3. What recent achievements and advantages exist from the current roles of HIC-GS and HIC-HLRN?

During the evaluated period 2014-2019, the General
Secretariat of HIC concentrated on the recognition of the right to the city approach, through its involvement with the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C). Increasingly, issues of affordable housing and gender topics have been included or specified in the work of GPR2C. The fact to be located in Barcelona has been a big advantage for HIC-GS, as it could establish closer relationships with important Barcelona-based partners (Barcelona Municipality, UCLG, Metropolis, CIDOB, ...). Moreover, HIC-GS focused on the implementation of the action research with HIC Member organisations in Europe, Africa and Latin America, in addition to its usual communication, administration and membership management tasks.

HIC-HLRN has continued to concentrate on awareness and capacity building in habitat-related human rights and its violation (including a right to land), on the respective advocacy work with UN bodies and on UPR reviews. Increasingly, it included gender issues in its work, e.g. when supporting CSOs in Kenya and Uganda in the development and implementation of research and advocacy related to the women’s housing and land rights strategy. Moreover, the work with FIAN related to food and nutrition and in supporting the CSM4CFS and the IPC have become increasingly relevant. HIC-HLRN ensures that HIC does not lose its integral approach towards habitat; e.g. tackling the important urban-rural linkages issue. Regionally, it develops many activities related to the Middle East and African region.

Important conceptual elements and lessons learnt of HIC-GS’s work have been taken over by HLRN and vice versa, although the interaction and conceptual exchange between the two offices could still be improved.

Among the major lessons learnt, identified by the evaluators, are:

• In order to reach out to the realities on the ground, it is important to maintain a close and personalised relationship with Members and involve them into the concrete project work (e.g. doing joint research, developing local action plans, highlighting habitat rights violation issues)
• It is important to adapt the developed concepts to local conditions, again in joint efforts with local Members and Allies
• It is important to be flexible, adapting the concepts and methodologies to new upcoming opportunities but also to existing challenges and threats
• In order to maintain a thriving membership, it is important to reach out to new organisations and to the new generation of organisations with a personalised attendance.

The evaluators concluded that “HIC is performing very well. Therefore, the following recommendations are not based on a general critique of HIC’s activities and outputs nor do they attempt to reorganise HIC’s work. They rather provide additional conceptual orientation and ideas to the current lines of action. They were shared with HIC during the final workshop and later validated by HIC-GS, regional offices and Board representatives” (for more info check the Evaluation Report).

HIC’s New Website

One of the Coalition’s challenges was the renewal of its communication tools, with a special focus on the implementation of a new global website that would allow for the development and communication of the work of HIC and its Members by bringing together the work on human rights related to habitat from around the world.

In 2019, the project of a new website for the global Coalition came to an end, with a new design, as well as new features and functions to improve usability.

HIC’s new global website project aims to:

• Publicize the Coalition in a section that presents its mission, history, who is part of the Coalition, and general information about transparency, among others.
• Disseminate the latest news, events, newsletters and recent documents of the Coalition, as well as publications on the work being carried out to ensure human rights related to habitat.
• 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.

At all times, HIC’s global website displays the contact details of and links to access the different regional and thematic Reference Centres and Focal Points that make up the Coalition.

The new advanced search system also allows users to find in-depth information on activities, Members, events and publications on the specific themes of our work, made even easier with predefined searches related to the main areas of HIC’s mission.

The improvements of HIC’s communication strategy continues; it is an ongoing work of improvement, but we can say that in 2019 we achieved a great goal, as it was the launch of this new website that we hope will bring together and reach the whole Coalition.
**HIC Main Advocacy Work in 2019**

Since its creation in 1979, HIC has worked tirelessly to influence public policies related to housing and habitat at the local, national and global levels based on human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability. Our Coalition offers a platform for organizations from all over the world to carry out political advocacy at the international level.

The main milestones of advocacy work at a global level carried out in 2019 are summarized below.

**HIC at the 57th Commission for Social Development in New York - February 2019**

The HIC side event at the 57th Commission for Social Development in New York was held on 20th February 2019. The meeting saw the participation of around 46 people.

The event analyzed human rights violations related to housing and land, in particular forced evictions. Through the participants’ remarks, the session explored the community ownership of land and housing cooperatives as an alternative to the private ownership of land and housing. HIC shared the Declaration made on Human Rights Day, as well as the Report ‘Zimbabwe People’s Land Rights Movement: Stop the Evictions in Zimbabwe’.

HIC side events generated a strong interest among the member states, CSOs and even the UN agencies. The presentations showed that addressing inequalities and the challenges to social inclusion can actually reduce problems related to housing and shelter, as well as the human rights violations related to forced evictions, which, in most cases, have led to poverty and homelessness. For further information, see the report of the event.

**Open Letter to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat calling for stronger civil society participation in the governance of the UN agency**

UN-Habitat, the United Nations Programme for Human Settlements, whose mission is to promote the development of socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements and the achievement of adequate shelter for all (unhabitat.org), has a long, rich and pioneering history as an innovator in the inclusion of a wide range of civil society and local government partners and stakeholders in its governance, as well as in the formulation and implementation of programmes.

Today, it seems natural for United Nations organizations and their respective governing bodies to listen to and take into account the voices of stakeholders, such as civil society in its broadest sense, local governments and the private sector. Bringing these stakeholders together would also improve mutual understanding and enhance partnerships.

To this effect, Habitat International Coalition and the Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) presented an open letter to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat Maimunah Mohd Sharif demanding greater transparency about the new developments concerning the participation of civil society actors and Partners in the overall decision-making process of UN-Habitat. The open letter was presented within the context of the first UN-Habitat Assembly (27th-31st May) and the development of a new Stakeholder Engagement Policy (SEP) and Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG).

**Consultations between HIC and the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on the development of new policy on food systems and nutrition**

HIC and HLRN have played an active role in coordinating with Members and other organizations to provide inputs to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) is the alliance of civil society organizations cooperating with the FAO. The IPC Secretariat in Rome coordinates and manages civil society’s relationships with the headquarters, but the IPC operates in every region, wherever FAO is present.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Near East/North Africa (NENA) region of IPC cooperating with FAO have learnt, through developments and experience since 2013, that greater organization is needed to ensure effective, continuous and representative engagement among CSOs on shared priorities, as well as with FAO on the collaborative work already identified during FAO’s biennial Near East Regional Conference (NERC) and the preparatory CSO consultations.

In order to take CSO/FAO cooperation to the next level, in 2019, HIC-RLRN initiated a project to create and manage the infrastructure necessary for better collaboration. The first step is a project to develop an interactive database for IPC Members and other CSOs relating to FAO’s NENA programme. To this end, HIC-RLRN convened the IPC Secretariat, Steering Committee, Follow-up Committee Members and FAO’s regional policy advisor to participate in a workshop in Tunis on 28th–29th June 2019, to design a database in order to fulfil the needs of all collaborating parties.
HIC joined the 2019 International Social Housing Festival that took place in Lyon (France) from 4th to 8th June. HIC Members such as Urban monde, World Habitat, Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, Observatory DESC (Observatory of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights), AITEC, Habitat et Participation, as well as the Global Platform for the Right to the City participated in activities organized by Housing Europe, Aura HLM (Association for Social Housing in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), l’Union Social Pour l’Habitat and the Greater Lyon metropolis.

HIC organized an Assembly with Members, Allies and collectives from Lyon and other European cities on Friday 7th June. This Assembly created a space for dialogue, reflection and action between social movements from different European countries on urban issues in the broad sense of the term: housing, public services, rights and freedoms, public space, political participation and economic model, among others.

In recent years, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and human rights mechanisms have increasingly engaged with local governments through local and international initiatives, acknowledging the prominent role of these entities to protect and promote human rights. In 2019, the OHCHR, with the close support of UCLG’s Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights, organized the first UN meeting of “local governments for human rights” in which HIC participated and presented a series of proposals highlighting the Coalition’s willingness to work with local governments to ensure the protection and fulfilment of all human rights related to habitat, both in rural areas and in cities, from the megalopolis to the small human settlements that still host billions of people.

The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25) was held from 2nd to 12th December in Madrid, in the Ifema space. HIC participated in this summit to bring the voice of civil society and the importance of realizing human rights related to habitat to the table – the right to land, housing and the right to the city – both at the official event and in alternative forums.

HIC also joined the call for solidarity with Chilean society and with the organizations that had spent months preparing alternative meetings to put climate justice and the voice of Latin America at the centre of the debate. HIC supported and participated at the Peoples’ Summit and at the Social Summit for Climate Action in Chile and in Madrid.

Campaigning for habitat rights: Making the most of our work towards habitat rights

Communication is an important part of HIC’s strategy and work: the internal and external communication carried out by the Coalition supports HIC’s global advocacy.

In order to better evaluate the Coalition’s work, it is important to communicate what we are doing and, in turn, the campaigns highlight the organization’s advocacy efforts. The digital campaigns are also an important focus of HIC’s work since a campaign is a great way to expand and strengthen a network, a way of mobilizing and raising awareness of actions with a bottom-up approach, and monitoring the implementation of
global agendas and policies.

HIC campaigns during 2019 improved our communication as a network, with the aim of articulating a common narrative with our Members and Allies in the fight for housing rights. Communication workshops were implemented together with the Global Platform for the Right to the City communication group, in which participants were encouraged to take advantage of common learning on how to launch online campaigns, with the outcome of a digital guide distributed to Members, Friends and Allies online.

Some of the highlights in 2019:

**Campaign for International Women’s Day - 8th March**

On the occasion of Women’s Day 2019, HIC launched a campaign with the Global Platform for the Right to the City and different women’s organizations to respond to the question: Can we make the #RightToTheCity a reality for women? The campaign included a Manifesto and short video with different voices of women and grassroots organizations explaining how we can make the right to the city a reality for women.

**World Habitat Day - 5th October**

On World Habitat Day, HIC along with its Members and Allies shared a collection of cases of human rights defenders under threat. In recent years, the struggle for human rights related to habitat has been the cause of persecution and criminalization by powerful forces that treat land, housing and the city as commodities.

HIC invited its network to join forces in order to draw global attention to the violence suffered by those that stand up for our rights to housing, land and the right to the city. Several movements and organizations shared cases of defenders, especially women, who are under threat so that we can raise awareness and solidarity around the world.

Listening to the story of Luis d’Elia (Argentina), Cesare Ottolini (Italy), Moussa Ka (Senegal), Samir Flores (Mexico), Abdullah Abu Rahmah (Palestine), Khadim Hussain Dahot (Pakistan), and of the women who defend the ecosystem of Lomas de Amancaes in Peru, the indigenous peoples’ organizations and movements in Ecuador, Chile and many others, makes us stronger to continue our fight to protect our human rights related to the environment, housing and the city, and to stand up for our human rights defenders.

The campaign was launched on World Habitat Day and continued until Human Rights Day on 10th December.

**CoP25: Tackling climate change through human rights related to habitat and the right to the city**

During the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25), held from 2nd to 12th December in Madrid, HIC campaigned to increase the visibility of the forces of social movements, civil society and local governments to persuade COP25 delegates to reach and enforce their commitments to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change, by financing and implementing policies that put people at the centre and embrace human rights related to habitat and the right to the city.
First Ibero-American Diploma Course in Sustainable Participatory Habitat Design

Between 29th April and 9th December 2019, HIC-AL carried out the First Ibero-American diploma course in sustainable participatory habitat design as a tool for the production and social management of habitat and for the exercise of rights jointly with the HIC-AL Working Group on Habitat Capacity Building (Fortalecimiento de Capacidades en el Hábitat, FOC-HAB) and the Faculty of Architecture of the Autonomous University of Mexico (Universidad Autónoma de México, UNAM). This effort responds to one of the key objectives of the FOC-HAB group, which aims to influence the curricula of public education in order to increase the presence of critical capacity building spaces within architecture, among others, that attend to the needs of the poorer populations. The diploma course, the first of its kind, consisted of 120 teaching hours and an evaluation system, and saw the registration of 43 students from 10 countries and 18 cities as well as the participation of 60 teachers from across the region. Eleven people were awarded scholarships, and some of the classes of the diploma will be offered free of charge to Members and the general public during 2020.

21% of the students interviewed during the course confirmed that they knew and applied the key methods presented in the course, 57% considered that they carried out participatory design without knowing the specific techniques and methods, and 21% had never carried out participatory design. In their previous studies, 42% had not had the opportunity to access these specific themes, 36% confirmed that, although they were interested, they did not know where to access training, and 21% recognized that they needed to expand their knowledge in this area. For this reason, they showed interest in participating in the diploma course.

The evaluation surveys carried out by the students and teachers following the diploma resulted in a series of highly relevant data. 100% of the 31 students that finished the course were of the opinion that it offered them important tools for their work. Of these, 15.79% responded that, after completing the course, they have already made concrete changes in their practice focused on participatory design; 57.89% responded that they are already planning how to apply changes in the way they design; and 26.32% affirmed that they had expanded their knowledge and wanted to apply it with an initial technical accompaniment. No one said that, although the course gave them inputs, they would not apply them, or that they were inadequate. Considering the qualitative phrases used in the evaluation, it can further be deduced that beyond the direct effects, the participants will disseminate the knowledge in the organizations they belong to or work with. Among the phrases collected during the evaluation, one person shared their application of “(...) the techniques of participatory design, already taking up what was learned in the Diploma, in two very interesting projects, one for 62 families that have united in Mutual Aid Housing Cooperatives, and the other for 32 families that have suffered forced evictions”. Another person commented that this Diploma has given the students “(...) the opportunity to approach a guided, systematized and complete education, which encompasses experiences and theory in these subjects. Although the need to go beyond Livingston’s methodology was latent long ago, this experience has led us to rethink our project, from a critical stance and acquiring new knowledge, such as Complex Thinking, the positions and theories of the pioneers, their methodologies and techniques; and to base our work even more on other disciplines such as Popular Pedagogy and Social Communication”. And finally they add that “(...) we have adapted this methodology to our context and that of each of the families and people with whom we have collaborated. We have always been very reflective and the project has been changing, evolving. These last months, with everything learnt in the Diploma, it has been quite revolutionary, for the whole organization, and with respect to the tools, strategies and dynamics”.

The diploma was widely disseminated on social networks of the UNAM Faculty of Architecture as well as that of HIC-AL, reaching over 34,000 people. It is aimed to repeat the training in 2020.

Expansion of HLRN’s Women’s Land and Home Project

Consistent with HIC’s pivot towards Africa reported in 2017 and 2018, HLRN’s project “Assessing the Impacts of Women’s Dispossession from Land and Home” concluded its first phase in 2019. The network of HIC Member organizations working in their own countries and together formally expanded this year to include partners from India, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Partners involved in phase one of the project (HLRN-India, Mazingira Institute and Pamoja Trust in Kenya, and Shelter and Settlements Alternative: Uganda Human Settlements...
Among the lessons going forward are the inextricable links between women’s health and home, the need for deeper consideration on how to address the impacts of potentially harmful customary practices, opportunities and threats of the COVID-19 crisis, multiple routes of legal and “alternative” advocacy and redress, the perceptions of concerned men, interrogating concepts of “autonomy” (as related to dignity and human rights), the values of social bonds and the fragility of assumptions about "women's values" in pursuit of gender equality. In addition to these themes, partners have set plans for specific research and advocacy activities to be undertaken in each country and in global forums during phase two of the project in 2020 and beyond.

All project materials and outputs to date, including literature reviews, normative training material, technical (VIAT) training material, workshop reports, a national typology of women’s housing and land rights violations, illustrative cases from India, Kenya and Uganda, analyses of full-application cases, gendered survey and quantification tools, and project reports, are available on HLRN's Women's Land and Home project page. The End-of-project Phase One Report provides a comprehensive summary of lessons and reflections as of the end of 2019, including themes to consider going forward and prospects for activities this year.

The right to the city during 2019

During 2019 the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C)4 advanced in its objective to promote political action and social change through the promotion, defence and fulfilment of the right to the city, on four fronts, coinciding with the active involvement of its working groups:

**Advocacy:** The GPR2C Advocacy Plan 2019-2021 was adopted, which sets three mid-term advocacy strategies: (i) Raise Awareness; (ii) Recognition in legislation, policies and programmes; and (iii) Implementation. The Plan also sets key strategic advocacy opportunities until 2021. Based on those, the group has coordinated GPR2C’s participation in several events and produced some advocacy documents, such as: Triennale des Habitants [Triennial meeting of Inhabitants] (Douala, April); UN-Habitat Assembly (Nairobi, May) with the Collective Declaration on the UN-Habitat 2020-2025 Strategic Plan; Co-Habitat Network Annual Meeting (Geneva, June); International Social Housing Festival (Lyon, June); High-Level Political Forum (NYC, July), with the message: Implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs with a Human Rights Approach – Right to the City for All [read the Declaration]; World Human Rights Cities Forum (Gwangju, October); United Cities and Local Government’s World Summit (Durban, November), with the Policy Paper on the Right to the City; COP25 (Madrid, December), with our Declaration ‘Tackling climate change through human rights related to habitat and the right to the city’; among other events.

In addition, a Right to the City Agenda for Local Elections platform was developed in coordination with Observatori DESC.

**Research and training:** Based on the collective dialogue and propositions that came from the members of the GPR2C, two collective research-action initiatives were designed to be carried out by 2021: (a) the Right to the City in Asia; and (b) Gender, Diversity and the Right to the City.

Taking advantage of opportunities for international and national events in which GPR2C and its Members were involved in advocacy actions, several training and capacity building activities were also conducted.

**Communication:** Following the GPR2C Communication Plan's goal to promote the active participation of GPR2C Members, mobilize the community and raise awareness on the right to the city among the general public, the 2019 Action Plan included four thematic campaigns, each of them implemented in coordination with several GPR2C Members: Women’s Right to the City with CISCAS; SDGs and the Right to the City during the High-Level Political Forum; Youth and the Right to the City with TECHQ; and Habitat Human Rights Defenders with HIC. Beyond these four main campaigns, the GPR2C also promoted specific campaigns along with Members, such as the UCLG Congress in Durban to promote the right to the city Policy Paper, the COP25 and the Human Rights Day campaign, giving continuity on the work on human rights defenders.

**Gender and Diversity Group:** In 2019 this thematic...
working group was successfully engaged in the design and implementation of a communication campaign built around a Women’s Right to the City Manifesto. The group also started working on a research project with the Research and Training Working Group, focusing on women’s right to the city and how it is currently being implemented (or not) in different regions.

The Global Platform thanks the work of our Members and Allies, their support is fundamental to make all of this possible.

Let’s put people and the planet at the centre of global agendas and achieve the right to the city for all!

HIC Action Research in

Africa, Latin America and Europe

HIC is conducting an Action Research (Henceforth: AR) 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 Latin America (HIC-AL).

Specifically, the AR seeks to fulfil Objective 2 of the project "Asserting Peoples Habitat Rights at All Levels" (APHRA):

Civil society and grassroots organizations (CSOs-GOs), in partnership with local governments (henceforth: LGs) and Academic and Training Institutions (ATIs), 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 the right to the city and the social production of habitat principles.

To this end, the AR has the following objectives, as stated in its Terms of Reference (TOR):

1. To understand how LGs have incorporated human rights and right to the city elements into their management and public policies.

2. To analyze 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, strategies followed to ensure that LGs address these elements in their management and public policies.

3. To understand how LGs preserve policies that incorporate human rights and right to the city elements when there is a change in political leadership or other external challenges such as migration, environmental damage or economic crises, among other factors

The results of the AR, providing answers to these three objectives, are to be compiled in a final report due to be published in 2020, which shall then be made available to ATIs and LGs and publicly disseminated both within and outside HIC membership, hence fulfilling the APHRA objective as stated above.

Given the scale of the objectives of the AR and the limited time and resources, the research has been divided into three regional components: Africa, carried out by the HIC-GS; Europe, with different sub-components, (1) a general overview carried out by HIC-GS in collaboration with post-graduate students from the University of Sheffield Department of Urban Studies and Planning (UoSUSP), (2) Spain, carried out by David Hamou of Observatori DESC, (3) France, carried out by Association Internationale des Techniciens, Experts et Chercheurs (AITEC), and (4) Germany, carried out by the HIC-GS; and Latin America, carried out by HIC-AL in collaboration with regional HIC Working Groups.

As a reflection of the unique geographical contexts of each region and the resources available to the responsible teams, the exact scope and methodology has been modified for each; all, however, retain the unifying research objectives as outlined above. When compiled in the final report, analysis reaching across the three regions shall be conducted, with final recommendations for strategies towards influencing policy being offered.

African Region

The African Region component of the AR was launched with the dissemination of TOR to Anglophone and Francophone HIC Members across the continent in July 2018, calling for participation in interviews that form the basis of data collection. This component is nearing the completion of a final draft, pending the inclusion of graphic content and translation.
from the English to French and Spanish. In total, the final draft of the AR is to contain nine interviewed organizations.

The research was conducted in a desk-based capacity; interviews were conducted by Skype (or where internet infrastructure made this challenging, WhatsApp), with data supported by publicly available documents where relevant. In comparison to other components, the African region has focused more on how policy has been influenced by social movements and civil society actors, as opposed to how LGs have implemented and retained these changes. This is a reflection of the reality of the sometimes extreme material structural inequalities meaning that, of those interviewed, most fighting for human rights and the right to the city in Africa have limited resources and yet further limited access to the levers of change within LG institutions. This is further a reflection of the often limited capacity of LGs in Africa, whether through intentional constitutional limitations or as a consequence of highly limited capacities. The African component has provided valuable insight into how different actors (referred to in the research as “Local Habitat Actors”, or LHA) have responded to the extremely varied political contexts across Africa in the interest of influencing policy areas relevant to the right to the city as diverse as adequate housing, land rights, WASH[^7], SWM[^8], forest management, women’s rights, youth services, and even constitutional reform.

The conclusions of this component of the AR are not sweeping given that universal “truisms” regarding how best to influence policy cannot be derived from a dataset of 12, nor a larger data set in a content so large and diverse as Africa. However, it does offer insight via the wide-ranging experiences of this fight 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 Wanawajiji and Abahlali base Mjondolo respectively; the navigation of the exceptionally tense political situation in Cote d’Ivoire by Action International de Development Integral, 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 Settlements and Settlement Alternatives and Dajopen Waste Management. Ultimately, its conclusions serve to offer a variety of contexts — political, cultural, geographical, and material — from which LHAs can draw lessons regarding the efficacy of different approaches to influencing government policy.

### Latin American Region

The Latin American regional component was launched in July 2019, being conducted from the HIC-LA office[^10]. It is due to be completed by early 2020. Of the three components, the Latin American Region seeks to examine the process of influencing policy and its subsequent implementation and preservation in policy in equal parts. In contrast to the other regions, it examines the history of the passing of key pieces of legislation in five countries in Latin America vis-à-vis the institutional memories and perspectives of HIC Allies and Members in the region. As such, its analysis is weighted towards the specifics of the congruence between regulations, international conventions, social instruments, financial resources for policy on the one hand, and those seeking to influence policy on the other.

The specific case studies in question are: (1) Argentina (the Buenos Aires Fair Access to Habitat Law; Housing and Habitat Institute of San Martin 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. Interviews are to be conducted at the meeting of Regional Working Group on the Production and Social Management of Habitat, to be held in Mexico. If there is the capacity to do so, other institutions that participate in this group could join the effort and, according to the Terms of Reference set forth in interviews with representatives of all the actors involved as well as an analysis of the pre-existing literature/materials, carry out research in addition to the ongoing work of HIC-AL.

### European Region

Given numerous and well-publicized victories for those fighting for human rights and the right to the city (R2C) in Europe at the LG level, the first phase of the European section took the form of a collaboration with post-graduate students from the UoSUSP to carry out a literature review of trends pertaining to the strategies of actors campaigning for human rights and the R2C; 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[^11]. This collaboration was strictly desk-based and grounded in academic and “grey” literature, providing a useful basis upon which data-collection could be undertaken[^12].

The second component of the European Research, taking place between September and today, shall deal more robustly with analysis and data-collection, with attention given to case studies of particular interest identified in the literature review.

[^7]: Working document for the final draft: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dnJbdILQpcsGc2nCmBC_om9SE3YN4p3l/view?usp=sharing
[^8]: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
[^9]: Solid Waste Management
[^10]: TOR for the Latin American regional component: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1d8eM2YRVWNz8yw1DKEHC5zB4d9947G
[^11]: TOR for the collaboration with UoSUSP: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ebDwHsCtDUZOML6Qoh42ZVrQaA9g7TwA7K/view?usp=sharing
[^12]: Final submitted document from UoSUSP: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1MVFecx10Pi_Cz4szXGSWHpZJQG9EsaHna
in France (Paris), Spain (Barcelona) and Germany (Berlin).\textsuperscript{13} The Spain component has been conducted in collaboration with David Hamou of HIC Member Observatori DESC, who was commissioned to conduct in-depth research into the case studies of Barcelona. HIC Member in France AITEC is responsible for the analysis of France’s case while the Germany component has been developed by HIC-GS. Of these three European components, two are already available and being translated.

**Election of the New HIC President**

HIC President Lorena Zarate’s second mandate ended in November 2019. The process to elect the new President was launched in July 2019 via HIC’s social media, website and mailing list as well as a blog created for this purpose.

The Electoral Committee who guided this process, supported by HIC General Secretariat, was composed of six HIC Members with gender and regional balance.

Three valid nominations were received and one of the nominees withdrew his candidacy, leading to an election process between two candidates, Mrs. Adriana Allen and Mr. Malick Gaye.

The roster of voters contained 89 Members. A total number of 63 votes were received, representing the participation of 71% of the eligible voting Members. The process and result of this election was validated by the Electoral Committee.

Mrs. Adriana Allen was elected as HIC President in December 2019 for a first mandate lasting until December 2023.

**New Board Representative of Women’s and/or Feminist Movements**

In accordance with the HIC Constitution and By Laws, an Associated Member may be named by the Board to complement its expertise, knowledge and areas of interest. Three categories are considered for Associated or Invited Board Members: social movements; discriminated groups and minorities; and women’s and/or feminist movements.

In December 2018, The HIC Board defined the need to find a representative for women’s groups or movements, and contacted Mrs. Ana Falú to offer her this position. She accepted this challenge and presented her candidacy for the position of Representative of Women’s and/or Feminist Movements to the General Assembly. The motion had been presented by Corporación Sur de Estudios Sociales, a HIC Member in Chile, and endorsed by several HIC Members, and was approved by the General Assembly. The Board was requested to formally approve her inclusion and she was appointed as Representative of Women’s and/or Feminist Movements in February 2019, position that she will assume for a first mandate until January 2023.
HIC Allies

HIC advocated before International Forums in 2019

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)
High Level Political Forum (HLPF)
Human Rights Council (HRC)
UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
UN Habitat Assembly
UN Habitat Executive Board
United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP)
Universal Periodic Review – UN Human Rights Council
Urban 20 (U20)

HIC cooperated with multilateral organizations in 2019

Committee on NGOs, Department of Social and Economic Affairs NGO Branch (ECOSOC)
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
International Labour Organization (ILO)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council
UN Department of Global Communications – NGO Branch (UN DPI NGO)
UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs (UNDESA)
UN Development Programme (UNDP)
UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
UN Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)
United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)
United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights (DPA)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

HIC Funders in 2019

Brot für die Welt
Cardiff University / Economic and Social Research Council (ESCR)
Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer pour le Progrès de l’Homme
Food and Agricultural Organization
FoodFirst Information and Action Network International
Ford Foundation
Misereor
Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung
Wellspring Advisors

HIC International Allies

Accountability Counsel
Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group)
Ahwaz Human Rights Organization
All Together in Diversity - Fourth World (Switzerland)
Americans for Human Rights in Bahrain
Association for One Democratic State
Association of International Dalit Solidarity
Bahai International
Bank Information Center
Boston University Human Rights Clinic
Center for Economic and Social Rights
Centre d’Etudes et de Documentation Économiques, Juridiques et Sociales
Centre Europe – Tiers Monde
Centre Kurde des Droits de l’Homme
Cities for Adequate Housing
Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism for relations with the Committee on World Food Security
Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) for the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
Coalition for the International Criminal Court
CoHabitat Network
Commission Amazigh Internationale pour le Développement et les Droits de l’Homme
Congrès Mondial Amazigh
Displacement Research and Action Network, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance
Extraterritorial Obligations (ETO) Consortium
Food First Information and Action Network International
Forest Peoples Programme
Foro de Autoridades Locales
France Libertés - Fondation Danielle Mitterrand
Franciscans International
Friends of the Earth
Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles
Global Initiative on ESC Rights
Global Land Alliance
Global Land Tool Network
Global Platform for the Right to the City
Global Policy Forum
Global Rights, Rules and Responsibilities
Habitat for Humanity International
Huairou Commission
Independent Diplomat
Internal Displacement Monitoring Center
International Accountability Project
International Alliance of Inhabitants
International Commission of Jurists
International Indian Treaty Council
International Land Coalition
International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
International Organization for Migration
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty
International Tibet Network
International Trade Union Confederation
Kashmir Law and Justice Project
Landesa
Major Group of Children and Youth
Major Group of NGOs
Major Group of Women
Major Groups and Other Stakeholders HLPF Coordination
Mechanism
Make The Shift Campaign
Milan Urban Food Policy Pact
Minority Rights Group
Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour l’Amitié entre les Peuples
Muslims for Progressive Values
Nonviolence International
Norwegian Refugee Council
No-Vox
Oakland Institute
Organisation de la Femme du Secteur Agricole et Forestier
OXFAM International
Palestine Land Society
Palestine Return Centre
People’s Health Movement
Peoples Movement for Human Rights Education
Radio Monte Carlo
Right of Return Coalition
Right to Food and Nutrition Watch
RIPESS -Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy
Social Watch
Society for International Development
Students for a Free Tibet
TECHO Internacional
The Global Network on Disability Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development
Transnational Institute
Transparency International
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
Union of Indigenous Nomadic Tribes of Iran
United Cities and Local Governments
Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization
Urban Social Forum
URGENCI The International Network for Community-supported Agriculture
WaterAid
Western Sahara Resources Watch
Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing
World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples
World Council of Churches
World Enabled
World Forum of Fisher Peoples
World March of Women
World Social Forum (WSF): International Council (IC)
World Social Forum of Transformative Economies

HIC Regional and National partners

06600 Plataforma Vecinal y Observatorio de la Colonia Juárez
Actions pour les Droits, l’Environnement et la Vie
Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association
Alcadía de Barcelona
Al-Marsad – Arab Human Rights Centre in Golan Heights
Alto Comisionado de Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos México
Amel Association, House of Human Rights
Appropriate Development, Architectural and Planning Technologies
Arab Group for the Protection of Nature
Arab Land Initiative/تیریداری عکسی و نهاد
Arab Network for Food Sovereignty
Arab NGO Network for Development
Area Metropolitana de Barcelona
Asia Peasant Coalition
Asian Commission for Human Rights
Asociación Americana de Juristas
Association for the Presence of Human Security
Association of Iranian Women for Sustainable Development
Association Torba: Association pour le maintien d’une agriculture Paysanne (Algeria)
Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates
Atelier Populaire d’Urbanisme
ATTAC-Maroc
Black Rose Books
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
Centre d’Etudes et de Formation Populaires pour les Droits de l’Homme
Centre for Research and Advocacy
Centre for the Sustainable Use of Natural and Social Resources
Centre ville pour tous Marseille
Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Francisco de Vitoria
Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social
Civil Litigation Clinic, Boston University
Coalición de Organizaciones Mexicanas por el Derecho al Agua
Colegio de Arquitectxs de la Provincia de
Danish Institute for Human Rights
Defensoría del Pueblo de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires
Defensoría del Pueblo Ecuador
École d’Urbanisme de Paris-MSH Paris Nord
Egypt’s Urban Research Collective
Egypt’s Urban Research Collective
Ekta Parishad
Espacio de Coordinación de Organizaciones Civiles sobre DESC
European Action Coalition for the Right to Housing and to the City
European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine
Facultad de Arquitectura de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Facultad de Arquitectura, Diseño y Urbanismo de la Universidad de la República (Uruguay)
Fédération Nationale du Secteur Agricole
FLACSO Ecuador
Foro de Autoridades Locales por la Inclusión Social y la Democracia Participativa
Fórum Nacional de Reforma Urbana do Brasil
General Union of Arab Peasants and Agricultural Cooperatives
Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
German Advisory Council on Global Change
GIZ Ecuador
Global Freedom of Expression, Columbia University
Graduate Institute of Development and International Studies
Gray Panthers
Hebron Rehabilitation Committee
Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities
Institute for Policy Studies
Instituto Mexicano para el Desarrollo Comunitario
Intendencia de Montevideo
International Women’s Rights Action Watch – Asia Pacific
International Youth Council – Yemen
Joint Center for Housing Studies and Graduate Schools of Design - University of Harvard
Kayan - Feminist Organization
Kenya Human Rights Commission
Kota Kita
La Sandia Digital
Laboratoire LAVUE- Université de Paris Nanterre
Laboratorio Nacional de Vivienda y Comunidades Sustentables
Latin American Association of Promotion
Lebanese Union for People with Physically Disabilities
Lincoln Institute for Land Policy
Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights
Majalat
Mercociudades
Movimiento Mexicano de Afectados por las Presas y en Defensa de los Ríos
Movimiento Urbano Popular
Museo de Arte y Diseño del Miami Dade College
Nairobi and Environs Food Security Agriculture and Livestock Forum
Nairobi People Settlements Network
National Center for Peace and Development
National IDPs Network
Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality
Observatorio Vecinal del Centro Histórico
OXFAM México
Pensadoras Urbanas
Plataforma de Afectados por la Hipoteca
Plataforma mesoamericana de productores sociales de vivienda sustentable
Poder Inquilinx and Right to the City Alliance
Public Works Studio
Red de Desalojados
Red de Mujeres Iberoamericanas
Red Nacional de Productores Sociales de Vivienda
Red ProTerra
Red Universitaria de Cátedras de Vivienda (Red ULACAV)
Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford
Réseau Algérien des Associations de la Pêche Artisanale
Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l’Afrique de l’Ouest
Réseau Mauritanien pour l’Action Sociale
RESURJ: Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice
Sahrawi Natural Resources Watch
Saudi Green Building Forum
Secretaria Latinoamericana de Vivienda Popular
Servicios para una Educación Alternativa
Servicios y Asesoría para la Paz A.C.
Slum Jagatthu
Social and Economic Rights Action Centre
Social and Economic Rights Institute of South Africa
Stop the Wall Campaign
Syndicat Tunisien des Agriculteurs
Tadamun: The Cairo Urban Solidarity Initiative
Takween Integrated Community Development
Tamkeen - Makanah Association
Taula del Tercer Sector Social de Catalunya
Teachers Creativity Center
Terre & Humanisme
The National Campaign to Protect the Bisri Valley
The Nature of Cities
The Schools of Public Engagement - The New School
Tibet Bureau
Tibet Justice Center
Transparency Forum / Land Reparations Project
Union Générale Tunisienne du Travail
Union of Agricultural Workers Committees
Union of Palestinian Municipalities
Unión Popular Revolucionaria Emiliano Zapata
Universidad del Medio Ambiente
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México / Facultad de Arquitectura
Université d’Alger, Faculté de Droit
Urban Reform Coalition
Urbanet
Urgence Palestine
World Uyghur Congress
Yemen Observatory for Human Rights
Due to a change in HIC’s auditors in recent years, there has been a delay in corresponding audits and the publishing of HIC’s consolidated financial statements. The HIC General Secretariat is working to have outstanding consolidated financial statements produced and approved by the HIC Treasurer in 2021. This information will be published on HIC’s website, and the Annual Report will be updated as soon as the auditing is complete.
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](http://www.hic-al.org)
[hic-al@hic-al.org](mailto:hic-al@hic-al.org)

**HIC Middle East and North Africa**
Coordination Office, Cairo - HIC MENA
[www.hic-mena.org](http://www.hic-mena.org)
[hic-mena@hic-mena.org](mailto:hic-mena@hic-mena.org)

**HIC Sub-Saharan Africa**
Focal Point, Cotonou - HIC SSA (Benin)
[www.bethesdabenin.org](http://www.bethesdabenin.org)
[jyz.dcam_bethesda@yahoo.fr](mailto:jyz.dcam_bethesda@yahoo.fr)

**HIC Sub-Saharan Africa**
Focal Point, Nairobi - HIC SSA (Kenya)
[www.mazinst.org](http://www.mazinst.org)
mazinst@gmail.com

**HIC General Secretariat**
Coordination Office, Barcelona - HIC GS
[www.hic-net.org](http://www.hic-net.org)
gs@hic-net.org

**HIC Housing and Land Rights Network**
Coordination Office, Cairo - HIC HLRN
[www.hlrn.org](http://www.hlrn.org)
hlrn@hlrn.org

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**Social Networks**

Facebook
[www.facebook.com/habitatinternationalcoalition](http://www.facebook.com/habitatinternationalcoalition)

Twitter
[@habitat_intl](https://twitter.com/habitat_intl)

HIC Video Channel
[www.youtube.com - Habitat International Coalition](http://www.youtube.com - Habitat International Coalition)

HIC photo gallery
[https://photos.app.goo.gl/7wgUAQQumBGn8HX8](https://photos.app.goo.gl/7wgUAQQumBGn8HX8)