



## Habitat International Coalition (HIC)

### General Secretariat

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*Subject: General Assembly minutes. Medellin*  
*To: General Assembly, HIC Board, HIC Staff*  
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**Attendees** (see detailed list in annex 1: [http://www.hic-net.org/content/HIC\\_General\\_Assembly\\_register\\_2014.pdf](http://www.hic-net.org/content/HIC_General_Assembly_register_2014.pdf)): Yasser Abdel Qader (YA), Giovanni Allegretti (GA), Edgar Arroyo (EA), Marie Bailloux (MBa), Dito Barbosa (DB), Antonia Barón (AB), Matt Boms (MB), Jordi Borja (JB), Renata Boulos (RB), Julio Caledonio (JC), Ana Beatriz Cárdenas (AC), Marisol Castillo (MC), Francisco Comaru (FC), Ana Carolina Cortés (AC), Leticia Cruz (LC), Beatrice de Carli (BD), María Clara Echeverría (ME), Silvia Emanuelli (SE), Carlos Estrada (CE), Alex Fresdiani (AF), María Lourdes García (MG), Ramiro García (RG), Silvia Guimarães (SG), Gustavo González (GG), Olivier Grobet (OG), Mónica Hernandez (MH), Sandra Hiromi (SH), Alex Jacknow (AJ), Ernesto Jiménez (EJ), Fanny Jirón (FJ), Michael Kane (MK), Rajaa Kassab (RK), Graciela Landaeta (GL), Rocio Lombera (RL), José Mangini (JM), José Víctor Mañueco (JM), Amada Martinez (AM), Emily Mattheisen (EM), Anelise Meléndez (AMe), Zama Mgwatyu (ZM), Jaime Miyashiro (JM), Mariela Mon (MM), Enrique Ortiz (EO), Isabel Pascual (IP), Fidel Pizarro (FP), Álvaro Puertas (AP), David Quezada (DQ), Santos Quispe (SQ), María Stella Rincón (MR), Gustavo Riofrío (GR), María del Carmen Rivera (MR), Amina Roa (AR), Paulo Romeiro (PR), Tomás Rondon (TR), Cyril Royez (CR), Leticia Salinas (LS), Luz Amparo Sánchez (LAS), Georgina Sandoval (GS), Michael Shapcott (MS), Joseph Schechla (JS), Josef Schulte-Sasse (JSS), Nomvuyo Simetu (NS), Nelson Saule Jr. (NSj), Ana Sugranyes (AS), Antonia Terraza (AT), Klaus Teschner (KT), Esteban Torres (ET), Pascale Thys (PT), Pedro Vázquez (PV), Rolando Velarde (RV), María Eugenia Veliz (MV), Albert Ventura (AV), Rabie Wahba (RW), Pauline Yao (PY), Lorena Zárate (LZ) y Fernando Zerboni (FZ).

Simultaneous translation: EN <- > EN <- > FR assumed by 5 Babels translators.

Minutes: Isabel

Chair: Lorena and Alvaro

HIC GS 21/05/2014

## 1. Welcome message from the President of HIC

**LZ:** It is a joy to see such a large assembly, with so many people from so many parts of the world (Germany, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ivory Coast, Cuba, Ecuador, USA, Egypt, Spain, El Salvador, The Netherlands, Honduras, England, Morocco, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, South Africa, Switzerland and Uruguay), and many familiar faces and many other new. We have Álvaro Puertas here, the new HIC Secretary General; Ana Sugranyes, the outgoing Secretary; Enrique Ortiz, former HIC President ; the General Secretariat team: Isabel and Marie; the HLRN team, Yasser, Rabie, Emily and Joseph; HIC-AL Coordinator, Silvia; Board Members, Pauline Yao, Rajaa Kassab, Michael Shapcott, Dito Barbosa and Michael Kane.

Thanks also to our hosts, Cecilia Inés, Head of the "*Escuela del Hábitat*" (CEHAP) of the Faculty of Architecture of the National University of Colombia (UNAL) and Edgar Arroyo, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture of the UNAL.

**EA:** It is a great pleasure to have you here, coming from different parts of the world, we have worked together. Our University is participating in WUF and we invite you to visit us in our stand and participate in our parallel activities.

**CI:** As "*Escuela del Hábitat*" (CEHAP), we are excited and pleased that the Coalition is being our partner, due to HIC's global position building critical thinking and also because of its participation in WUF's activities. We started cooperating and working with Latin American countries, a process that further involved Africa and Asia; we gather to fight for equity which is UN-Habitat call's issue and we think there is still much to do. She introduces María Clara Echevarria and Carmenza. Thank you and I wish you success in your assembly.

**LZ:** Thank you, please be our guest. This is the restart of our collaboration.

We continue with the HIC Members' assembly that is yours. Our agenda is full of activities, inside and outside the WUF during this week in Medellín; with different actors, the National University, local and international organizations. We held HIC's Board Meeting on Saturday and Sunday; we also visited several local communities suffering from serious situations of repression, killings, victims and pain. We will participate in a march on Tuesday and you are invited to bring HIC materials; you are the Coalition. We constituted a Working Group for HIC visibility which will share all the news and events during this week. There is an alternative forum, very divided, and another counter-hegemonic forum but we do not have more details. It is a political challenge to articulate with many movements and organizations and bring our critical and proactive message within the forum. We talk about social and spatial justice and equality but not only for development, we talk about "cities for life", a slogan that arose from the civil society organizations (CSO) during Habitat II. It is an historic occasion, soon the Habitat III conference will take place in 2016 and if we want to bring a strong voice there, we have to work together. This conference is the opportunity to join forces and define a clearer message backing over Habitat I, from which HIC emerged. We have on the agenda the discussion of different projects and proposals, and we are excited because we may do many things together. It is a very special moment so let's take advantage of it.

I also wanted to welcome Babels translators and thank them.

## 2. Revision of the quorum

**LZ:** Today's Assembly is made of 76 participants, 36 women and 40 men, representing 50 organizations and coming from 24 different countries (see list of attendees in annex 1: [http://www.hic-net.org/content/HIC\\_General\\_Assembly\\_register\\_2014.pdf](http://www.hic-net.org/content/HIC_General_Assembly_register_2014.pdf)). 37 organizations have the right to vote (see list in annex 2: [http://www.hic-net.org/content/Paid\\_Up\\_members\\_on\\_April\\_7\\_2014\\_-\\_final.pdf](http://www.hic-net.org/content/Paid_Up_members_on_April_7_2014_-_final.pdf)), 24 of them are physically present and the Assembly has received 12 written proxies.

## 3. Revision and approval of the agenda

**LZ:** It is time to review the agenda and make comments. Any comments? We go on. I request a Member with right to vote to make a motion. AS of *Corporación Sur* and CE of *Ocupa tu Ciudad* make the motion.

**Vote I:** 29 in favor, none against, no abstention.

#### 4. Regional and thematic reports

**LZ:** These reports will be included in the annual report 2013.

**PT:** Member of *Habitat et Participation* (HeP) (Belgium) explains the housing situation in Europe and the Habitat World map as seen by the civil society (see the powerpoint: <http://www.hic-net.org/eventsdetail.php?pid=5448>) and invites us all to build it together. It will be both a product and a process involving the CSOs. Video "Community Land Trust" (<http://www.hic-net.org/document.php?pid=5366>).

**MS:** Some of the many different dimensions of the fights for the habitat in North America (NA) are: the growing income inequality and poverty; private ownership and rental housing markets that are increasingly out of reach for low, moderate and middle-income households; uncertain and shrinking support for social housing; deep and persistent homelessness; lack of formal recognition of the human right to adequate housing and insufficient structures to support the realization of the right to housing and the right to the city: These are some of the many dimensions of the habitat struggles throughout North America. In many parts of North America, there is growing attention to campaigns to end "chronic" homelessness. While many of these initiatives have helped a segment of the homeless population to move into some form of housing, the larger homeless population and the even larger group of North Americans who are precariously housed face deteriorating conditions and support. There continue to be important victories by civil society groups from time to time in the courts and with some governments, but these wins come in a context of general decline. The three important priorities for the work of HIC in North America in the coming year are: support and strengthen housing and housing rights work in Canada and the United States; strengthen the links between North America and the rest of the world to share good practices and inspire our NA work; and continue to seek to build the membership base for HIC.

**MK:** In the USA, HIC member groups have participated in struggles to advance this agenda. The *National Alliance of HUD Tenants* (NAHT), a national tenants union representing low income people living in apartments subsidized by the US Government's Housing Agency (HUD), continued to push back against the neoliberal austerity advanced by right wing elements in the US Congress. In Massachusetts, NAHT's local affiliate, Massachusetts Alliance of HUD Tenants - MAHT, followed up on approval of the "Budget for All" referendum passed 3 to 1 by Massachusetts voters in 2012, demanding that Washington officials reject austerity budgets to invest in jobs, restore social spending, tax the 1%, end the US war in Afghanistan and redirect military spending to domestic needs. MAHT and its coalition partners from peace, labor and community groups in the Budget for All Coalition organized 10 Boston rallies and actions protesting steep budget cuts that hit poor people and government workers in the spring. HUD workers joined tenants in protests at the state Republican Party headquarters when Republicans in the US Congress forced a government shutdown in October, and MAHT secured a commitment from Boston's new Mayor to seek local funds from the city budget to avoid cuts that threatened to throw 500 families out on the street. Because of these and similar struggles nationwide, the Congress restored most of the 2013 cuts in January 2014, allowing about 180,000 low income HUD tenants to stay in their homes.

**SE:** HIC-AL, in coordination with members and allies of the region and with a fluid communication with HIC structures, kept on advancing for the right to housing and against evictions, the social production of habitat (SPH), the right to the city and the right to water. The following activities were carried out: support to the "*Movimiento Mexicano de Afectados por las Presas y en Defensa de los Ríos – MAPDER*" (Movement of People Affected by Dams); draft of a convention for judges about development projects and human rights; 7th edition of the internships between Mexican and Central America urban and rural movements; meetings and enquiries organized by the new federal administration to influence public policies regarding the SPH; publication of "[\*Producción Social de la Vivienda y el Hábitat: Bases conceptuales y su correlación con los Procesos Habitacionales\*](#)"; follow up of the litigation to provide 100 low income families with water; reactivation of the recognition of the right to the city at the international level; development of the project "*Avanzando hacia la implementación del derecho a la ciudad en América Latina y en el Plano Internacional*"; international workshop on the right to the city and the launch of the "[\*Manual para juezas y jueces sobre la protección de los derechos de las campesinas\*](#)".

**DB:** Some Latin American countries are currently affected by mega-projects, mega-events and infrastructures. Specially in Brazil, because of the World Cup 2014 and the Olympic Games, we are suffering a growing number of evictions and forced displacements affecting more than 250,000 people. In order to fight against these violations, popular committees and a mobilizations agenda were created. It is a very difficult moment for Brazil but it is also a moment of great hope because we are in a mobilization process, with an agenda towards

Habitat III and against megaprojects and together with the support of other Latin America countries. I thank the solidarity and support from other countries' organizations.

**RW:** I am happy to be with you today because this is the first time the General Assembly gathers such a huge amount of Members; which is the Coalition's spirit. Since 2010, the MENA region is facing uprisings, the people are claiming their rights. Most of the people see that the government does not represent them. HIC-MENA keeps providing tools to claim human rights, to analyze the causes of the problems, to get real information and alternative solutions to informal settlements. We also made our contribution in Egypt Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In Egypt we have a better Constitution that includes the right to housing and the right to water and we are empowering people to transform the Constitution into actions and to guarantee the implementation of these rights.

We are working with several groups in the region at different levels: a coalition of planners and housing rights activists, a working group on the right to water, another one on the public budget, and another working with the World Bank, etc. We held the IV Land Forum in Tunis and there are upcoming events in the region like the Forum on the Right to Water and the next Land Forum in September. Tomorrow we will join the Egyptian delegation at the WUF's Egyptian booth and will bring our perspective as a human rights organization.

**JS:** HLRN is one of the 4 HIC's themes, the others are: Gender Equality, Social Production of Habitat and Sustainable Environment. I am going to present our activities from a human rights perspective at the international level. HLRN is dealing with rural and urban areas, migrants, refugees, farmers and people under occupation. HLRN supports Member activities, maintains strategic alliances, creates knowledge and builds capacity and makes lobbying.

In 2013, HLRN participated in the WSF in Tunis; organized its 4th Land Forum for the MENA region that convened experts and social movement activists to share their timely struggles over land and natural resources; worked with the UN Special Rapporteur on the development of the guidelines on security of tenure; participated in another event with FALP and UCGL, to bring the issue of Palestinian municipalities in Canoas in Brazil and to raise the question of how the right to the city has been presented in other countries; participated in the Vienna+20 CSO Conference coordinating with other partners the questions of the human rights, including those of people living in situations of conflict, occupation, population transfer, displacement and war. HLRN supported its members in Palestine during the 65th anniversary of the Nakba day, the tragedy that created the refugees' crisis; in the protests for the right to the city in Istanbul and Brazil; among others. In India, HLRN was involved in the process of a new law to address land acquisition, compensation and rehabilitation. HLRN has sustained HIC's active involvement in the Extraterritorial Obligations Consortium (ETO). We have also maintained our tools: the Eviction Impact Assessment (EvIA) tool was used to influence Kenya's Constitution and other cases as evidence in litigation of eviction cases and the Violations Database (VDB) tool. This Thursday we will have a training workshop on the VDB tool at Medellín "Pequeño Teatro".

HLRN has contributed in several publications, researchers, guidelines and published the Land Times bulletin.

**RK:** I thank Rabie for giving details about the region. I would like to add a comment about the revision, amendments and approval of the Constitution of several countries in the region. Working as activists, we are making pressure over these processes so that human rights are included. Unfortunately the new Moroccan Constitution does not include the right to housing, water and health. Egypt's new Constitution does include the right to housing and water. In Tunisia, the right to housing is not included although some others are, like the right to health.

**LZ:** The challenge of integrating human rights in national constitutions is fundamental. This is the reason why the coordination with other countries, in order to exchange experiences related to these changes on constitutional contents is so important.

**PY:** HIC in Francophone Africa has been working on the training for the right to housing. In particular I will report on the right to land and housing in Ivory Coast. The government has housing public policies, but they are managed by private companies and low income people have no access to housing. Along with HIC, I work on women's right to land and on security of tenure. For us, the land is something we all share, it belongs to all the family members, but policies consider it private property instead of public; this creates conflicts. We are fighting against population displacements without compensation, displacements which are justified by the state based on its ownership of all land. Habitat III must join states and CSOs to allow people to participate in the state's decision making.

**AS:** In 2013 the General Secretariat has been keeping on building the Coalition, as we did for the last 10 years, along with Marie for 9 years, who is still working for the GS from Santiago, and Isabel who has

supported me a lot and is much loved. We went through a very long process searching for the new Secretary and finally, Alvaro was chosen. The decision of settling the GS in Cairo was taken in Tunis.

**AP:** Ana and I had the advantage of working together during last three-month period of 2013. We had the chance to organize the work with Marie and Isabel, get to know the Board and some HIC members, especially in the Latin American region. Step by step we discovered the Coalition's human capital. During this period I learnt about the GS and follow up the transition and the expected activities. I would also like to thank Misereor's support. In Cairo, we share office and resources with HIC-HLRN and HIC-MENA and get support from them. Later we'll talk about the activities we have organized in Medellin.

**LZ:** 2013 has been very intense, both internally and externally. I have been involved in multiple tasks and activities to advance in the construction of a stronger Coalition, strengthening social process and actors linked to habitat and also influencing on public local, national and international policies. These are some of HIC internal tasks I performed: I helped drafting the new Constitution; took part in Board meetings and the General Assembly in Tunis; participated in HIC's institutional evaluation; in the selection process of the new General Secretary and supported the transition process; the organization of meetings and training activities as well as the coordination with members and allies in Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, South Korea, Ecuador, Morocco, México and Sweden. I also participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Human Rights Cities Forum and a work meeting on the right to the city in South Korea; in the 4<sup>th</sup> World CGLU Congress in Morocco; in the 45<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Canadian Housing and Urban Renewal Association in Ottawa; in the "Diálogos por la Reforma Urbana" in Mexico City; in the verification mission on the right to housing and evictions in Ecuador; in the international workshop on the right to the city held in Mexico City and now we are working on a proposal to strengthen a global platform for the right to the city. I held conferences on the work of the Coalition and on the experiences and proposals promoting the right to housing, the social production and management of habitat and the right to the city.

I also was part of the editorial committee of AITECS's publication "[Take back the land -The social function of land and housing, resistances and alternatives](#)" and also collaborated with the "[Manual para juezas y jueces sobre la protección de los derechos de las campesinas](#)". I took part in the elaboration, negotiation and implementation of several regional and international projects, in coordination with HIC thematic and Reference Centers and HIC members. Besides, we have been working with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing with a focus on the security of tenure.

**GG:** presents the book [La Vivienda, entre el Derecho y la Mercancía](http://www.hic-net.org/document.php?pid=5366) (<http://www.hic-net.org/document.php?pid=5366>) displaying different forms of tenure in Latin America, with inputs from 25 authors. He invites us to the "Desde la participación al poder. Cómo las cooperativas de vivienda fomentan la ciudadanía activa, la igualdad de género y la igualdad urbana" event at WUF.

**MV and CR:** speakers from "*Hábitat para la Mujer*", linked to the *Maria Auxiliadora* community, Bolivia. In Cochabamba, several hundred families are building a different community. To avoid rental expenses, violence and oppression, they have chosen collective property in the outskirts of the city. Priority is given to women heads of family and children. Based on everyone's effort, on the strength of the group and the collective work, they got houses, urban equipment and public spaces. The organization is strong, led by women and with an intense cohabitation based on respect and solidarity. There are still many things to be done, but the community already exists: 400 families live in a land plot which could host up to 1,000 families. But life there is not smooth: there are internal conflicts, a very limited support from public authorities and advances in legal issues are needed to realize the full right to housing and the city for everyone.

**JB:** Spain, along with USA, have been two of the countries' most severely affected by the Real Estate crash, with hundreds of people evicted. In ODESC, HIC Member, we have been working on the right to housing and the city development, with a specific line of action lead by Ada Colau, which inspired the creation of the PAH "*Plataforma de Afectados por la Hipoteca*". There are more than a million empty houses and the same amount of homeless at the same time. It is not a losing battle, we achieved some victories, from the local level stopping evictions to some legal and political conquests. The European Union Court of Justice has ruled that some of the mortgages clauses were illegal and the government was forced to accept this decision. We also organized other initiatives like the "*Iniciativa Legislativa Popular*" - ILP (Popular Legislative Initiative) that the government has not implemented. We have a social conflict, we are living a period of political turmoil. We have filled a lawsuit against the Spanish Government for political corruption. We have promoted the debate among the Spanish citizens. We are in a situation of change in Spain.

**LAS:** It is important to participate in these networks, it allows us to consider ourselves as involved in the world. "Corporación Región" has been working with HIC and other organizations to participate in activities inside and outside the Forum. My presentation is not objective, it is based on the victims' perspective. Between 1985 and 2013, 6 million people have been directly or indirectly affected by violence and in particular by the armed conflict, most of them have been displaced. People reached the city fleeing the countryside, the city was a shelter and it was possible to settle and find a job; but in the 90's, the city is displacing these populations again due to internal conflicts; this represents a new forced displacement. People settle again but there have lost social or community ties. Along with social organizations and NGOs, these persons are building other relations with the city, they have learnt to defend their rights, like the right to the city, they are organized. One of the achievements came from the Constitutional Court answering victim's claim on land. We worked to achieve the recognition of victims by public policies. It was only recently that forced urban displacement was recognized. We are facing a very difficult situation in Medellin, with huge challenges, the response is different, depending on the region. Our concern is to link victims' problems with the right to housing.

## 5. HIC in Medellin. Strategies and activities

**AP:** This week, we have a full agenda of activities inside and outside the WUF with local and international organizations. We lately heard about the alternative Forum, although we want to participate in it; we contacted some local organizations which have invited us to participate in some activities. The agenda is printed in your folders, do you have any questions? On Sunday we visited several local communities that shared their experiences with us. On Tuesday, a rally will take place at 2pm, and on Thursday, we will have a full day of activities in the "Museo Casa de la Memoria"; you are all invited to participate.

**KT:** Local tours will take place, can you give more information?

**AP:** These visits are not confirmed yet, I will request more details.

**SE:** Last Sunday we visited the commune 13, the largest occupation in Latin America. First we had a guided tour organized by government staff and then we continued the tour with local organizations. Their leaders told us their history and struggles and asked us to bring photographs of their missing people with us during the rally.

**MK:** How many of you support this request? Please raise your hands

**Result:** 20 raised hands

## 6. Debate on the achievements and challenges of HIC

**AF and BD:** We are wearing three hats: (i) the "Development Planning Unit", part of The Bartlett: the global faculty of the built environment at the University of London, (ii) the School of Architecture of the University of Sheffield and (iii) Architecture Without Borders. This space of articulation is very interesting and we think we can join it in three areas: (1) researching, through a documenting project of different processes of struggle; (2) the Social Production of Habitat and the Right to the City, coordinated with the participatory design tools developed by Architects Without Borders, and (3) in the academic field through on trainings.

**MB:** Communitas is the Coalition for Sustainable Cities and Regions in the new UN Development Agenda. It is a platform formed by different institutions to influence the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UN-Habitat has started very late to work on these goals and with little strength to address the housing and urban issues. (See powerpoint: [http://www.hic-net.org/content/Communitas\\_WUFPRES\\_4Apr2014.pdf](http://www.hic-net.org/content/Communitas_WUFPRES_4Apr2014.pdf)). Our technical methodology is based on thematic working groups led by experts and practitioners producing proposals for urban targets in close consultation. We work in New York nearby to the UN Headquarters. We have collaborated with HIC in various activities and, for us, the HIC's vision is important. We have made a first draft of urban targets to present it during the WUF. We would like to invite you to get involved in two actions: the #urbanSDG campaign and the request #urbanSGD "to achieve sustainable cities and human settlements" as a Sustainable Development Goal.

**JS:** I have a question. There are many problems within the MDGs. The MDGs are not realistic, they do not deal with the causes and problems, they do not include national targets. Having SDGs that are sustainable for some parties but not for others and do not address the structural questions will not work. The question is: Does this discussion address governance, participation and the structural causes?

**MB:** We need a multilayer approach to work on the SDGs and here, in Colombia, it is a good opportunity to put these issues on the table. My message is that we need HIC and its proposals.

**LZ:** This discussion is wide. The civil society organizations are already discussing governance and democracy issues. HIC can join them.

**JS:** We do not expect the participation of all local governments, but this is related to Habitat III in which we would like to review both urban and rural governance.

**GR:** A question that bothers me: We all agree that the MDGs on urban issues are not adequate and that the UN has not progressed as it should, but I want to stress that the new targets are a step back. The neighborhoods of a city have always been differentiated, between slums and houses in a precarious situation outside the city. Living in the center or in the periphery is very different. However, now the UN uses only "slums", wherever you live, and responds with the same services. Cities have different patterns and popular movements have the right to be heard.

**MB:** An urban goal may mean something different in each city. So we are working to listen and include the voices of people living in each place.

**EO:** The world is very concerned about the planet's sustainability and forgets the people. We consider people as objective and not as subject of intervention.

**LZ:** HIC is a coalition working on political, technical and organizational areas, but above all on the political ones. That is why we seek new strategies and actors.

**EJ:** If we incorporate the participation as a transversal axe of the MDGs, the political and social areas are supplemented with the technical one. We must thank for this work, it is complex. In urban issues, there is no progress because UN-Habitat has not got involved, the Forum speaks about equity instead of speaking about the grassroots organizations' participation.

**MB:** We'll have a target on slums and there are some options. Everything already exists, it is just a matter of participation. My message is that we are on time to participate, so that we don't blame others but ourselves. We are happy to work with HIC.

**LZ:** The idea of this presentation was to show the process. We can organize a working group for those interested in these issues.

**EO:** If you are going to work on "slums" and "squatters", in our countries we see them in many different ways. The UN big mistake lies in using the slum concept only when there is no tenure. In the end, it seems that what has not been produced by the housing market is a slum. We must review the concept.

**RB:** (Brazil) works in the City Hall and in articulation with local authorities in three areas: (i) decentralized cooperation among cities, (ii) cooperation among Latin American and African countries and (iii) Mercociudades. We are vice-presidents of the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of the UCLG. We would like to work with HIC. The Committee wants to be the voice of cities worldwide, strengthening the strategy of the international communication, the human rights policies, and consolidating inclusive cities. We are currently working to articulate local governments and civil society. We work with HIC in the process towards Habitat III and the right to the city. We have produced a joint statement ( <http://www.hic-net.org/news.php?pid=5395> ) with HIC, the Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities (FALP) and Mercociudades network. Other organizations are invited to sign this statement.

From 15 to 18 May the 4th Global Forum of Cities for Human Rights (WHRCF) will take place in Korea (<http://www.hic-net.org/eventsdetail.php?pid=5461>) and from 12 to 14 of November, an international meeting to implement the right to the city at the regional and international level (<http://www.hic-net.org/news.php?pid=5464>).

**LZ:** We have been working together for a long time. We are struggling for the same issues. This committee is progressive within the UCLG and it will change its name to the Committee on the Right to the City. The idea is to continue working together towards Habitat III. The joint statement is open, we would like to invite the presents to sign it.

**MK:** HIC will launch a press release every day. It would be great if some organizations collaborate with a few sentences.

**CR:** presents the project on the Social Production of Habitat (SPH), the consolidation and development of a thematic platform. The objectives are: (i) Consolidate the advocacy for the SPH to influence state and local governments linked to Habitat III, (ii) strengthen solidarity between actors of the SPH (both in the Global South and North), particularly by fostering the knowledge sharing and the experiences dissemination (iii) contribute to

the SPH experiences' scaling up and (iv) develop a network of actors and professionals working in support of inhabitants' organizations.

UrbaMonde has been working on SPH for years, and now this joint initiative with HIC will catalyze this process.

**LZ:** We are interested in working in HIC Members' initiatives, so this project seems crucial. It will also help us to update our work related to SPH. We need good practices and good policies. It is a very timely project because of its issue and methodology. The question is: How do we work? We could organize a working group and urbaMonde could help us as a thematic reference center in Europe.

**JS:** This reminds me of HIC's initiative to emphasize some issues within the Coalition. This is a great opportunity to develop complementarity between Human Rights and SPH.

**TR:** (UNAL student) The city is not the natural space for the human being. In America we had another life style, until we became the victims of the economic model. We must restore to the point where humanity deviated from its path. We must recover the rural sector, the city only consumes the planet.

**RG:** HIC has to be an open door. Working in SPH is important for the people and it is HIC's responsibility. I join the initiative.

**LS:** I congratulate the initiative. In Latin America many other initiatives are wasted, instead, we should save them. I join the initiative.

**DB:** First, I would like to congratulate this project. In Brazil we have had an experience of a massive program "*Minha Casa Minha Vida*" (My House, My Life) leading to the building of 2 million houses by the Federal Government. The social organizations demand more participation in these programs. This project is very interesting because it will strengthen many organizations.

**RL:** We congratulate the initiative. In our country the SPH is weakening, now social organizations have to be the houses' builders with private financial intermediaries, we cannot accept that. We have to fight against this, we must blaze many trails, we are searching how to circumvent the law. SPH produce better quality houses. Governments must give free rein to the SPH in collaboration with people. We join the initiative.

**AM:** Governments do not consider people's potential. In Bolivia, private property is getting stronger and the funding mechanisms created do not consider the population as subject.

**AME:** I work on collective housing cooperative issues. I am grateful to participate in this meeting and I invite you to participate in the: "From participation to power. How to housing cooperatives encourages active citizenship, gender equality and urban equality" activity that will take place tomorrow at the WUF.

**FZ:** We, as social movements, have to be consistent. People must be in the center of the program.

**EC:** We were working in housing and self-construction when we realized the lack of education on finance. There is no information to support people in making decisions. We have to have an information strategy for youth. I propose we make a compilation of successful experiences. We are new HIC Members and hopefully we will have more opportunities to share with you.

**FZ:** We agree. The model is not only FUCVAM's, it belongs to many other organizations. Housing and collective property are the core.

**EO:** This proposal made me happy. The Swiss colleagues' solidarity is very important. There is a need to change our world, the system is falling, it is not environmentally and socially sustainable. We could wait for its fall, try to change it, but there is another way: we can create something new. We need transformative alternatives and this is the way I consider the SPH. We also have to link it to other issues such as the Right to the City, water and land. We have not been able to articulate rural and urban areas. We have to find ways to emancipate people.

**CR:** Thanks for your interventions which help me to understand your concerns. Regarding the SPH, there is a lot of work in Latin America, more than in other regions. In Switzerland 20% of the city is collectively owned. Currently there are social movements working together at the national level. Each one names the SPH in a different way, like "participatory habitat" for instance, but in the end it is the same thing. The proposal is to create a global platform on SPH between actors, and the challenge is to work together with other networks in other regions.

**LZ:** COCEAVIS and FUCVAM join the project. We will see how to make these ideas operational in the coming weeks. Thanks to urbaMonde for this initiative. We are always in assembly, besides this meeting in person, we have to take advantage of other communication means, we have to keep on debating.

**OG:** I would like to complete what Cyril has presented about the platform. We also have to gather initiatives that will be implemented.



## 7. Closure

**LZ:** Several points of the agenda have not been discussed due to the lack of time. These are:

- 1 - Approval of the minutes of the previous GA meeting, Tunis 2013, included in your folders and shown on HIC Website (<http://www.hic-net.org/news.php?pid=4765>, English <http://www.hic-net.org/news.php?pid=4766>, French : <http://www.hic-net.org/news.php?pid=4764>) .
- 2 - Approval of the 2012 audits.
- 3 - Debate and approval of the HIC By-Law amendments. A draft of this document is inside your folders and is shown in the Member Space.

We propose to discuss these points by electronic means in the coming weeks.

We propose to have the next General Assembly meeting during next World Social Forum to be possibly held in Tunisia in March 2015.

*HIC  
General Secretariat  
Cairo, May 21, 2014*