



**Subject:** Minutes of the 2017 General Assembly. Nairobi

**To:** General Assembly, HIC Board, HIC Staff

**Date:** 10/10/2017



**Chairs:** Lorena Zárata (HIC President) and Alvaro Puertas (HIC Secretary General)

**Simultaneous Interpreting:** EN <-> FR with the support of 2 translators.

**Minutes taken by:** Achieng' Osogo and reviewed by Isabel Pascual (HIC-GS team)

**Attendance:** 51 participants from 36 organizations from 23 countries (see Annex 1)

**Important note by HIC General Secretariat:**

Abahlali baseMjondolo applied to HIC Membership during our recent events held in Nairobi (October 2017); among their large group was 32 years old Sibonelo Patrick Mpeku, chairperson of the local Sisonke Village branch of Abahlali baseMjondolo, and a member of Abahlali's KwaZulu/Natal Provincial Council. He worked to defend the rights of his community members to adequate housing, political participation and essential services.

On Sunday, 19 November 2017, Mr. Mpeku was seized by unknown men while he was sleeping in his home (shack) in the informal settlement of Sisonke Village, and was stabbed to death. Since the launch of the Sisonke Village branch in November 2014, Mr. Mpeku had faced ongoing intimidation and death threats warning that he would be punished for engaging in human rights work with his community. Since 2013, at least seven housing rights activists and members of Abahlali have been killed while mobilizing to defend the human rights of their communities, while many other Abahlali members have been subject to serious threats and intimidation.

HIC was honoured with Abahlali's participation and proud of having them as part of the wider HIC Membership. We have no words to describe how we felt when we received the tragic news.



## 1. Welcome speech

**Lorena Zárate, HIC President.** Thanked all who were present and said it was exciting to have the Assembly in Nairobi. She explained the agenda, how a General Assembly worked; because she observed that a number of HIC members representatives had not been to any HIC assembly. This was done because the agenda needed to be approved before the meeting began. There would be presentations of different reports for members to know what each one is doing. After the break, there would be an open discussion on ideas, proposals, challenges, initiatives etc. This would be followed by an agreement on how to move forward. She asked for proposals on what people felt had been omitted from the Agenda.

**Davinder Lamba, HIC Wisdom Keeper.** Welcomed the assembly to Nairobi. He stated that the HIC constitution required a face to face General Assembly once a year. They held a lot of online meetings. He noted that success had been realized by piggy backing on global activities. He announced that Mazingira Institute and Pamoja Trust would host a social event that evening at the Mazingira offices to facilitate further networking.

**Klaus Teschner, Misereor in Germany.** Proposed to have an overview of Quito since that was the first General Assembly after Quito.

**Lorena** gave a brief. The last General Assembly (<http://www.hic-gs.org/document.php?pid=7019>) coincided with the celebration of HIC's 40th anniversary. The assembly paid tribute to the people who had passed away in these 40 years. She grieved the death of Nick Volk (Canada) and Edín Martínez (El Salvador) who had since passed on. She announced that part of the present assembly would be a remembrance of the Quito celebrations, that the photos of some of the departed friends would be displayed. She commented that they did not have photos of the African friends who had since died and requested anyone who had a photo to share it with the secretariat. (More information <http://www.hic-gs.org/news.php?pid=6986>). She reminded the assembly that 2017 was also the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Limuru Declaration (<http://www.hic-gs.org/document.php?pid=2519>).

## 2. Quorum establishment.

**Marie Bailloux - HIC-GS.** She explained that, according to HIC-SG database, 59 members had the right to vote, from which 23 were represented at the Assembly (19 present + 4 with proxies), meaning this there was quorum for voting which was more than 39%.

**Lorena** explained that HIC members did not lose their status for not being in good standing. Nonetheless, to be able to vote, a member organization needed to submit its contributions to the Coalition on an annual basis, as described in HIC's constitution and By-law (See article 4 of HIC Constitution <http://hic-gs.org/document.php?pid=4795> and section A of the HIC By-Law <http://hic-gs.org/document.php?pid=5725>). Proxies are used when members with the right to vote delegates this right to another organization which is represented and in good standing.

## 3. Approval of agenda, previous minutes and financial statements.

1. Approval of the General Assembly (GA) Agenda in Nairobi 2017.

CHRA- Canada presented the motion for approval, seconded by DION - Mauritius.

1st voting: 22 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.



3.2. Approval of the minutes of the 2016 General Assembly held in Quito, which was the biggest General Assembly in the last 20 years. 1/3 of the members were present in Quito. It was clarified that there was no need to have been in Quito to approve the minutes. Members who were present in Quito were asked to make comments if necessary.

The Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) proposed the approval of the 2016 minutes, seconded by the Canadian Housing & Renewal Association (CHRA).

2<sup>nd</sup> voting: 19 in favour, 0 Against, 3 Abstentions.

3.3. Approval of the consolidated financial statement.

**Alvaro** Puertas- HIC General Secretary. He explained that the reports were ready and available online. Although there was quorum to approve the statements, it is the Board Treasurer who presents the audited financial statements to the Board and the General Assembly for their review. This must be done by Raja Kassab Board Treasurer and representative of the Middle East/ North Africa region. He also felt it was important for all members to vote. He therefore suggested that the votes be cast online and the results will be announced on the website. The process, he said, should be done before end of the year.

#### **4. Information on upcoming election process in Africa**

The three Board members present introduced themselves: Alex-Europe 1<sup>st</sup> term, Stephane- North America 1<sup>st</sup> term and Lorena- President 2<sup>nd</sup> term. Raja – MENA 2<sup>nd</sup> term and Ramiro - Latin America 1<sup>st</sup> term were not present. Africa and Asia regions are currently not represented in the Board.

**Alvaro** Up to December 2016, Africa had been represented by Pauline Yao of Cote D'Ivoire. Attempts to have an election for Africa had encountered challenges because often there was no quorum. After the present week's meetings, HIC would be ready to organize the elections

**Marie.** According to HIC database, Africa had 167 members, 115 members were approved before 2004. Only 52 members had been approved in the recent years. Some present on that day were not yet members. During the week there would be engagements to understand how to become members. The secretariat offered to share contacts for people to engage with each other in order to revitalize the networking within the region.

**Lorena** remembered that the African presence has been strong in HIC since its beginnings, and only by strengthening that presence in the present and for the future that HIC is going to remain a truly global Coalition. She explained the procedure: Step 1 would be to establish an electoral committee formed by members from the sub Saharan region, in contact with Álvaro and Marie; the first task would be to confirm the electoral roster: who are the members in good standing who could participate. Step 2 would be the establishment of the candidates. The position is one but required two people, one as an alternate and of different gender. This should be completed within the next 6 months.

**Hemsing Hurrinag - Development Indian Ocean Network in Mauritius.** 1. What is the term of office for board members? 2. What is the role of the alternate? 3. What happens in case the first two slots in a contest are won by the same gender?



**Answers:**

**1. Lorena.** Term is 4 years, which is renewable for one time.

**2. Lorena.** The alternate has the same responsibilities, duties and rights as the regional representative (HIC By-law, articles 62 -69 <http://hic-gs.org/document.php?pid=5725>). The two coordinate all the time. The alternate can participate in all Board meetings but only one member per region is allowed to vote. If both members were present, the alternate doesn't vote.

**Alex Fredriani - The Bartlett Development Planning Unit in United Kingdom.** As per the experience in Europe, the alternate played a key role in representing the Coalition, mobilizing members and strategizing around the organizations within their region.

**3. Lorena** The first person keeps their position and the first of the opposite gender assumes the alternate position. Currently, there were 3 men and 2 women on the Board; so she appealed to Africa to elect a woman.

**Malick Gaye - Environment et Développement du Tiers - Monde in Senegal.** He proposed a meeting of the African members to understand the election process in detail. He invited the people present, so that they could think through ways of strengthening their ties. He offered himself to be part of the committee. He requested the board to consider splitting Anglophone and francophone Africa. The Secretariat only ensured quality, but the actual work was for the members to do. He was excited that there was a pool of new members who were really devoted.

**Lorena.** The spirit behind a seat in the Board is to represent membership that is actively engaged. The decision to merge Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone Africa was arrived at because of the different constraints. This could be reviewed but it required active membership. She pointed that, according to the Constitution (see Art. 8 <http://hic-gs.org/document.php?pid=4795>), it is also within the Board's powers to appoint/ designate people/organizations to represent specific issues currently missing on the board (social movements, women's and/or feminist movement, discriminated groups and minorities.). These people have voice but not voting rights. This could also be considered for strengthening Africa's presence in HIC.

**Ifeynwa Ofong - Women in Development & Environment in Nigeria.** Africa has several sub regions e.g. East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECAS). Movement within the sub regions is very easy, but movement to other regions is difficult. In thinking about how to firm the membership of Africa, she advised on the strengthening of the sub regions with support from the secretariat.

**Emmanuel Mukubwa - Shelter and Settlements Alternatives in Uganda.** He requested the secretariat to develop a timetable that would inform activities towards the elections.

**Alvaro.** He advised that it could only be done with the elections committee. It was agreed that the members present establish the committee during the week for work to begin. He also mentioned that elections were conducted online.



**Marie.** She commented that currently there were only 12 members in Africa who could participate in an election. She lauded the interest in elections but indicated that the members present had to stimulate people to contribute and participate in HIC activities in order to raise the number of people who could participate in the election.

**Klaus** sought clarification on what constituted membership, wanted to know why the numbers had sounded high but there were no members to participate in an election. For organizations that were present, what was the process like, how fast was it?

**Marie.** According to the available records, 102 African members had never contributed -with fees nor in kind. For the past year, only 12 have contributed and are therefore able to vote. To be able to vote, a member had up to two weeks before the election to regularize its contributions. To be a candidate, one had to have been a member organization in good standing for at least one year.

**Lorena.** Membership application process is online and is quite simple. Once applications are received, Marie checks with the corresponding Board member, the reference center and/or other HIC Members of the region to see if they know the organization and have information that would affect the application. If no objection is raised, the new member is approved. Then members begin to contribute. Contributions are only valid for one year (12 consecutive months).

**Malick.** Requested an evening meeting, to agree on a number of things that will make the elections possible, but also strategize for Africa.

**Alex.** What is the minimum number of people to have an election? Could duties be assigned to help organize activities?

**Marie.** In order to be valid, 10% of members in good standing should participate in an election (HIC By-law, article 47 <http://hic-gs.org/document.php?pid=5725>).

## **5. Reports from Reference centers (more details available at HIC 2016 Annual Report, see <http://hic-gs.org/document.php?pid=7219>)**

### **5.1 Secretariat Report**

**Alvaro** gave a summary of the Habitat III activities report from the Secretariat. He explained that in order to reach HIC Members and other stakeholders, HIC participates in global fora. The Coalition also hosts its events within these fora, such as the World Social Forum or UN Habitat events among others. This allows meeting with partners throughout the world with the objective of strengthening the Coalition. For example, in Quito, in addition to participating in the Habitat III conference, HIC was also represented at the alternative fora: the Social Forum in Resistance to Habitat III, FLACSO Seminar, CITE and PUCE fora (More information at HIC compilation on Habitat III <http://www.hic-gs.org/news.php?pid=6986>).

**Lorena.** Besides those, spoke also on the global activities of the Global Platform on the Right to the City. She explained that the Platform had a facilitating team which consisted of colleagues from HIC and POLIS. The Platform focused on four main areas: advocacy, research and training, communications, networking and building alliances, towards strengthening the people process for having their own habitat. As HIC President, she has also participated in international fora on social and solidarity economy,





access to land among others, as well as within the UN system, specifically with the special Rapporteur for Adequate Housing and her global initiative called The Shift.

## 5.2 Latin American Report

**Ramiro, HIC LA Board Member, and Silvia's, HIC-AL coordinator, presentations were done by Alvaro.** HIC-LA conducted regular sub regional strategic-participatory planning workshops in order to strengthen the regional and the Coalition's coordination. They also collaborated with other members in Europe. Latin America has very good communication with its members. The groups were well organized with representation of different countries. They also had regular publications with members' contributions. They had links with their local media and academic institutions which allowed them to publish and disseminate articles. Alvaro concluded by pledging the secretariat's support for Africa, and supported the idea of adapting the sub-regional Latin American strategy to the African context.

## 5.3 MENA Report

**Ahmed Mansour - HIC-MENA in Egypt.** He shared that they were involved in activities on natural resources: Such as the *Right to Water Forum in Arab Region (RWFAR)*, to enhance the human rights approach in the policies, development projects related to water issues and set an alternative Agenda against the global Agenda that effect the human rights to water in MENA region. As well as HIC-HLRN participated in the two regional reports on the situation of the right to water in MENA. For the application of the Voluntary guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forest in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) (<http://hlrn.org/news.php?id=p2tlaQ==#.Wgqug2hSzIE>), HIC-HLRN engaged in several events at global level with the International Planning Committee (IPC) and FAO to promote and apply the VGGT at regional level. They were also keen on the Right to the City Forum and had been putting pressure on their governments to be sensitive on Right to the City, through project of Sanctuary in the City Beirut that aimed to enhance the principles of the right to the city in the state responding to the refugee's crisis. They had engaged in the reparation to the victims of lands rights in Yemen by applying the counting costs tool in assessing the costs of the impacts of the land rights violations during the time in war and conflict, and are currently focusing on strategic advocacy and land rights in MENA.

## 5.4 Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) Report

**Joseph Schechla - HIC-HLRN in Egypt.** HIC-HLRN focused on the new urban agenda and the inventory of the gains and the losses of Habitat III (<http://hlrn.org/img/documents/Gains%20and%20Losses%20of%20Habitat%20III.pdf>). They advocated to make Human Rights and international treaties relevant to the New Urban Agenda in the light of the present realities in the human settlements. HIC-HLRN worked with a lot of experts and organizations like FIAN, Amnesty International, Minority Rights group among others, to contribute to the CESCR's new general comment on land. Annual report focusing on forced evictions was due and they would use the information in their database. HIC-HLRN involved with other regional CSOs on determine and describe the "Landless" and how they should be included and considered in a global policy agenda. HIC-HLRN conducts a regional project in cooperation with the IPC to support the small-scale producers in MENA region.

## 5.5 North American Report

**Stephane Corriveau - Canadian Housing & Renewal Association in Canada and HIC North America Board Member.** He announced that in North America work was done in Canada and the US. In the US,



Trump is having terrible impact on the policy on housing. The person in charge of housing in the US had said the 'State had nothing to do with housing' so it was clear that he would do anything to block and destroy anything towards state involvement in housing. On the other hand, in Canada, after 25 years of neglect by the government, it had now set up significant funding on housing and infrastructure. There are about 1.5m families that do not have access to affordable houses. 98% of people with no housing were indigenous people. For 5 years the movements had organized demos and finally the government had accepted there were challenges, so it is a wait and see. The federal government has been organizing consultations and a national housing strategy should be announced later this year.

### **5.6 Global Platform on Right to the City Report**

**Nelson Saule - Polis Institute in Brazil.** GPR2C is going to have a planning workshop in Nairobi (later this same week) to finish the strategic plan for 2018-2021. In previous years, the platform held regional meetings (Johannesburg, Barcelona and Surabaya) and was very active within the Habitat III process. GPR2C had started advocacy programs with the Africa Union on the Sustainable Development Goals. He extended an invitation to members present to join the GPR2C activities and processes.

### **5.7 Europe Report**

**Alex** explained that in the recent past, Europe had experienced a series of austerity measures which had affected housing. For a while HIC in Europe had not been working together, but their present circumstances had necessitated their working together. There were local and regional engagements with an interest to learn from the activities of other members.

**Irene Escorihuela - Observatori DESC in Spain.** She explained that there had been lots of evictions in Europe, particularly in Spain. Observatori DESC, her organization, had appealed to the UN Economic Social and Cultural Rights Committee regarding a case against the Spanish Government on evictions and the UN had taken a decision that Spain was violating Human Rights. They also participated as Amicus Curiae in a different case of eviction on a rented house where again they had won. They are in the process of creating a CSO to push the Spanish government into implementing the decisions of the UN Economic Social and Cultural Right Committee. In the process to Habitat III they helped prepare a thematic event regarding public space in Barcelona.

**Barbara Lipietz, The Bartlett Development Planning Unit in United Kingdom.** She stated that DPU worked with HIC partners to look if National Reporting processes to inform the NUA were voicing the interest of CSOs through Right to the City and HIC. They had also worked with HIC partners in Africa on collecting information that would come from CSOs on an African dossier which they were developing. They had equally participated in discussions on Land Rights versus Rights to Land and the need to take a more territorial view rather than focus on the urban.

**Alvaro** talked about the African Regional Meeting of the Policy Forum on Development by the European Union. This forum gave an opportunity for HIC to be represented in policy formulation at which there was determination of where the European Union would allocate its funds. Malick Gaye (Environnement et Développement du Tiers-Monde, Senegal) and Korotimi Thera (Coopérative Féminine pour la Protection de l'Environnement, Mali) participated as panelists.

### **5.8 African Report**



## **Anglophone Africa**

**Davinder, Mazingira Institute in Kenya.** They hosted the HIC and GPR2C meetings in Nairobi. Kenyan CSOs for Habitat III had hosted a workshop to do post Quito Assessment and to integrate a broader East African membership of HIC. Pamoja Trust was spearheading it with a view to building solidarity. HIC, led by Mazingira Institute, has become member of the coordinating committee of the CSO mechanism for the committee on world food security based at Food Agricultural Organization. In 2010 there was an invite to develop the urban food constituency and since then, HIC members have been contributing to that process.

At the national level, the Kenya CSO caucus has been playing a key role in the politics of strengthening the UN Habitat. Kenya had been designated to draft the resolution to be developed between 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017 on behalf of the member states for the second committee. The outcome of that would go to the UN General Assembly. Anglophone Africa had adopted the evictions tool into a comprehensive tool to deal with 2007 post election violence in Kenya.

## **Francophone Africa**

**Yves Joël Zoffoun - ONG BETHESDA / DCAM in Benin.** There is a sub regional process currently on course that consists of working for the global convergence of the fight for land, and water. The idea had been to have a global convergence but in Tunis, focus reduced to West Africa. They then held a meeting of 12 countries in Mali at which they achieved the convergence. They made a declaration and set up a committee to work on an agreed action plan. All social movements were informed that there was a body to fight for water and land. It has membership in Niger, Burkina Faso, Benin and Nigeria among others. They chose to end in Dakar because there was an activity with the Global Network on food and nutrition. Other than the Caravan, they set up a national platform at which they worked as editors.

## **6. Plenary**

### **Anglophone**

**Steve Ouma - Pamoja Trust in Kenya.** He was concerned about the strengthening of the nucleus of HIC in Africa. He challenged the assembly to think of ways to expand HIC membership. He drew the attention of the assembly to two issues: The first one was the emergence of extractive industry in the region and its impact on displacement. The tool that was being used for Internally Displaced Persons in Kenya could be used for benefit sharing. The second issue was that HIC has a wonderful toolkit (<http://www.hlmn.org/toolkit/>) which he felt was underutilized. He wanted to know how it could be used to build and advance the livelihoods and dignity of the poor.

**Hillary Zhou - Zimbabwe People Land Rights Movement in Zimbabwe.** He celebrated the Mugabe land reforms for having benefitted small scale farmers in Zimbabwe. The present issue was victimization of the beneficiaries of the land reform. Issues to do with land were dealt with by the land commission, which was constituted recently. They were lobbying government to make funds available for dispute resolution on land issues.

**Emmanuel Chungu - Mizhipa Housing Cooperative Society in Zambia, He** described the role of his organization as one that mobilized households to build houses using the cooperative concept. They used members who were brick layers to do the work. They were encouraging youth to gain skills to be later





employed in community construction works. He hoped to get diverse information, enhance his capacity and to learn about the Counting the Costs of Eviction tool (<http://hlrn.org/spage.php?id=p2s=#.WgF9EmhSyUk>).

**Emmanuel Mukubwa - Shelter and Settlements Alternatives in Uganda.** He announced that they had formed a housing network of 6 countries which they wanted to enroll into HIC towards strengthening HIC in Africa. He also acknowledged the importance of HIC's contributions to the HIII process.

**David Ngige, Dajopen Waste Management in Kenya.** Whose objective was tackling the economic, social and environmental conditions of vulnerable communities through a community-based waste management strategy. They collected waste and made bi products, e.g. organic fertilizers which they sold for profit. They had won numerous awards.

**Gabriel Marite Ole, Sunya Ward Education and Training in Tanzania.** He started by narrating the words of a childhood song among the Maasai community; *"my bird, it is now sun down and you don't have a place to sleep, you will feel coldness of the night, it will rain on you and the wind will blow you. Who will stand for you to have a house to live?"* He said that when they sang it as children, they never knew that one day they would be homeless. He wondered who would stand for the homeless. He explained that all the major towns in Kenya had belonged to the Maasai and even had Maasai names, which he believed was the reason he had seen cattle grazing in Nairobi town. He drew a comparison between housing in towns and in the villages. He reminded HIC not to forget the rural communities and increase the literacy and knowledge of the more disadvantaged, in particular in the field of construction.

**Thapelo Mohapi - Abahlali Base Mjondolo in South Africa.** The largest social movement post apartheid South Africa. The movement had managed to fight for land in South Africa. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of October they celebrated the 12 year anniversary. Evictions had returned in South Africa, in too many occasions at gun point in what's a democratic country. They appealed to members present to help put pressure on the South African government. The week before, a woman was attacked during a forced eviction and was still in a comma. They had sued successfully to stop forced evictions but the government had ignored the court ruling. 7 communities were involved in those brutal evictions. He pleaded the assembly to expose the South African government for the violence it was exerting on the poor and requested assistance with statements and campaigns. He explained the importance of preventing the violations and complained about the recurrent use of violence in his country.

**Lorena.** The situation in South Africa is critical. HIC offered to work with Abahlali to seek support and dissemination at the international level. As immediate steps, she mentioned that there would be two moments to take advantage of the following day: the public event at which they could share the South African situation. She also stated that there would be a launch on a campaign on forced eviction and Abahlali was asked to speak and participate in the campaign.

**Ifeyinga Ofong - Women in Development and Environment in Nigeria.** Her organization works on eviction in Lagos, Abuja and other big cities where they target at widows who had no sons. She also worked with grassroots women and some of the activities they conduct included capacity building and increase awareness of community leaders and gatekeepers among other things, on the right of women to own property. Culture and tradition are a huge obstacle. Women get themselves pregnant after the death of spouses with the hope of getting a male child, in order to inherit land. A strong HIC regional network



would translate to a stronger Coalition. She had represented HIC in UN's fora and highlighted the importance of strengthening the Membership in Africa.

**Hemsing Hurryrag - Development Indian Ocean Network in Mauritius.** He explained that DION's work goes beyond housing, his organization representing a diverse territory of small islands. The system in Mauritius was such that houses were either constructed by individuals or by the Mauritius Housing Corporation. Housing was not free, even for the poor. But the amount paid was minimal and had an element of interest, but this interest was not included in the case of low income families. DION has supported the local communities with assistance to negotiate mortgages and to get property titles.

**Allan Cain - Development Workshop Angola.** They have been engaged on movement in Urban Land Reform, prepared Angola's Habitat III national report and lobbied the government to support the inclusion of Right to the City. Their future vision was to build on research work and focus on social housing in Angola.

**Aditja Kumar, Development Action Group (DAG) in South Africa.** He stated that it took the government between 7.5 to 11 years to upgrade informal settlements and there were 2,700 informal settlements nationally; the government would never upgrade all housing in his life time. DAG focused on three things: First was capacity development for CSOs under which they supported 80 organizations in the Western Cape. Secondly, they were moving away from state subsidized housing models to regularizing tenant blocks in order to speedily implement change on the ground. Finally, they focused on advocacy towards making inner city land available for social and affordable housing. DAG is currently moving to do more ground work and is focused on mobility and land value capture.

**Marie Huchzermeyer - Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies (CUBES) - University of Witwatersrand in South Africa.** She explained their work as a mixture of pedagogy and activism and a very close relation with other institutions and grassroots movements such as Abahlali or Planact. She added that two of CUBES' main topics were right to the city and spatial planning. She concluded recommending the establishment of close ties with SERI (Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa).

## **Francophone**

**Armand Nouwe, Codas Caritas Douala in Cameroon.** They had brought together 11 family groups that had not been paid according to the law and were under threat. They equipped families to defend their interests by helping them come together against forced evictions. They had developed a bill on Housing which they were lobbying for since the regulation on Housing in Cameroon is weak. They mobilized local groups to defend this bill.

**Eliane Sylvie Mfomou- Coalition Des ONG et OCB du Cameroun Ouvrant dans le Domaines Des Etablissements Humains (CONGEH) in Cameroun.** They lobby at national and traditional religious levels to have the rights of women towards land addressed. Their mode of communication is via text messages which Congeh simplify for masses to understand. There is potential in working in rural areas. CONGEH other main themes are access to land, social development in rural areas and sanitation projects for rural communities.

**Daniel Nzonze - ASSOAL in Cameroun.** There are massive constructions in spaces without basic amenities in what he described a situation of "massive growth with anarchy", including an increasing number



of forced evictions, lack of housing and security of tenure. They were running an advocacy campaign after which they would set up an observatory on ESCRs for collecting complaints for which they already had a toll free number. There were popular tribunals in Doula and Yaounde which were drafting alternative reports on housing. They offered help through legal aid, social help and administrative support. They had won a number of court cases. He also explained ASSOAL's collaboration with ESCR-net and their work building housing cooperatives.

**Dominique Essonno - Réseau National des Habitants in Cameroun (RNHC).** They work on right to housing. They have numerous networks and referred people to the organizations that assisted them, whenever they were affected. They guide people who live as squatters, give information on how to apply for title deeds, construction permits, etc. They also helped organizations to mobilize along housing cooperatives.

**Moussa KA - Nairobi People Settlement Network in Kenya.** He thanked HIC for the opportunity to participate in the GA and explained their work with local communities, in particular in the field of housing and infrastructure. He also highlighted the support from ENDA.

**Jean Eudes Noumegne - FAPEFE in Cameroun.** He explained that FAPEFE became HIC Member thanks to CONGEH. They have been working for more than 20 years with disadvantaged women in the field of education, access to land and environmental issues.

**Fatimata Sore / Zongo - Coalition Nationale pour L'Habitat in Burkina Faso.** The coalition brought together women scientists and other professionals in Burkina Faso. Their mission was to protect the right to adequate housing. They sensitized people on the laws that existed, documented laws and translated them into local languages. They had micro finance institutions that worked with women. They also fight desertification and encouraged women to use renewable energy, majorly targeting women who manufactured local beer since they required a lot of energy and therefore tended to use a lot of wood. They had managed to be part of the different commissions where land issues were discussed and had launched 100,000 houses. They have collaborated with ENDA and CONGEH to promote the right to housing.

**Malick Gaye - Environment et Développement du Tiers - Monde in Senegal.** He gave details of the Policy Forum for Development meetings (see point 5.7; last paragraph of the Europe report). He explained that the main issues discussed were African cities and their economic contribution, the governance of cities in the continent, environmental concerns and conflicts between national and local governments.

## **7. HIC@Africa: Plan of action**

Section 6 was followed by a short summary from the moderators. This shouldn't be considered as a Plan of Action but as a guide, including the main topics discussed during the plenary: themes, population groups, actions and expectations.

### 7.1 Main Themes

Access to land and housing / Rural and urban relations / Basic services (in particular energy) / Food sovereignty.

### 7.2 Main population groups:



Youth / Children / Women / Gender issues

### 7.3 Main actions

Judicial / Legal actions / Courts and rule of law / Legislative and policy making / Housing production / Exchange of knowledge and experiences.

### 7.4 Main expectations

Strengthening the Coalition in Africa / Connecting the regional work with the global agendas / A common advocacy plan / Building solidarity among Members and act together against violations / Create decision making spaces / Avoid false urban-rural dichotomies / Understand Habitat as the common space-definition for urban and rural issues and people and use the Members expertise on the different topics.

**Assembly ended with a vote of thanks from HIC President who called on create working groups at the regional or sub regional levels to take some specific action plans: Electoral process being the first. The date and place of the 2018 General Assembly is going to be defined online after consultations with members in all regions. There is a possibility of a dual Assembly, at the occasion of the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (February) and the World Social Forum in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil (March).**

**Nairobi, 10 October 2017**



### Annex 1 Attendance list

N°	Participants Name	Organization name	Country	Right to Vote	Proxy
1	Yasser Abdelkader	HIC-HLRN	Egypt		
2	Lawrence O. Apiyo	Grassroots Trust	Kenya		
3	Marie Bailloux	HIC-GS	Chile		
4	Eduard Cabré	Global Platform for the Right to the City	Spain		
5	Allan Cain	Development Workshop Angola	Angola	X	Development Workshop -Canada
6	Emmanuel Chungu	Mizhipa Housing Cooperative Society	Zambia	X	
7	Stéphan Corriveau	Canadian Housing & Renewal Association	Canada	X	Rooftops Canada / Abri International
8	Irene Escorihuela	Observatori DESC	Spain	X	SUR Corporación de Estudios Sociales y Educación
9	Dominique Essono	Réseau National Des Habitants	Came-roon		
10	Jean Eudes Noumegne	Fapefe	Came-roon	X	
11	Alexandre Apsan Frediani	The Bartlett Development Planning Unit	United Kingdom	X	Building and Social Housing Foundation
12	Kuria Gathuru	Mazingira Institute	Kenya		
13	Malick Gaye	Environnement et Développement du Tiers - Monde	Senegal	X	
14	Limota Goroso Giwa	Huairou Commission	Nigeria		
15	Marie Huchzermeyer	Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies (CUBES) - University of Witwatersrand	South Africa	X	
16	Hemzing Hurryng	Development Indian Ocean Network	Mauritius	X	





17	Moussa Ka	Baraka	Senegal		
18	Patrick Kamothe	Muthurwa Housing Cooperative	Kenya		
19	Aditja Kumar	Development Action Group	South Africa	X	
20	Davinder Lamba	Mazingira Institute	Kenya	X	
21	Thelumusa Lembede	Abahlali Basemjondolo	South Africa		
22	Barbara Lipietz	The Bartlett Development Planning Unit	France		
23	Ahmed Mansour	HIC-HLRN	Egypt		
24	Olitter Mapheia	Abahlali Basemjondolo	South Africa		
25	Susan Mbori	Nairobi People Settlement Network	Kenya		
26	Eliane Sylvie Mfomou	Congeh	Came- roon		
27	Thapelo Mohapi	Abahlali Basemjondolo	South Africa		
28	Patrick Mpeku	Abahlali Basemjondolo	South Africa		
29	Emmanuel Mukubwa	Shelter and Settlements Alternatives	Uganda	X	
30	Diana Mulala	Nairobi People Settlement Network	Kenya		
31	Lilian Muturi	Muongano Kabete	Kenya		
32	Hiengine Mzobe	Abahlali Basemjondolo	South Africa		
33	David Ngige Muguro	Dajopenwaste Management	Kenya		
34	Armand Nouwe	Codas Caritas Douala	Came- roon		



35	Allan Nyange	Kituo Cha Sheria	Kenya		
36	Daniel Nzonze	Assoal	Came- roon		
37	Ifeyinwa Ofong	Women In Development & Environ- ment	Nigeria	X	
38	Gabriel Marite Ole Tuke	Sunya Ward Education And Training	Tanzania		
39	Grace Achieng' Osogo	Nairobi People Settlement Network	Kenya		
40	Steve Ouma	Pamoja Trust	Kenya	X	
41	Álvaro Puertas	Hic-Gs	Spain		
42	Ezekiel Rema	Muongano Wa Wanavijiji	Kenya		
43	Nelson Saule Junior	Polis Institute	Brazil	X	
44	Joseph Schechla	Hic-Hlrn	Egypt		
45	Fatimata Sore/Zongo	Coalition Nationale pour l'Habitat	Burkina Faso	X	
46	Bleki Sumelane	Abahlali Basemjondolo	South Africa		
47	Javier Telias	Defensora Ciudad De Buenos Aires	Argentina		
48	Klaus Teschner	TRIALOG e.V.	Germany	X	
49	Lorena Zárate	HIC and Fomento Solidario de la Vi- vienda A.C.	Mexico	X	
50	Hilary Zhou	Zimbabwe People Land Rights Move- ment	Zim- babwe		
51	Yves Joël Zoffoun	ONG BETHESDA/ DCAM	Benin	X	