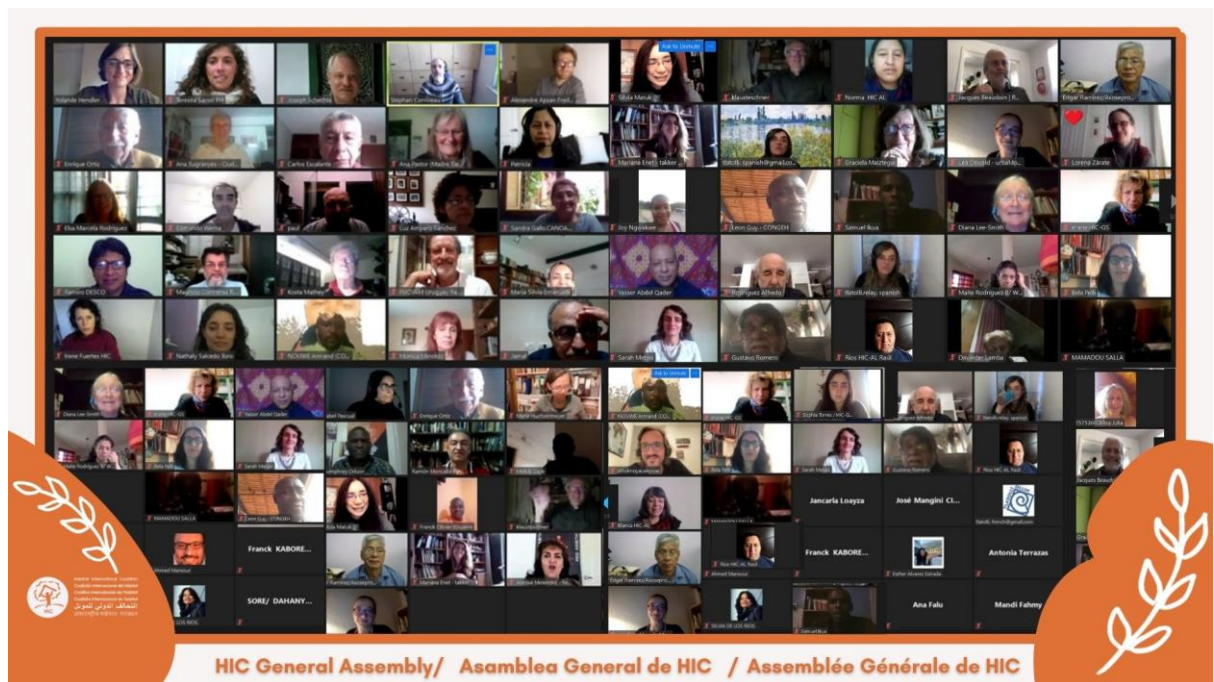




**HIC**  
**Habitat International Coalition**  
**General Assembly (GA) Minutes**  
10 February 2021



98 registered participants (50 women and 48 men) from 67 organizations, 30 countries; 7 Board Members, and the team of 5 HIC structures (The list of participants is available [here](#))

## Overview of Agenda

<b>1. Welcome:</b> 2020 in the life of HIC video.....	3
<b>2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes of GA 2019</b> .....	3
<b>3. Mapping HICs strategic priorities for 2021 – 2024</b> .....	3
<b>4. Membership Participation</b>	
4.1. Habitat Voices campaign and Manifesto .....	4
4.2. Youth working group.....	5
4.3. Communication .....	5
4.4. Membership update.....	5
4.5. <b>Reactions</b> .....	6
<b>5. HIC Regional and Thematic Updates</b>	
5.1. Regional	
• Africa.....	6
• Middle East and North Africa .....	7
• Latin America.....	8
• North America.....	8
• Europe.....	9
5.2. Thematic	
• Gender.....	9
• Housing and Land Rights.....	11
• Right to the city .....	12
• Environment .....	13
5.3. <b>Open Floor</b> .....	14
<b>6. Global</b>	
6.1. Objectives 2021-2024.....	15
6.2. Upcoming Annual Reports: 2019 and 2020.....	15
6.3. Financial Statement.....	16
6.4. HIC President – looking back, looking forward.....	16
<b>7. Open Floor</b> .....	16
<b>8. Closing Photo &amp; Next GA November 2021</b> .....	18

## 0. Pre-welcome

**Speaker: Yolande Hendler (YH)**, General Secretary

- Thanks all for participating, offers a warm welcome, introduces herself as the new General Secretary, shares technical instructions and introduces chair: Stephan Corriveau, HIC Vice President

## 1. Welcome: “2020 in the life of HIC” video

**Chair: Stéphan Corriveau (SC)**, Board Member

- SC welcomes all, expresses his regret for Adriana's absence due to medical leave, chairs the General Assembly as Vice-President
- Shares a message from Adriana:  
*“I am unable to join the Assembly today due to medical difficulties, and am grateful and honored to work for and with our Coalition. The video compiled by the GS team gives us a glimpse into the amazing work of HIC from a challenging year. I am sure this assembly will be a great opportunity for our collective celebration of all that has been achieved and also a forward looking reflection of the challenges ahead of us. I have no doubt in the capacity of HIC as a global community to rise to these challenges. I am very much looking forward to being back on my feet soon and continuing working with all to advance HIC's vision and mission with passion, determination, care and solidarity. My warmest regards to each and all of you. Adriana”*
- All watch a video of HIC, celebrating the Coalition's actions in 2020. Link to video [here](#).

## 2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes of GA 2019

**Chair: Stéphan Corriveau (SC)**, Board Member

- The agenda and minutes have been circulated to all. Any queries, changes on each would need to have been submitted to the General Secretariat in advance.
- SC invites participants to second the agenda. We can pick up any names from the Board to proceed.
- Since, no negative comments about the content of the minutes have been received; they will be approved by the Assembly.

## 3. Mapping HICs strategic priorities for 2021 – 2024

**Moderator: Alexandre Apsan Frediani (AF)**, Board Member

- To think about HIC's strategic priorities we're going to do a collective word cloud exercise on an online tool called Mentimeter (read more about Mentimeter and word clouds [here](#)).
- On the Mentimeter link, two questions will appear. Everyone types answers at the same time and one word cloud per question is created. The word cloud is a collection of everyone's responses presented in one visual space.
- **Question 1 and corresponding word cloud:**



promoter group came with the idea that a post-covid reconstruction respecting human rights is necessary. There are 4 sections, with diagnosis and proposals. HIC President got involved in this text and it was proposed to translate it into other languages so that it could be a manifesto for all HIC. The ES version has an annex on informal settlements. It has [circulated widely with 442 signatures](#) but is still open. Our proposal is to leave it open and we will keep you informed, in order to create a dissemination strategy in parallel. The SG will send it to the Rapporteurs, international representatives and national authorities. We have worked on a form that you are requested to fill out while signing, to indicate which authorities you want this [Manifesto](#) to reach. It is a document that can represent us, please help in the dissemination.

## 4.2 Youth working group

**Speaker: Yolande Hendler (YH)**, General Secretary

- The purpose of this section on Membership Participation is to share more avenues of getting involved in HIC. The proposed “Youth working group” is a new addition related to the 2021 - 2024 global project of the General Secretariat to create a space for voices from younger generations. The Youth working group was proposed at the HIC strategic retreat with Board members and Reference Center coordinators in September 2020. The idea so far is to initially link the formation of the group around the theme of environment. We will communicate more on this.

## 4.3 Communication

**Speaker: Irene Fierres (IF)**, HIC-General Secretariat

- In this challenging year 2020 we spent a lot of efforts on communication to build and amplify the actions of Members and allies, highlighting how social movements are facing and taking action in the current crises. We understand how important it is to go further and improve the impacts of our campaigns and communication, to share actions and build strong alliances. For that reason, we want to include you and ask for your input to a short, live poll on “HIC’s communication”. Results are available [here](#).

## 4.4 Membership update

**Speaker: Marie Bailloux (MB)**, HIC-General Secretariat

- Currently HIC has 342 member organizations in 6 regions and 82 countries. These numbers fluctuate due to political or other situations - some Members leave but every year we receive new Members.
- Today, HIC has 47 Members in good standing via in kind contributions or fees payments and gives the breakdown of right to vote by region.
- Updates on HIC Membership can be seen on our [webpage](#)
  - Click the section titled The Coalition “[HIC Members & Friends](#)”
  - The map here depicts the location of HIC Members
  - Below the map is a list of Members sorted alphabetically and by country. Click on a Member name to see relevant information -



when the Member profile is filled, complete information is displayed. When it is empty, no information is displayed.

- The Membership database
  - Information from Member profiles on the website is saved in the new Membership database, partially operative since December 2020,
  - Upcoming features of the database and the public section of the website will include advanced search functions according to types of organizations, actions and focus areas, etc.
  - The database will be accessible to HIC structures and is a source of valuable information.
- HIC Members, kindly complete your Membership profile on the update form available in [EN](#), [SP](#) or [FR](#). For assistance contact [marie@hic-net.org](mailto:marie@hic-net.org). Presentation can be downloaded [here](#).

**Membership update / Información de la membresía / Information sur les Adhérent-e-s**

Today, HIC is made up of 342 member organisations in 6 regions and 82 countries

**Repartition of HIC Members per Region**

Region	Number of Members
Africa	74
Asia	38
Europe	58
Latin America	117
Middle East/North Africa	26
North America	29

Updates on HIC Membership can be seen on our webpage ([www.hic-net.org](http://www.hic-net.org)) in the section The Coalition clicking on "HIC Members & Friends" (<https://www.hic-net.org/coalition/members/>)

#### 4.5 Reactions

- No reactions

#### 5. HIC Regional and Thematic Updates

**Chair and Moderator: Stéphan Corriveau (SC)**, Board Member

- **SC** shares a slide depicting [HIC Structures](#), comments on the strength of HIC being its form of holistic and organic organization that transcends a siloed approach
- Note: The speaker for Francophone Africa Focal Point has sent apologies and is unable to attend today.

#### 5.1 Regional Updates

##### Anglophone and Lusophone Africa

**Speaker: Davinder Lamba (DL)**, Focal Point Anglophone and Lusophone Africa

- A pleasure to present the report for 2020 from Mazingira Institute, Reference Center of Anglophone Africa and Lusophone region.

- (1) Regional projects: Women, Land and Homes Project: Several activities completed and ongoing, including a research on evictions published by HLRN with normative, technical, national and regional workshops, building capacities and addressing human rights violations. This project is developed with 5 HIC allies from different countries in Africa, supported by HLRN and Mazingira institute and HIC-GS with regional participation. The research was shared and support was given to emerging organizations of young women and girls. Normative and technical workshops have built capacities on pursuing human rights violations. New findings emerging from the research on customary practices, e.g. when women and girls are forced to leave their homes by their families, due to their lack of land and housing rights, accompanied by gender based violence. We hope to raise public awareness through the Commission on status of women in March 2021. Thanks to HLRN for developing the project in collaboration with HIC Members with substantive contributions.
- (2) International representation on behalf of HIC: UN Food System Summit 2021. The Summit Secretariat requested Davinder and Diana Lee Smith (of Mazingira Institute) to represent HIC and speak about food systems, food security and nutrition in September 2021. This is a civil society and solution oriented summit supported by a multi-stakeholder advisory committee. The summit is on international normative instruments that intersect with food systems as a whole. The Secretariat organizing the Summit drew attention to HIC as a representative of the civil constituency who supports the call promoted by civil society (reads the [call](#)). For more information on the summit click [here](#).
- To read the full report of Anglophone Africa click [here](#).

### **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**

**Speaker: Rana Ghanem (RG)**, Board Member

In 2020, Members' activities in MENA focused on

- Supporting people suffering from wars in Sudan, Yemen, Palestine and Western Sahara at the level of UN Human Rights mechanisms in Geneva, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), and events organized by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and at the level of guidelines on land tenure and crisis.
- The impact of the pandemic. MENA Members worked on violations of land and property such as forced evictions in Palestine. The effort focused on dealing with violations by governments and multinational companies or international institutions and in countries under occupation or conflict, including US policies towards the violation of land rights in Western Sahara and Palestine.
- Throughout, the MENA office worked on organizing local rights and linking them to human rights and issues in common with other struggles, including self determination of women to manage and access resources, land governance

and adequate housing, human rights obligations, sufficient food and support to local communities in the management of land and food.

- To read the PowerPoint presentation, click [here](#).

### Latin America

**Speakers: Silvia Emanuelli (SE) and Ana Pastor (APa)**, HIC-AL Reference Centre Coordinator and Board Member

- Activities in Latin America were based on HIC's first strategic objective: supporting popular processes towards transformation.
  - The region worked to make visible Members actions in response to the pandemic. Members formed a common agenda, prepared and shared different audio [capsules](#) that supported the content of the Habitat Voices Manifesto, which focuses on responses to surviving and overcoming the pandemic. Enrique Ortiz has summarized these, with constructive responses to the pandemic including regional debates on managing social production of habitat. More than 50 audio capsules on Habitat Voices were produced through collaboration with different regions.
  - Through different strategies, the region offered support to the victims of forced evictions in urban areas.
- HIC's second strategic objective is to advocate on public policies at different levels.
  - This included promoting new habitat policies and laws and emergency funds in different countries and advocacy for housing policies in order to ensure that governments respect previous agreements.
  - Mexico is in conversation with authorities on changing the Constitution, as has happened in Chile. For HIC Latin America, this included many collective meetings with Members and with working groups.
- HIC-Latin America Projects for 2021 are shown in the [powerpoint](#).

### North America

**Speaker: Jim Morrison, Canadian Housing & Renewal Association**

- USA: there has been a significant change over the past few weeks with the Joe Biden election, even though the new Secretary responsible for the Housing and Urban Development Department was confirmed only a week ago. The new administration in place for one week has accelerated rental relief. There is a new proposal before Congress for \$5 billion in rental voucher programs, new affordable housing construction and pandemic relief measures through checks, greater commitment to diversity and reducing poverty and inequalities. A great change in perspective reflected in the make-up of the new Cabinet, so there is optimism, even cautiously.
- Canada: In 2019 the federal government introduced the first right to housing legislation which was passed. In 2021, we expect that this new mechanism to oversee the right to housing legislation will come into effect, ensuring that the right to housing is implemented and respected in federal law. The federal



government has introduced a number of pandemic relief measures, and in September 2020, introduced a new \$1 billion "Rapid Housing Initiative" intended to quickly build new affordable housing, which we believe will be expanded. We are also confident that the federal government will add to the \$40 billion National Housing Strategy first announced in 2017 by introducing a new strategy specifically for urban, rural and northern indigenous housing in 2021 (80% live in urban/rural settings).

## Europe

**Speaker: Alexandre Apsan Frediani (AF)**, Board Member

AF is based in the UK, and, since 2020, works for the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). IIED is also a HIC member.

- As around the world, 2020 was marked by Covid-19: deepening inequalities: one third of all children live in a state of poverty, the situation is also affecting habitat rights. Homeless shelters are extremely overstretched and unable to deal with safe provision of services, generating further challenges and vulnerabilities. But local governments are carrying out unprecedented activities to protect habitat rights and people on the ground, intervening in markets and putting homeless people into hotels, demonstrating that if there is a political will, many issues can be addressed on the ground. This is opening up possibilities for advocacy in many different ways.
- Members in Europe are working on issues such as the financialization of housing generating vulnerabilities. Activities are pushing Local Governments to intervene in the housing market to make it more affordable and just, calling for the recognition and collective support for community-led housing processes.
- Internationally, Members are engaged in the region, for example the work on community-led housing, led by the Co-habitat network. A report shows the role community-led housing plays in respect to building resilience, especially among the varied experience of many HIC Members. The second experience is the production of the next local government global report, (GOLD VI - [Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization](#)), produced every 3 years by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). The [GOLD VI report](#) focuses on pathways toward urban and territorial equality. It presents an important moment to consolidate a shared equality agenda and captures international consensus on struggles against inequalities.

## 5.2 Thematic Updates

### Gender

**Speaker 1: Maite Rodríguez Blandón (MRB)** on behalf of **Ana Falú**, Board Member

MRB: I represent Women in Latin America, the Caribbean and Central America and am honored to read this document from and on behalf of Ana Falú, who, due to a recent surgery, is not able to do so herself.

*Apologies for not being able to speak today. But believe me the VOICE of Women and Feminisms is having a voice within the HIC Board. I have been through a*

surgery, which is going very well but does not allow me to speak.

This Assembly is a very good moment to celebrate HIC. Our achievements and capacity during this many decades to impulse and work in favor of the communities, to neighborhoods, the people who are in the worst conditions in the world each day are more unequal.

I come from Latin-America, with Arabic and Italian roots of my migrant family and a large worldwide experience and knowledge of HIC. I was the HIC Vice President while Kirtee Shah was HIC President during the first years of this century.

Thanks for the confidence in my work and capacity to assure women's rights and empowerment within our Board. In this very short 2 minutes I would like to:

1. Celebrate that the HIC Board has reincorporated feminisms and gender voices to the International Board.
2. To celebrate to have such two committed women leading our HIC, thanks to Adriana Allen our President and to Yolande Hendler our General Secretary.
3. To celebrate the enhancement and advance of feminisms all around the world. We are strongly working through different grassroots organizations, regional networks, international alliances, in different continents to assure Women's Rights to land, to water, to infrastructure, to services, the right to the cities, the right to live a life without violence, the equal rights and opportunities for women and men. To recognize the diversity, the rich diversity of age, ethnicity, cultures, religions, capacities, etc of the women all contributors to development mostly without the means and the recognitions for their works and contributions. You all know what I mean. The Secretary of HIC Latin America together with NGOs members of HIC, and the Latin American Women and Habitat Network, is launching a publication that hopefully will be replicated in all regions, to share our experiences in the territories, in organization and management. We will launch it for B+25.
4. To make conscious that the majority of women are below poverty, not duly recognized, diluted in the concept of family, subordinated, and the main responsible for dependent people.
5. The pandemic showed 3 decisive dimensions in each territory and population where it was expressed with virulence: women suffer even more violence locked with violent partners, not only them, but Childs and elderly; women are the caregivers in the home, neighborhoods and agglomerates, cities. And women are who guarantee life and food, even in scarcity. Those are at least the three main issues we need to be alert and work for.
6. We are in a world where predation is the dominance, predation of nature, and bodies, particularly those of women and girls. Like never before. In a very increasingly rich and obscene unequal world. The women and shelter network of HIC born in the 80s, since the 90s the women and habitat in LAC, and co-founders of the Huairou Commission, together with other networks. Strengthening links all around the world and hoping to be able to advocate within HIC and from HIC to the world on the right of women's, girls and diversities.

**MRB:** Regarding the Habitat Voices Manifesto mentioned by Silvia, we have also worked on a [Women's Right to the City Manifesto](#). This manifesto has been translated into seven different languages.

**Speaker 2: Diana Lee Smith,** Focal Point Anglophone and Lusophone Africa

- I am speaking from the African region. I was previously in the 1990s, the leader of the HIC Women and Shelter Group. We have submitted a document which will be included in the minutes of this meeting; it is a proposal to establish a Women and Habitat Working Group of HIC. This is to continue the ongoing work done by HIC in the 1990s and to recognize its extensive ongoing work in a number of countries in Africa on Women, Land and Housing Rights with

HLRN, the Housing and Land Rights Network. Thanks to Joe and HLRN for all that support which was described in the African regional report.

- In the 1990s there was a UN Resolution, mentioning, endorsing and inviting governments to work with the HIC Women and Shelter Group. There was also a soft law on Women's Rights to land and housing created by HIC at the Beijing and Habitat two meetings. This should be picked up and brought forward and beginning with the African region on the ongoing work. Thank you. Click [here](#) to see the report.

### Housing and Land Rights

**Speaker: Joseph Schechla**, Coordinator Housing and Land Rights Network (click [here](#) to see the report and presentation)

One of the particular areas of HIC competence is human rights and using human rights as a tool.

- Starts by sharing an important tool for monitoring and research and other purposes like advocacy: the violation database, available at HLRN website. This year it was the basis for the annual Habitat Day report "[A pandemic of violations](#)" to which a lot of HIC Allies and Members contributed. The Violation Database is for everyone, so everyone can enter and extract information from it.
- Our work also on the Human Rights System is very important, where we have been working with Treaty Bodies on specific country reviews:
  - The Committee on Social and Cultural Rights which oversees the Treaty Bodies and the Covenant that enshrines Human Rights and Adequate Housing: HLRN focus was on Israel and Palestine, when they came out in 2020 and on the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, on Israel and on the follow-up to that. This Committee was progressive in recognizing the system of apartheid that is imposed on the Palestinian people.
  - In the Human Rights Council, HLRN works with numerous agenda items related to Human Rights and Habitat and natural resources: e.g. water or human rights under occupation in Palestine and Western Sahara. HLRN is also contributing to the reviews of Lebanon and India within the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as part of the Human Rights Council, resulting in a midterm review in India, to which HLRN India has been a major contributor and organizer.
  - Work with Special Rapporteurs on adequate housing, food, water and culture.
- Additional work has focused on Norm Setting. When HIC began working with the Human Rights System, HIC was responsible for drafting a General Comment on human rights to adequate housing, including a legal definition of forced evictions. Now HIC has the opportunity to work on a General Comment on the Right to Land, based on a codification and recognition of the human right to land while adding a scientific dimension to the legal discussion, i.e. arguing for the universal physical human need related to land.

- Advocacy opportunities 2021 including HIC Members or Allies: (see [presentation](#))
  - UN Food and Agriculture Organization (through the International Partnering Committee on Food sovereignty and the Policy Making Body): some Members represent HIC on the Committee for Food Security, e.g. Andre Luci from Polis representing the Urban Food and Secure Constituency. A new partner is Hala Barakat from Egypt, the Egyptian Initiative on Personal Rights, and of course, our own colleague Heather EL Aydi has been instrumental in working on the Food Security Crises review. Sam Ikua from Mazingira Institute has joined the Youth Council. HLRN launched a report for the Committee on Food Security Meeting in February 2021 on *Food Security and Monitoring the Framework for Action on Policy and Protracted Crises*
  - A current Human Rights focus with Nepali organizations and some HIC-AL members including Peru. Following a Human Rights approach we applied for commitments and Human Rights obligations in the High-Level Political Forum that will focus on the states shown in the presentation. HIC Members have an opportunity to work on that and we are here to help in any way we can.

### Right to the City

**Speaker: Lorena Zárate**, Co-coordinator of Support Team, Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C)

- HIC is one of the international networks that promoted the creation of the GPR2C, and therefore it is not a surprise that many Members and individuals have actively participated in many joint activities, many of whom are present at this Assembly.
- I will focus on some of the initiatives that took place last year and will continue this year that relate to strategic areas of HIC's work such as:
  - Matters promoted through research and training.
  - Collaboration and alliances, including the ones identified during the Mentimeter exercise such as work with social movements or strong alliances with governments locally and internationally.
  - Of course also advocacy and communication at different levels.
- Specific joint initiatives include:
  - Understanding the impact of Covid-19 on neighborhoods by [mapping initiatives of different communities](#) in order to formulate reactions, including at the public policy level. At the same time, we created a [decologue](#), a series of ten conversations about these initiatives focused on improving neighborhoods through the work of different networks. This initiative was started in Latin America but is intended to continue in other regions too. We will be looking to you for this.
- In terms of research, the Gender working group in the Global Platform for the Right to the City, including Ana Falú, Maite and others are [mapping gender](#)

[initiatives, actors and diversity](#). This exercise is important to strengthen the presence of and collaboration with feminist networks.

- The GPR2C is also [contributing to the GOLD report](#) with case studies as part of the civil society contributions, which also include HIC and other global networks.
- We are creating [thematic papers on different subjects](#) such as the impact of Covid-19 and the right to the city, climate change and the right to the city and the city as a common good. Those documents will be useful for discussions, training, campaigns and other actions this year.
- Advocacy work currently being developed:
  - Advocacy with multiple [UN Special Rapporteurs](#) working on adequate housing and other rights related to the City and Habitat. This is a collaboration work that has no precedent, and it's very challenging for us to see how to move it forward.
  - Follow-up on the New Urban Agenda, a process that was very strong a few years ago. We need to see how to advocate on this process together with HIC and its Members.

## Environment

**Speaker: Malick Gaye**, Enda-rup (Presentation available in French [here](#))

- In October 2017 in Nairobi we presented issues about Environment and 20 *plus 1*, a project that has to be completed by 2030. This is very important for HIC because we are using territorial indicators. I have shown that there are criteria that the HIC Members can change to transform the ways that things are working in economical, social and environmental issues. E.g. because of HIC Member contributions we have added an institutional indicator.
- Transformations that are required are elements in order to have strategic planning that will depend from the roots at the territorial level. We have to identify the efforts from social movements so they can participate. Everything has been shown in my presentation and you will see how to have access into the Agora Platform.
- The content of the Agora Platform has many activities for the High-Level Political Forum in New York where we have the engagement of COP 25 and COP 26 in Glasgow. We know that we have a democratic approach at a national level this year, and we have a representative, and previously we have seen the governments and civil society, but civil society in this year will be receiving several conditions in order to have a more popular approach at a national level.
- We have also advocacy campaigns going on for human rights and climate change and governance on that territorial collectivity, and equality on access to services. Members from HIC in Africa will be cooperating fully.
- We have an initiative to carry out research in Africa, in Latin America, in the Caribbean, and it will be finished by March this year.
- In order to facilitate relations with Africa, African networks will organize civil society with Fly that is an inter-continental organization based in Brazil. We will

include the participation from other countries in the world. We are in the very active process that it's been shared in our WhatsApp group.

### Open Floor

**Chair: Stephan Corriveau**, Vice President

**Speaker: Esther Alvarez**, Instituto de Desarrollo Urbano – CENCA

- Many communities have been working on the fight against hunger and advocating at the level of Congress. In Peru we are about to launch a law, so this is recorded as well in meetings with the power and the budget is given. Budget 2020 and budget 2021. We are doing these actions with marches, demonstrations; it is not reflected in the Latin America regional report.
- My proposal is that we **develop a campaign on the fight against hunger** because in Latin America this is happening very strongly. For instance in Lima we have been able to present our proposal to the authorities, with 35.000 signatures of people who are fighting against hunger in their own territories.

**Speaker: Davinder Lamba**, Mazingira Institute and Focal Point Anglophone Africa:  
My comments are on two items in the agenda

- **Membership:** As you notice from the data presented, the Members in good standing are 25% of the total membership. This pattern has been consistent over the years. We say we have up to 400 Members or so. The Members in good standing are always a small percentage. If you look at the data from previous years you will see this is the pattern we have. There are Members in good standing that perhaps have been in good standing over a long period of time, and others who were not. In our Member policy we have to deal with this issue. We have a very flexible system on how we can remain in good standing by making a contribution in kind, but if you are constantly not in good standing are you really a valid Member of the Coalition? When we give this large data of numbers, are we giving the people interested in the Coalition a fairly accurate report or a view of what our effective membership is? So **we need to revisit this as a part of our Membership policy.**
- **Comment on regional Reference Center reports:**  
As far as I understood we are reporting on activities undertaken in collaboration with HIC, or under the umbrella of HIC or any of its structures, but when you don't have any activities under the umbrella of HIC or any of its structure in any region, is there really anything to report as HIC Reference Centers reports or HIC region report? Not really. For the African Members to know, the reason we did not give an overview of what our Members activities in Africa is because we see these reports as reports of those activities that are done in collaboration with HIC. Individual HIC Members, everywhere including in Africa, are doing many things, and there is a very long list of activities that they are doing in their own programmes. Unless **HIC develops a source or database exposing the activities of HIC Members**, it becomes difficult for Reference Centers to have a representative picture of what HIC Members are doing. It is an impossible task. So we only report, and this has also



implications for our annual reports, when we say what we are doing in the regions. And it is also a problem that over the years, when you don't have activities in the regions, what you really report, other than what the Reference Centers would have done on their own.

**Speaker: Jamal Talab**, Land Research Center, Palestine

- I am the Director of the Institution that monitors Israel's violations against Palestine. For years I have been representing land rights. The problem of landless people around the world is a very difficult problem. It's always been complicated and there is no remedy for it, and I don't feel there is any strong struggle created for people to live on it. Countries, or capitals, or multinational companies are controlling land, but it should also be available for the people to live. **Land is not a commodity, the world should understand it.** Land is the place where people should live and be secure.

## 6. Global

### 6.1 Objectives 2021-2024

**Speaker: Yolande Hendler (YH)**, General Secretary

- The upcoming [global project](#) of the General Secretariat has 3 broad focus areas: Coalition building, collective learning and advocacy work: see [slides](#).
  - For Coalition building we will continue our work regionally but will focus specifically on strengthening coordination in Africa and building membership in Asia. Thematically we will continue all existing collaboration but increase focus on Women and Habitat and on Habitat and Sustainable Environment.
  - In collective learning we are excited to invite you to co-learning spaces, where we will be hosting multiple sessions along the 4 thematic focus areas of HIC that you can join and connect with people and exchange ideas on practical advocacy. You heard about the GOLD VI report in which HIC is very involved, you will hear more about that on our communication channels.
  - Advocacy: we will continue to focus our collaboration with UN Special Rapporteurs with whom we already had 2 round tables. We also increase our collaboration with Local and Regional Governments, particularly UCLG. We will be pursuing an increased focus on advocacy related to gender and environment, more details to follow.

### 6.2 Upcoming Annual Reports: 2019 and 2020

**Speaker, Irene Fuytes (IF)**, General Secretariat

- We have just launched the [2019 Annual report](#) which gathers information regarding Members and Allies defending habitat rights at the global, regional and local level. This is a collective work with contributions from the different Structures presenting global activities highlighting HIC's work. We will soon work on the Annual Report 2020 and welcome your contributions.

### 6.3 Financial Statement

**Speaker, Alexandre Apsan Frediani**, Board member and Treasurer

- I have recently been appointed by the Board as the interim Treasurer and have been familiarizing myself with the financial statements.
- Explains that the consolidated Financial Statement brings together inputs from the 4 HIC Reference Centers. AF explains each column, incomes and [expenditures from each Reference Centers](#) operating independently (statement below)). The last consolidated financial statements were presented for the financial years 2014, 2015 and 2016. We have just finalized the 2017 financial statement so will present it in this General Assembly. We will present the 2018 and 2019 consolidated financial statements in the next General Assembly and then vote on the financial statements for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019. Click [here](#) to see the Financial statement.

**HIC Financial Statements 2017: AL, MENA, HLRN and GS <sup>(1)</sup>**

Year 2017	Expressed in US Dollars				Total	
	HIC-AL <sup>(2)</sup>	HIC-MENA	HIC-HLRN	HIC-GS		
<b>Income</b>	<b>168,735</b>	<b>40,683</b>	<b>336,918</b>	<b>250,142</b>	<b>796,478</b>	
Beginning Balance 2017	31,178	-48,418	38,903	102,374	124,037	15.6%
Donor Agencies <sup>(3 a, b, c, d)</sup>	137,557	76,566	289,527	144,407	648,057	81.4%
HIC Membership fees	--	--	--	2,141	2,141	0.3%
Solidarity, special contributions	0	12,535	8,488	1,220	22,243	2.8%
						100.0%
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>160,785</b>	<b>194,187</b>	<b>245,809</b>	<b>202,252</b>	<b>803,033</b>	
Staff Costs <sup>(4)</sup>	92,959	108,319	150,489	90,941	442,708	55.1%
Projects, activities <sup>(5)</sup>	53,020	71,827	56,746	105,415	287,008	35.7%
Administration Costs <sup>(6)</sup>	12,043	11,321	34,022	3,166	60,552	7.5%
Audit <sup>(7)</sup>	2,763	2,721	4,552	2,730	12,766	1.6%
						100.0%
<b>Restricted cash on hand <sup>(8)</sup></b>	<b>7,950</b>	<b>-153,504</b>	<b>91,109</b>	<b>47,890</b>	<b>-6,555</b>	

### 6.4 HIC President – looking back, looking forward

Due to the absence of the HIC President who was on medical leave, this section was skipped.

### 7. Open Floor

**Chair: Stephan Corriveau**, Vice President

**SC** reminds that all documents and presentations shown will be made available through the website or other means.

**Speaker: Paul Escalante**, CENCA, Peru

- Thanks HIC for the opportunity to be in the GA. We want to inform that in Peru we are working in a collective way in an association called the Advocacy and Urban Action Collective Group (Centro de Estudios Urbanos y Regionales-CEUR), with different organizations such as CENCA, DESCO,

CIDAP, Servicios Educativos El Agustino (SEA) and the Pastoral Social of the Catholic church, as well as with popular organizations. We are working under three main actions:

- 1) Fight against hunger with “community pots/kitchen” (“ollas comunes”). In this sense, from **CEUR and CENCA we would like to be more actively engaged in the activities that HIC is performing in this field**, instructing national governments with communiqués and proposals, as well as in the UN System so each country can provide budgets for these “community pots” to work
  - 2) In Peru we have presented a law that has been approved but that still does not have a budget, **we would like to request support to get resources for this law**
  - 3) We are carrying out mobilization actions in “popular neighborhoods” with limited economic resources, placing white flags in front of households so public opinion becomes aware of the dire situation people are living right now
- We are certain that CIAUR along with HIC will be able to carry out a collective action in the direction of promoting **a strong campaign against hunger. We are committed to supporting HIC in this and could help in drafting a proposal** for a more accurate way in the next few days and weeks.

**Speaker: Ramón Fratti**, FUCVAM, Uruguay

- Our contribution is linked to the points mentioned in previous presentations that the Right to the City is connected to the Right to Land. We should all have a piece of land to live on, as Joseph and the organization from Palestine mentioned. **We are proposing a debate on land tenure and the social function of land**, on the Latin American level, but that can also be extended to the global level. Last year, for our 50th anniversary we carried out a campaign titled “Housing is a right, not a commodity”, based on the need to defend the fundamental right to housing against speculation.
- This is also linked to the fight of community organizations for the right to the city and for the right to inhabit the downtown area of our cities. In this sense, we have had important achievements in Montevideo, being able to develop cooperative housing in the central area of the city. I hope you consider the importance of this debate and of the fight for land tenure and land as social good and not a commodity.

**Speaker: Armand Nouwe**, CODAS Caritas, Cameroon

- Thank you and happy new year to the family of HIC. I work in CODAS-Caritas and want to take advantage of this opportunity to **invite you to denounce the conditions that we are now undergoing in Cameroon**. The regional authority of our department [has evicted 100 families without indemnity](#) for reasons that are not clear, linked to the development of an airport. Now we are under a catastrophe in the north western region of the country, with families being evicted around the Douala municipality. The answer that we

have had from the prefect is that forced evictions will continue. Right now the Under Secretary of UN-Habitat is carrying out a visit to Cameroon. We hope that this will be an opportunity to denounce this situation and call for assistance. We continue to work with ASSOAL to support the population in Cameroon.

**Speaker, Ahmed Mansour, HIC MENA**

- As HIC we are concerned with the social production of habitat and the social function of land in rural areas. I would like for **the coalition to give more attention to dealing with development issues in rural areas**, particularly in terms of rural and urban linkages under the COVID crisis, specifically related to the provision of food.

**Speaker: Teresita Sacón, Proyecto Habitar, Argentina**

- There is a concern that is shared on the right to land and right to housing that has to be placed in the center of our agenda. In Argentina now there is a law and a governmental institution that is devoted to this particular theme. However, we all know that a law is not enough to stop evictions and protect the access to housing. So I believe that as HIC we need to continue and go deeper in the support to local organizations that are fighting for the right to land and housing. In Argentina, there are many protections given to landlords, and tenants are struggling with paying rent and keeping their leases. The document drafted by HIC in the Latin American region was very good. **Maybe we could think of how to extend the dissemination strategy** and make this document more accessible with images and other content, so it can reach more people.

**8. Closing Photo & Next GA November 2021**

**SC:** Thank you all for your participation and patience

**YH:** Asks everyone to turn their cameras on for a collective picture.

