



Habitat International Coalition
Coalición Internacional del Hábitat
Coalition Internationale de l'Habitat
Coalíção Internacional do Habitat
التحالف الدولي للموئل
अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्यावास गठबंधन

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HIC Africa Strategic Plan

2023-2027



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- Ms Eliane Sylvie Mfomou (CONGEH, Cameroon)
- Mr Hilary Zhou (Zimbabwe People's Land Rights Movement)
- Mr Humphrey Otieno (KSM, Kenya)
- Mr Hemsing Hurrinag (DION, Mauritius)
- Mr Samuel Ikua (Mazingira Institute, Kenya)

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Desmond Chieshe

HIC Africa Regional Coordinator, November 2022

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Disclaimer

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Acronyms

AU	Africa Union
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CFS	Committee on World Food Security of the United Nations
EAC	East African Community
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	Framework for Action for Food Security in Protracted Crises
GLTN	Global Land Tool Network
GPR2C	Global Platform for the Right to the City
HIC GS	HIC General Secretariat
HIC	Habitat International Coalition
HIC-HLRN	Habitat International Coalition – Housing and Land Rights Network
HIC-WHAWG	Habitat International Coalition – Women and Habitat Africa Working Group.
UN HRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
NUA	New Urban Agenda
R2C	Right to the City
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPH	Social production of habitat
UN SR	United Nations Special Rapporteur
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

1. Introduction

1.1. About HIC

Habitat International Coalition (HIC) is the global, independent and non-profit Member organization for the defense, promotion, full and progressive realization of human rights related to habitat, in particular, the human right to adequate housing.

Vision and Mission

HIC envisions a world in which everybody has a safe place to live in peace and with dignity, in both urban and rural areas.

Through solidarity, networking and capacity development of social movements and organizations, and influencing public policies within the international agenda, HIC works to develop and advocate transformative practices, norms and standards as a means to achieve social justice and improve living conditions across four main areas of HIC Member competence (referred to as “strategic priorities” in this report). These include human rights related to habitat, in particular, adequate housing and land, social production of habitat¹, gender equality and equity; and sustainable environment. HIC operates locally through Members and within regional and UN bodies as a nongovernmental organization in consultative status with UN-ECOSOC (since 1993).

History and Governance

HIC emerged from a civil society initiative at the First UN Conference on Housing and Human Settlements, in 1976, dedicated to implementing and further developing the UN’s Habitat Agenda. Today, it is a global community of over 350 civil society organizations, social movements, community-based groups, professional associations, voluntary agencies, and research, scientific and educational institutions working in more than 80 countries.

Members hold the highest decision-making authority in HIC and determine the Coalition’s political focus within the four strategic pillars (see section 2 for more). Members are represented regionally and thematically on the HIC Board in an honorary capacity with a strategic and political mandate.

HIC staff structures with a global focus include the General Secretariat (GS), currently based in South Africa and the Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) based in Egypt. Regional staff structures include the HIC Africa Regional Coordinator based in Nigeria, HIC Latin America office based in Mexico and HIC Middle East

¹ HIC defines the social production and management of habitat as: “All those processes that generate habitable spaces, urban components and homes that are carried out under the control of self-producers and other social agents that operate as not-for-profit. The processes of production and social management of the habitat occur both in rural and urban areas, and can originate in the families themselves acting individually in organized informal groups, in social enterprises such as cooperatives, or in NGOs, among others. The self-managed variants range from the spontaneous individual self-production of housing to the collective one that implies a high organizational level of the participants and, in many cases, complex processes of production and management of other components of the habitat. These processes allow the realization of the right to housing by those who cannot access either the market or credit or subsidies.” —Enrique Ortiz Flores, *Social Production of Housing and Habitat*, 2012, p. 73.

North Africa (MENA) office based in Egypt. Regions that do not have a dedicated office at present are supported by the GS.

1.2 HIC in Africa

HIC has 76 Member organizations located in the following countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The local work of HIC Members in these countries relates at least to one of HIC's four strategic priorities. By coming together regionally, HIC members contribute their local experience and insights while building solidarity, and advocating regionally to address common and systemic issues that manifest locally. As HIC members work within their country and on shared activities in the Africa region, and global spaces they contribute to implementing the vision of Habitat International Coalition.

1.3 Background to the strategic plan

HIC Members in Africa identified the need for a common regional strategic plan to better coordinate priorities, mobilize resources and implement joint action to fight for the recognition, defense and full implementation of human rights related to habitat

Over the years several drafts were created and ideas shared sub-regionally. However the region had not yet developed a joint strategic plan that would effectively unite and align Members' priorities and actions.

The process to develop a regional strategic plan gained momentum with the appointment of the HIC Africa Regional Coordinator in May 2022, and funding support through the HIC General Secretariat committed to this purpose. Africa Members decided that an in-person workshop would be most effective and in a regional online meeting in July 2022 eight HIC Africa members volunteered to be part of a working group that would develop the strategic plan.

The volunteers represented a balance between the three sub-regions (Southern, East and West Africa), gender and language (English and French). Due to circumstances beyond their control, two volunteers (Ms Pauline Yao from Femmes Côte d'Ivoire Expérience, and Dorothy Baziwe from SSA, Uganda) could not attend the in-person meeting. The remaining six members included:

- Mr Franck Olivier Kouame (Humanitas Solidaris, Cameroon)
- Ms Eliane Sylvie Mfomou (CONGEH, Cameroon)
- Mr Hilary Zhou (Zimbabwe People's Land Rights Movement)
- Mr Humphrey Otieno (KSM, Kenya)
- Mr Hemsing Hurrinag (DION, Mauritius)
- Mr Samuel Ikua (Mazingira Institute, Kenya)

In addition, Mr Moussa Ka, HIC Africa Board Representative (Baraka, Senegal) joined the group and Dr Ifeyinwa Ofong (WIDE, Nigeria) volunteered to facilitate the process and in-person workshop.

The HIC Member representatives in the working group organized sub-regional meetings with Members (Southern, East and West Africa) to create an opportunity for Members to define sub-regional priorities that would be carried forward by each working group member.

The in-person workshop took place in November 2022, and in addition to the working group, facilitator and Board representative, included the HIC President Prof Adriana Allen, Secretary General Ms Yolande Hendler, HIC Africa Regional Coordinator, Mr Desmond Chieshe, HIC GS Learning Officer Ms Diana Wachira, HLRN Coordinator, Mr Joseph Schechla, and HIC Wisdom Keeper, Mr Davinder Lamba.



During the in-person workshop the group collectively identified the vision and core values of the region, and split into three groups along each strategic priority of HIC working on local, national, regional and global priorities and lines of action.

1.4 HIC Africa Vision:

HIC Africa members envision a Coalition and region where **Justice, Prosperity, Unity, Systemic change, Participatory Leadership** and **Clarity** are the hallmark of engagement and operations.

1.5 HIC Africa Core Values:

While aligning with the global values of HIC, the core values of the membership in the African region include **Dignity, Equity, Unity in diversity, Inclusion, Respect, Justice, Confidentiality and Solidarity.**

1.6 HIC Africa Members

HIC Africa member organizations are fully aware of the current situation and challenges in the region as well as the efforts of the African Union and Member States to tackle these challenges facing the region.

As members of civil society and social movements, HIC Africa members amplify the voices of those left behind as well as those farthest to reach in the region. We possess proximity to communities and knowledge of local and regional situations.

The strength of HIC Africa lies in a vast network of Member organizations and our willingness to work together, alliances with important civil society organizations and movements, and long standing experience and engagement with work related to women and habitat in Africa. Members bring to the table, our expertise, local knowledge, and passion to uplift the people of Africa from poverty, hunger, inequality, and marginalization.

As analyzed by HIC Africa Members, weaknesses include a lack of adequate resources to tackle the challenges facing our various communities, learning from strategies of HIC members in other regions, exclusion from decision and policy formulation in governmental spaces, language barriers within the region and making defining linkages with existing opportunities. Possible threats include the shrinking of civil space and inter-regional and intergenerational conflicts.

While reflecting on these strengths, weaknesses and possible threats, HIC Africa Members have identified and are already engaging in available opportunities that contribute to joint regional and cross-regional strategizing, learning and action.

These include

- the action of grassroots organisations working on women and habitat issues,
- the formation of the [HIC Women and Habitat Africa Working Group](#),
- HIC Africa Members participation and facilitation of cross-regional “[co-learning spaces](#)” in HIC on land rights, feminist approaches to habitat, climate justice, social production of habitat and advocacy,
- Raising resources to enable regional intervention in transformative practices, influencing policies and addressing traditional barriers



2. Habitat International Coalition Strategic Priorities



Housing & Land
Rights



Social Production of
Habitat



Habitat
and Gender



Habitat and
Sustainable
environment

2.1 Housing and Land Rights

HIC and its Members work to ensure that the rights to housing and land are respected, protected and fulfilled. This includes

- fighting against violations of human rights related to housing and land at local, regional and national levels including the criminalisation of human rights defenders
- developing and advocating transformative practices, norms and standards including legislation that promotes upgrading and regularization of popular settlements
- monitoring policies and their implementation in various spheres.

HIC also promotes and implements the social production of habitat to enable the realization of the right to housing by those who cannot access the market, credit or subsidies.

2.2 Social Production of Habitat

The Social Production of Habitat (SPH) generates habitable spaces, urban components, and homes that are carried out under the control of self-producers and other social agents that operate as not-for-profit. HIC supports SPH processes that enable the realization of the right to housing and the right to the city by those who cannot access the market, credit or subsidies.

Social Production of Habitat includes

- communing through self-production, management and mutual assistance of habitat processes (e.g. housing cooperatives, grassroots organizations, and community land trusts)
- building alternatives that reclaim the social function of housing and land, counter-acting financialization

- promoting the right to the city
- fighting for the institutional recognition of inhabitants living in vulnerable and precarious situations (including indigenous people and of migrants), for the upgrading and regularization of popular settlements, for redistribution of resources (the right to food sovereignty) and parity of political participation

2.3 Habitat and Gender

HIC places gender as a fundamental issue that cuts across all aspects of habitat-related rights. HIC is committed to strengthening women's leadership at all levels to influence public policies, to challenge inherited cultural concepts and prejudices and link this issue with the rights to housing, land and the city. HIC strives to eliminate all forms of legal discrimination against women and to implement national legislation and international conventions that guarantee women their habitat related rights, including inheritance rights.

2.4 Habitat and Sustainable Environment

Environmental justice is essential to the survival and advancement of our human civilisation on a planet with finite resources and a fragile environment. For HIC environmental justice is a fundamental issue that cuts across all habitat related rights. HIC seeks to

- raise awareness of the importance of the environment in human habitat
- exchange knowledge, and collect and disseminate research on the impact of climate change faced by the most vulnerable populations
- advocate and defend the rights of all people affected by disasters to emergency relief and temporary resettlement, the right to remain in their place, and the right to their genuine and effective participation in reconstruction processes.

3. Key Issues and Challenges in Africa from the lens of HIC Africa Members



3.1. Housing and Land Rights

Displacement and dispossession

- Forced evictions
- Climate induced displacement and dispossession
- Weak or non-existent measures to prevent, defend or mitigate the displacement and dispossession (e.g. reparations)

Recognition and regularization

- Lack of recognition of people living in informal settlements
- Inadequate data collection to inform strategies

Territorial conflicts

- between farmers and pastoralists
- Slum lords

Inadequate capacity to address challenges in terms of

- humanitarian needs
- human resources
- programs
- knowledge
- finance



3.2 Social Production of Habitat

Lack of participation and representation

- Social Movements and Civil Society Organizations are excluded from playing development roles
- Groups are discriminated based on gender, ethnicity, faith
- Customary / traditional practices can contribute to exclusion and discrimination, e.g. preventing women from gaining access to land and other resources

Financialisation and privatization

- Judiciary biased on class basis, in favor of big landowners

- Foreign occupation
- Extractivism

Inadequate data that documents

- losses
- damages
- costs

Political leadership and corruption

- Politicians' false promises to gain votes
- Community leadership, political, local authority/government financial corruption.
- Slow transition from charity work to development
- UN failure to provide services/aid to displaced persons and refugees, specifically food aid



3.3 Habitat and Gender

Women's lack of access, use, ownership and control of land and habitat related resources

- Denied inheritance and land rights.
- Lack of financial capacity to buy land
- Restrictive traditional, cultural, and religious norms that inhibit women's ownership of land

Women's unequal access to productive employment

- Women's unpaid role as primary caregivers/female headed households, they do not have enough time left for income generation.
- Unequal access to productive employment, long life learning and decent work.

Exclusion of women in decision making spaces

- Unequal representation and participation of women in leadership and decision-making spaces.
- Rigid/colonial formal statutes, policies, and laws.
- Gap between policy and practice/implementation: Lack of strong enforcement of national and international policies related to gender equality in land and habitat rights, representation and participation in leadership and decision-making processes.

Inadequate capacity

- Lack of knowledge about policies, laws, global gender-equal/equitable obligations and commitments
- Lack of documentation/evidence to support claims to rights denial.
- Mapping and documentation of progressive national, regional, and international legal obligations and policy commitments.



3.4. Habitat and Sustainable Environment

Intersectional impact of climate change

- on housing and human settlements in urban and rural areas, and vice versa.
- on agriculture² and food security, and vice versa
- on migration and displacement³
- on human health, water, and sanitation
- on environmental hazards: flooding, cyclones, droughts etc.

Extractivism and Land Grabbing

- Extractivism and land grabbing, and their impact on Climate, as well as mining of resources that are harmful to the atmosphere, leading the GHG emissions
- Use of fuels such as kerosene that affects human health through inhalation of toxic fumes

Unequal distribution of resources, loss and damage

- Lack of transparency in financial resource distribution for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Funding is channelled to the private sector.
- Unequally incurred debts by states in response to climate change
- Lack of human rights adherence

Awareness

- Lack of awareness on Climate Change at the community level.

² Agriculture contributing to Climate Change through around 30% GHG emissions

³ People moving from rural and urban areas due to impacts of Climate Change

4. Habitat International Coalition - African Commitments

HIC Africa is fully committed to the full range of policies, instruments and protocols as provided by the African Union and its Member States, as well as the United Nations, its agencies, and Commissions. Below is an overview of African and International Protocols and Conventions with details on these in the annex of this report. HIC's work in this regard is organised along the four strategic priorities of HIC (as outlined in section 3).

4.1 African Protocols and Conventions

The Africa Agenda 2063

- a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
- an integrated continent, politically united based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance
- an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law
- a peaceful and secure Africa
- an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values, and ethics
- an Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children
- Africa as a strong, united, resilient, and influential global player and partner

The Maputo Protocol on Women's Human Rights in Africa

4.2 International Protocols and Conventions

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on Women's Rights
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Targets, and Indicators
- The New Urban Agenda (NUA)

5. Objectives of the Strategic Plan

As civil society organizations and social movements, HIC Africa members represent the voices of marginalised persons in our diverse communities and countries. This strategic plan will further strengthen and empower HIC Africa to occupy a space in regional and global decision-making, and to demand justice for our people and accountability from our leaders.

“An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children.”

5.1 Overall objectives

HIC Africa Members use the strategic plan as a tool and roadmap to to fulfill their collective mandate through

- Improve prioritization and coordination of commitments and activities
- Improve monitoring and assessment of progress and challenges

5.2 Specific objectives

- **Define clear and collective goals** as HIC Africa and achieve these through an effective strategic plan.
- Link the plan to **HIC's global mission and vision**
- **Inspire HIC Africa members** to see the link between their own organisation's aspirations and HIC Africa's vision and mission and collectively enact both in the African context
- **Strengthen the capacity of HIC Africa members** to influence and implement public policies related to housing and habitat at local, national, and global levels, based on human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability.
- **Improve HIC Africa's relationship with development partners** and generate the necessary resources for the implementation of our programs and engaging in national, regional, and global advocacy and dialogues, with the African Union, the United Nations and its agencies.

6. Priorities of Strategic Plan and Actions to Achieve HIC Africa Vision

This strategic plan is based on a human rights approach along the four strategic priorities of Habitat International Coalition. It was informed by HIC Member organisations' analysis of key issues and challenges in the region of Africa and takes into full consideration the vision of Africa as expressed by the members of HIC Africa and their constituencies.

The strategic plan recognises and aligns itself with national and international policies, protocols, conventions, treaties, and provisions including those of *Africa Agenda 2063 - The Africa we want* and the *United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development*.

The strategic plan fully accepts all other relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations Commissions, such as the UN Commission for Social Development, UN Commission on the Status of Women, High Level Political Forum, General Assembly and other UN agencies and International Human Rights Commissions and organizations, especially and in particular, those resolutions to which Africa Member States were part of, have adopted and are signatory to.

6.1.Housing and Land Rights

Component	Outputs
<p>6.1.1 Denounce all violation of rights related to habitat and their structural causes derived from the neoliberal capitalist system</p>	<p>a) Capacity building workshops to strengthen the capacity of HIC Africa members for research, data collection and advocacy on housing and land rights issues.</p> <p>b) Data gathering and analysis on Housing and Land Rights violations within countries.</p> <p>c) Evidence-led engagement with policy makers, legislature and duty bearers to prevent forced evictions and encourage staying in place acceptable for all, with local autonomy.</p> <p>d) Community sensitization and advocacy on issues and activities that threaten the use and ownership of land and habitat related rights.</p> <p>e) Media round tables and presenting reports on Housing and Land Rights violations within countries and at global platforms.</p>
<p>6.1.2 Strengthen sub-regional collaboration between members in advancing housing and land rights</p>	<p>a) Peer-Peer Learning and Exchange visits to share experiences and knowledge transfer on land and habitat issues</p> <p>b) Produced information leads to taking action against territorial expulsions and land grabbing</p> <p>c) Analysis of voluntary national policy reports for advocacy at the United Nations High Level Political Forum</p> <p>d) Participation in the Human Rights Commission's Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights</p>
<p>6.1.3 Encourage international institutions, states, and private sector to adopt and implement legislation that promotes upgrading and regularization of popular settlements, prevents and halts violations and criminalization of human rights defenders.</p>	<p>a) Media round tables and intergenerational dialogues create public awareness on the need to adopt and implement legislation that promotes upgrading and regularization of popular settlements, prevents and halt violations and criminalization of human right defenders</p> <p>b) Donor institutions are engaged as target stakeholders to commit to protecting the right to land and other habitat related rights.</p> <p>c) International organizations and the private sector are engaged to adopt and promote legislations on upgrading and regularization of popular settlements, work to prevent and halt violations and criminalization of human right defenders.</p>

	<p>d) Sensitization and awareness raising meetings with communities and gate keepers lead to demand for the implementation of legislation that promotes upgrading and regularization of popular settlements, preventing and halting violations and criminalization of human rights defenders.</p>
	<p>e) Networking and solidarity campaigns with other civil society organizations and movements in common struggles against the negative effects of globalization and capitalist system</p>
	<p>f) Incidents of violations and criminalization of human rights defenders are documented and reported to the United Nations Human Rights Commission and followed up with the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights.</p>

“We commit ourselves to promoting national, subnational and local housing policies that support the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing for all as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, that address all forms of discrimination and violence and prevent arbitrary forced evictions, and that focus on the needs of the homeless, persons in vulnerable situations...”
(New Urban Agenda)

Housing and Land rights outcomes

**Forced eviction is stopped
and people can stay in
places acceptable for all,
with local autonomy**

Collaboration
between
stakeholders
strengthened and
deeper public
awareness on land
and habitat issues
created

Adoption and
implementation
of legislations on
upgrading and
regularization of
popular
settlements
achieved

Members
capacity to
carry out for
advocacy,
research and
data collection
enhanced

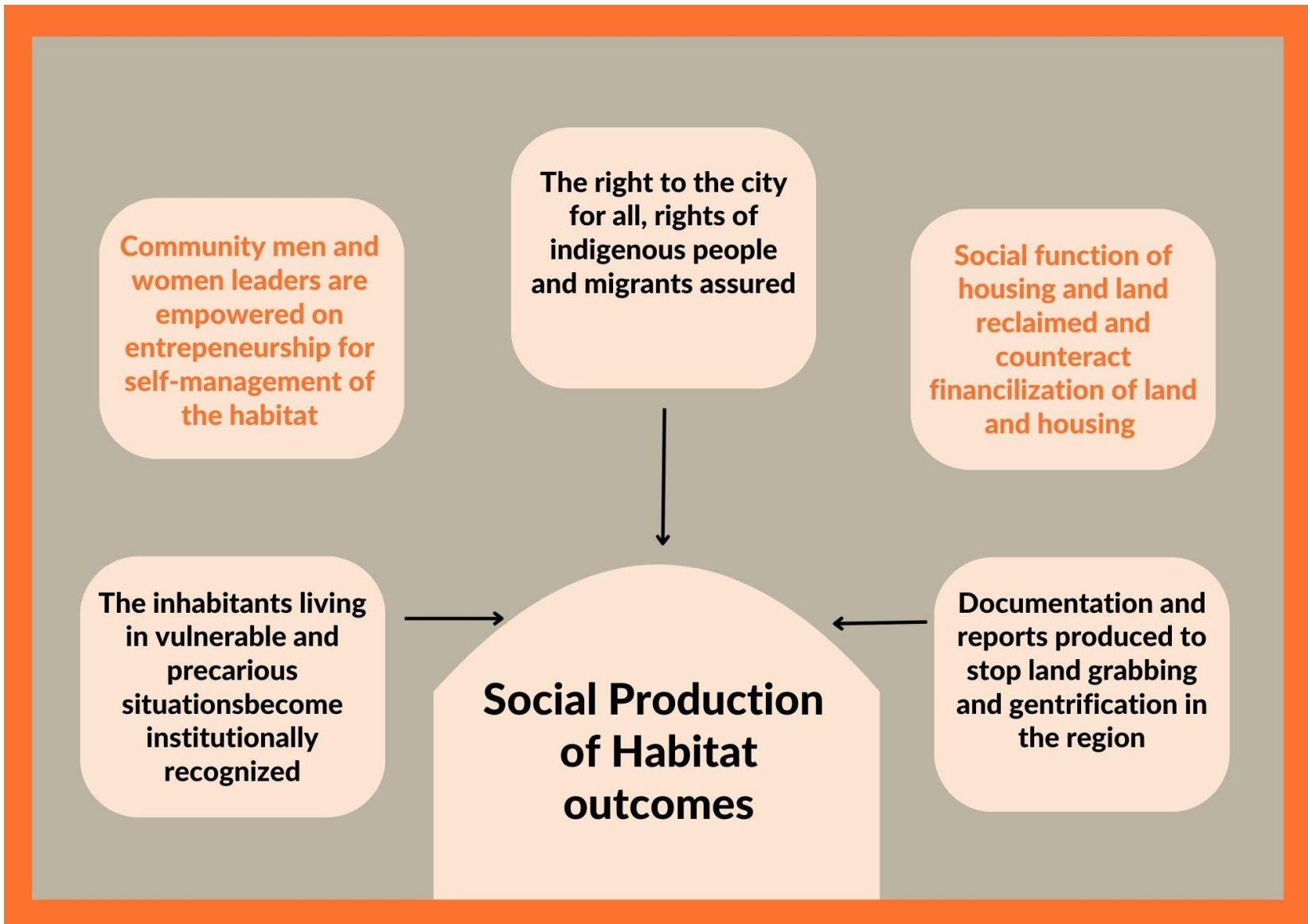
The violations
and
criminalization
of human
rights
defenders is
stopped

6.2 Social Production of Habitat

Component	Outputs
<p>6.2.1 Support commoning through self-management processes of habitat, such as housing cooperatives, grassroots organizations, and community land trusts.</p>	<p>a) Sensitization and awareness raising on self-management of habitat through development of information and materials</p> <p>b) Workshops for communities on modalities and operations of housing cooperatives, grassroots organizations, and community land trusts</p> <p>c) Training and capacity building for community leaders on income generation through entrepreneurship, for self-management process of habitat.</p> <p>d) Dialogue between HIC Africa members and duty bearers, media and policy makers on modalities and build support for self-management of habitat.</p>
<p>6.2.2 Promote self-production and mutual assistance to build alternatives that reclaim the social function of housing and land and counteract financialization of land and housing</p>	<p>a) Campaign materials for communication, sensitization and engagement on self-production and mutual assistance to build alternatives</p> <p>b) Workshops with community, women leaders, and gatekeepers by HIC Africa Members on the process of self-production and mutual assistance</p> <p>c) Engagement with the following stakeholders to promote and support communities in the process of self-production and mutual assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● duty bearers ● private sector <p>d) Media round tables and dialogues to create further awareness and support for communities on self-production and mutual assistance</p>
<p>6.2.3 Fight for the institutional recognition of inhabitants living in vulnerable and precarious situations, and against their criminalization due to their precarious living situations.</p>	<p>a) Advocacy and campaign materials for communication, sensitization, training, and overall engagement informed by relevant national and international treaties and conventions on human rights.</p> <p>b) Sensitisation initiatives with community leaders and local stakeholders on the provisions of the treaties and conventions regarding inhabitants living in vulnerable and precarious situations, and to join in the demand for recognition and stop criminalizing them.</p> <p>c) Dialogue with duty bearers, policy makers, extra-judicial staff for the institutional recognition of inhabitants living in vulnerable and precarious situations to implement respective treaties and conventions signed by African governments</p> <p>d) Engage the media and celebrities to support and demand for the institutional recognition of inhabitants living in vulnerable and precarious situations</p>

<p>6.2.4</p> <p>Act against territorial expulsions, land grabbing and gentrification.</p>	<p>a) Factual report of the existing situations of concerned communities and territories in Africa in terms of territorial expulsion, land grabbing and gentrification</p> <p>b) Dialogue with relevant duty bearers and extra judicial staff on the report and provisions of international human rights conventions and treaties on the issues so identified.</p> <p>c) Sensitisation meetings with community leaders and private sector regarding land grabbing and gentrification, based on the report and provisions of international treaties</p> <p>d) Media round tables to create awareness on the issues of land grabbing and gentrification, as well as the provisions of relevant international treaties and conventions.</p>
<p>6.2.5</p> <p>Develop the social production of habitat as an alternative to neoliberal policies such as the commodification of territory, land, and housing.</p>	<p>a) Increased understanding how social production of habitat is expressed in the Africa region through joining cross-regional learning spaces / opportunities in HIC</p> <p>b) Develop advocacy and campaign report / materials for the social production of habitat as an alternative to neoliberal policies (by collating neoliberal policies situation in respective countries, review commitments made by African states in respect to the right to housing, including international policies, conventions and treaties on land, housing, and commodification of territory)</p> <p>c) Use advocacy materials to sensitize, raise awareness and engage the following stakeholders on the impact of neoliberal policies and human rights, and to support the development of the social production of habitat as an alternative to neoliberal policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● community and women leaders ● local civil society and social movements ● duty bearers ● private sector ● media organisations <p>d) HIC Africa members participate and share report in the regional and global advocacy spaces on the right to land and housing.</p>
<p>6.2.6</p> <p>Promote the right to the city, the rights of indigenous people and of migrants, and the right to food sovereignty.</p>	<p>a) HIC Africa members organize at the country level around the right to the city through knowledge and experience sharing facilitated by the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C), reviewing international policies and conventions on human rights related to the city and developing information and campaign materials.</p> <p>b) Sensitization and capacity building for a cross-section of inhabitants of cities and neighbourhoods on the right to the city, the constitution of the right to city, and the participation in processes that make or build the city.</p>

	<p>c) Media round tables and inter-generational dialogues on implementation of the treaties, commitments and obligations made by Member States within regional and international frameworks and bodies on the right to the city, the rights of indigenous people, migrants, and the right to food sovereignty.</p>
	<p>d) Women and Habitat Africa Working Group and other HIC members engage with stakeholders and city managers on the need to design safe cities for women from a gender perspective, that takes into consideration their needs, priorities, and well-being.</p>
	<p>e) Engagement in advocacy with duty bearers to implement and enforce treaties, commitments and obligations made by Member States within regional and international frameworks and bodies on the rights of indigenous people and migrants and the right to food sovereignty.</p>
	<p>f) HIC members document and report the situation in the countries, regarding the implementation of the right to the city, the rights of indigenous people and of migrants, and the right to food sovereignty, at the regional and global conferences on the right to the city,</p>



6.3 Habitat and Gender Equality

“CSW 66 session agreed conclusions, acknowledged that women’s and girls’ capacities to take action and build resilience depend on closing the gender gaps and removing existing structural barriers, negative social norms and gender stereotypes, and strengthening women’s access to education, knowledge, universal social protection, finance, technology, mobility and ownership of and control over land, and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance”

Component	Outputs
6.3.1 Women have inheritance rights and equal access, use, control and ownership of land, shelter, and related resources	a) In-person regional capacity building workshop on strategies to mainstream gender equality in member’s local country activities and programs by Women and Habitat Africa Working Group (WHAWG)
	b) Production of information materials on gender equality and mainstreaming for local capacity building, advocacy, and sensitization purposes, including simplified versions of relevant African Union and United Nations Conventions, protocols, and policies.
	c) Action research (including data collection) on traditional and cultural barriers to women's rights to land, housing, and inheritance designed by WHAWG
	d) Evidence-based campaign and materials on traditional and cultural barriers that discriminate against women's rights to land, housing, and inheritance designed by WHAWG based on aggregated local action research findings
	e) Engagement with sub regional institutions (SADC, EAC, ECOWAS) through advocacy, petitions, campaigns, lobbying, demonstration, motions, coordinated by WHAWG
	f) Sensitization and awareness raising meetings on gender equality and mainstreaming with traditional leaders, religious leaders, community leaders, and women, men, and youth leaders in the local communities held by WHAWG members
	g) Local media dialogues (radio, TV, social media) on traditional and cultural barriers to women's rights to land, housing, and inheritance facilitated by HIC Africa members
	h) HIC Africa members implement evidence-based campaign developed by WHAWG in their local context , including advocacy and lobbying with policy makers in local and national, administrative, and policy institutions on eliminating traditional and cultural practices that discriminate against women’s rights to land, housing, and inheritance.

	<p>i) HIC Members collaborate with existing local initiatives, civil society organizations and partners on livelihoods skills development for women and youth empowerment, including advocacy and lobbying government for empowerment programs and income generating activities.</p>
	<p>j) Sub Regional exchange learning and peer to peer exchanges on gender and habitat for HIC Africa members.</p>
	<p>k) HIC Africa members participate and advocate on women, land, and habitat issues, at the United Nations Commission for Social Development, UN Commission on the Status of Women, the High-Level Political Forums, and engage in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of Africa Members states, as well as other related UN and world summits related to women, land, and habitat.</p>
<p>6.3.2 Accelerate the little progress the continent has made on gender equality during the 25 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action and ensure that women have equal representation and participation in leadership and all decision-making spaces, as well as tackle factors aggravating gender-based violence in the region.</p>	<p>a) In-person workshop on strategies to ensure that women and girls’ rights in representation and participation in governance are at the center and heart of country and regional initiatives for a gender-equal region.</p>
	<p>b) Research and document the proportion of women occupying leadership positions in the executive arm, legislative and judicial arms of government, top management positions in the key private sector organizations and what the limitations, challenges and if any progress has been made so far in Africa.</p>
	<p>c) Develop training manuals, campaign messages and leaflets based on the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the United Nations Conventions, policies, and resolutions on women’s rights to equal representation and participation in governance and decision-making spaces.</p>
	<p>d) Capacity building, strengthening and awareness raising for women groups and leaders on their rights, leadership skills, strategic thinking, and political engagement, using the developed training manuals, and the legal instruments ratified by states on women’s rights</p>
	<p>e) Engage in dialogues and advocacy with policy makers, political institutions and the private sector based on findings research findings on equal representation and participation of women in decision making spaces.</p>
	<p>f) Community sensitization and awareness raising with gate keepers, traditional institutions, and youth organizations on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ensuring equal participation and representation of women in leadership and decision- making spaces. ● ending violence against women and girls.
	<p>g) Media round tables, intergenerational dialogues, campaigns and sharing of leaflets on equal participation and representation of women in political and leadership spaces.</p>

	<p>h) Addressing the challenges and opportunities of digital inclusion, through capacity building training, skills development and digital transformation for women and girls.</p>
	<p>i) Participate in the annual 16 days Activism activities from November 25th to December 10th each year, to address factors aggravating violence against women and girls in the region.</p>
	<p>j) HIC Africa members document and collate outcomes of interventions, progress and persistent challenges on equal participation and representation of women in leadership and decision- making spaces in African countries to be presented to the Africa Union, UN Women, UN Commission on the Status of Women and other International human rights agencies.</p>
	<p>k) HIC Africa members participate and advocate on women’s equal representation and participation in all decision-making spaces, at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the High-Level Political Forums, and engage in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of Africa Members states, as well as other related UN and World Summits related to gender equality.</p>
<p>6.3.3 Africa, where women have equal access to productive employment and decent work, where unpaid work and care responsibilities are recognized and redistributed.</p>	<p>a) In-person workshop to strategize on relevant employment and wage policies including policies by Africa Member States, International Labor Organizations and United Nations Commissions and agencies, and produce the template for mapping inequalities and gaps in productive employment and decent work for all in the region.</p>
	<p>b) Research and document gaps in implementation of relevant labour laws and guidelines on equal access to productive employment and decent work and produce a report.</p>
	<p>c) Based on the research report, design advocacy document and campaign messages for equal access to productive employment, decent work, and unpaid care labor for all and particularly women.</p>
	<p>d) Dialogues and advocacy with relevant government and private sector employment units and agencies on creating an inclusive, resilient, productive employment and decent work for all, social protection measures and taking into consideration the unpaid care labor by women.</p>
	<p>e) Sensitization meetings with labour leaders and women workers in formal and informal organizations on implementation of employment and wage policies including social protection measures and bridging the gap on gender equality in paid and unpaid work.</p>
	<p>f) Media round tables, intergenerational dialogues, campaigns and sharing of leaflets on equal access to productive employment, decent work, and unpaid care labor for all and particularly women.</p>
	<p>g) HIC Africa Members collaborate with existing local initiatives and partners on livelihoods skills development for women and youths, empowerment, including government poverty alleviation programs, subsidies, and exemptions, that will lead to income generation.</p>

h) Build relationship and engage with United Cities and Local Governments for cross-regional learning exchange with local government representatives, focusing on state supported examples of redistribution of care responsibilities in Africa and other regions.

“Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by ensuring women’s full and effective participation and equal rights in all fields and in leadership at all levels of decision making, by ensuring decent work and equal pay for equal work, or work of equal value, for all women and by preventing and eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence and harassment against women and girls in and public spaces private” (New Urban Agenda)

Gender equality outcomes

Members are able to mainstream gender into their activities along the four HIC strategic priorities

Increased knowledge and evidence on the barriers and discrimination against women's rights



Women are well informed on laws, policies, national and international obligations that enable them to take actions

Increased awareness on gender equality and equal access to productive employment and decent work and care responsibilities are recognized and redistributed

Increased knowledge and influence on policies and practices that promote and protect women's access, use control and ownership of land and habitat rights



Acceptance and enforcement of Women's rights to use, access, control and ownership of land by traditional, religious, and community leaders

Equal participation of women in leadership and decision-making in all spheres achieved

Traditional and cultural laws and practices that discriminate against women are dismantled

6.4 Habitat & Sustainable Environment

Component	Outputs
<p>6.4.1 Protect and promote the human rights to housing, land, energy, water & sanitation as indivisible rights and enhance access to, use value and control over these vital resources combating extractivism and land grabbing across Africa</p>	<p>a) Sensitization of HIC Africa members and allies on the indivisibility of habitat-related rights and trends undermining them.</p> <p>b) Action research on extractivism and land grabbing and their gendered impact on habitat related rights.</p> <p>c) Mobilization of grassroots community actors and social movements to denounce the impacts of extractivism and land grabbing on habitat related rights.</p> <p>d) Advocacy engaging sub-regional institutions (SADC, EAC, ECOWAS) to counteract the impacts of extractivism and land grabbing on habitat related rights and promote their indivisibility.</p>
<p>6.4.2 Recognize, respect, and promote agro-ecology indigenous knowledge and practices for food sovereignty and biodiversity protection and reciprocal rural-urban linkages</p>	<p>a) African cross-regional capacity-building for women and youths engaged in urban agriculture in organic food production and indigenous knowledge practices.</p> <p>b) Sensitization of government officials on the value and application of indigenous knowledge in food sovereignty and biodiversity protection.</p> <p>c) Action-research to challenge mainstream narratives and inspired innovative actions.</p> <p>d) Agro-forestry promotion through tree planting for ecosystem benefits in urban and rural areas.</p> <p>e) Advocacy engaging sub-regional institutions (SADC, EAC, ECOWAS) to advance agro-ecology indigenous knowledge and practices for food sovereignty and biodiversity protection in public policy and international commitments</p>
<p>6.4.3 Advance climate justice through community-led adaptation and structural measures to address loss and damage caused by climate induced displacement and migration</p>	<p>a) Capacity building of HIC Africa members and allies on the impacts of climate change and actions and mechanisms to advance climate justice.</p> <p>b) Action research to understand the impacts of climate injustice across urban and rural Africa, and actions and policies to counteract them.</p> <p>c) Mobilization of grassroots community actors and social movements to denounce the impacts of climate injustice.</p> <p>d) Sensitization of the media on the impacts of climate injustice across urban and rural Africa.</p>

	<p>e) Advocacy engaging sub-regional institutions (SADC, EAC, ECOWAS) to advance climate justice as a habitat related rights and implementation of loss and damage mechanisms.</p>
<p>6.4.4 Protect and promote the right to the city as the right to a healthy, sustainable, climate-resilient, and safe environment, and to redistribute the unpaid work of women and other invisible groups as custodians of the environment.</p>	<p>a) Stakeholder capacity building programmes to promote sustainable, healthy, and safe urban living practices and ecological urban development planning & management.</p> <p>b) Action research on pathways to implement the right to the city as the gendered right to healthy, sustainable, risk-resilient, and safe environment.</p> <p>c) Advocacy and engaging sub-regional institutions (SADC, EAC, ECOWAS) to secure gender-sensitive access, use and control of land by urban farmers for a healthy, sustainable, and safe environment in urban and peri-urban areas.</p>

“Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”. (SDGs 13& 15)



7. Communication strategy

The communication strategy aims to

- build synergies between different HIC structures in the implementation of the plan and to ensure that all information is shared and known by all in order to contribute to the implementation of the plan. These include the HIC General Secretariat, the Women and Habitat Africa Working Group (WHAWG), the HIC Reference Centers, HIC Housing and Land Right Network (HLRN) and the membership of HIC Africa.
- contribute to building a strong coalition, strengthening our initiatives and processes and communicating about them as part of the process, to influence public policies to improve human rights related to habitat in the region of Africa
- utilize different communication channels, such as the HIC Africa WhatsApp group, the mailing list and social media channels open to the region to make sure every action is communicated. The tools and communication channels are a means to make sure that together with HIC structures and allies our objectives are implemented, reached and developed.

To effectively implement the communication strategy, a HIC Africa Communication Task Team is suggested. It is essential that concrete roles and responsibilities are defined. Suggested members of such a Task team could include the Africa Regional Coordinator and Board Member, and one member from Women and Habitat Africa Working Group, HIC GS Learning Officer, HIC Africa Reference Center and the HIC GS Communication Officer.

Component	Outputs
Communication Task Team	a) Establish and oversee the regional and global calendar of communication actions and follow-up activities of the coalition, in order to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1) identify synergies, campaigns and collective actions, ● 2) to endorse others campaigns ● 3) ask for support to disseminate HIC Africa actions as a win-win strategy of communication
	b) Oversee communications, visibilisation and campaign development such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● communication messages and materials for posters, leaflets, banners, and stickers ● national and regional campaigns to publicize issues and challenges in the region ● studies or research that HIC or its members carry out in collaboration with other actors
	c) Guide certain events :

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Media round tables aimed at advocacy and building alliances with the media and social movements in the region ● Intergenerational dialogues on habitat issues within the region and ensure that adequate publicity is given to preparation, implementation and the outcomes.
	<p>d) Guide members in terms of global agendas and policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● monitoring the implementation of global agendas and policies, focusing on processes in Africa ● participating and influencing national, regional and international, commissions and policy processes. ● identifying potential Members, Allies or existing networks/campaigns in the region that work on HIC's strategic pillars, building alliances with them through social media ● Giving visibility to HIC in the African region and making sure the coalition is identified as a key player on human rights related to habitat

“Reduce inequality within and among countries. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable”. (SDGs 10 & 11)

8. Implementation strategy

The implementation of this strategic plan relies strongly on the support and involvement of HIC Africa members to ensure sustainability and continuity of proposed strategies/activities.

Component	Outputs
Implementation	a) Implementation Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prioritize areas of implementation over time, incl. annual implementation plans and identify aspects that can be implemented with and without additional funding ● Identify, establish, and strengthen HIC Africa structures through which HIC members work on aspects of the strategic plan that are relevant to them, and continue with home grown advocacy ● Jointly define roles and responsibilities: tasks, sub-tasks, milestones ● Review implementation quarterly
	b) Stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure that throughout implementation grassroots stakeholders are the drivers of their own human rights agenda ● Harness indigenous knowledge, culture, and resources, and encourage organized groups and communities to work toward self-reliance ● Work with communities, organized groups, national, regional, and international CSOs, national and county governments and other development partners ● Regular communication with stakeholders
	c) Fundraising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify sub-regional funders, partner organizations and their priority areas ● Engage with global funders (IDRC CIDA, Misereor, Kellogg’s Foundation, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Ford Foundation ● Ensure fundraising includes support for virtual and in-person activities, e.g. in-person capacity building workshops for WHAWG

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation will enable the region to measure and assess periodically, the outcome and impact of activities and interventions emanating from implementation of the strategic plan.

Component	Outputs
Monitoring and Evaluation	a) Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, measurability and sustainability of the impact
	b) Suggested Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Determine baseline, midline, and end line indicators (both qualitative and quantitative) ● Determine the extent to which members have included gender equality and mainstreaming in their work. ● Monitor and track compliance of Conventions and Treaties at country and regional levels. ● Track members' initiatives to account for activities done, lessons learnt and share good practices. ● Track regional Membership Data and WHAWG Member data
	c) Oversight and Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify group supporting the Africa Regional Coordinator in overseeing and managing implementation ● Ensure transparency and accountability ● Develop a Step by step process of ensuring that the planned programmes and projects are implemented according to the design and expected results are measured for achievement.

10. Annex

A) HIC Africa Commits to Regional Protocols and Conventions.

- [Africa Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want](#)
- [The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa](#)
- [Africa Union Strategy for Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment](#)

HIC Africa fully aligns itself with the contents and purposes of Africa Agenda 2063: we share the aspirations of "The Africa we want".

HIC Africa members fully agree that the region of Africa has the capability to realize her full potential in development, culture, and peace and to establish flourishing, inclusive and prosperous societies.

HIC Africa, therefore, accepts the following aspirations, and will work tenaciously with our Member States and other civil society organizations, networks and social movements towards achieving them:

1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.

- We are determined to eradicate poverty in one generation and build shared prosperity through social and economic transformation of the continent.
- We aspire that by 2063, Africa shall be a prosperous continent, with the means and resources to drive its own development, with sustainable and long-term stewardship of its resources and where, African people have a high standard of living, and quality of life, sound health and well-being.

2. An integrated continent, politically united based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance.

- All kinds of oppressions, including gender, racial and other forms of discrimination will be ended.

3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law.

- Africa shall have a universal culture of good governance, democratic values, gender equality, respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law.
- We aspire that by 2063, Africa will:
 - Be a continent where democratic values, culture, practices, universal principles of human rights, gender equality, justice and the rule of law are entrenched; and
 - Have capable institutions and transformative leadership in place at all levels

4. A peaceful and secure Africa.

- We aspire that by 2063, Africa shall have:

- An entrenched and flourishing culture of human rights, democracy, gender equality, inclusion and peace, prosperity, security, and safety for all citizens; and
- Mechanisms to promote and defend the continent’s collective security and interests

5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values, and ethics.

- We aspire that by 2063, Our diversity in culture, heritage, languages, and religion shall be a cause of strength, including the tangible and intangible heritage of Africa’s Island states.

6. An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children.

- All the citizens of Africa will be actively involved in decision making in all aspects. Africa shall be an inclusive continent where no child, woman or man will be left behind or excluded, based on gender, political affiliation, religion, ethnic affiliation, locality, age, or other factors.
- The African woman will be fully empowered in all spheres, with equal social, political, and economic rights, including the rights to own and inherit property, sign contracts, register and manage businesses. Rural women will have access to productive assets: land, credit, inputs, and financial services.

7. Africa as a strong, united, resilient, and influential global player and partner.

- By 2063, African countries will be amongst the best performers in global quality of life measures.
- This will be attained through strategies of inclusive growth, job creation, increasing agricultural production; investments in science, technology, research, and innovation; gender equality, youth empowerment and the provision of basic services including health, nutrition, education, shelter, water and sanitation.
- Fully capable and have the means to finance her development.
- Africa shall continue to advocate for the reform of the United Nations and other international institutions, with reference to the UN Security Council, in order to correct the historical injustice of Africa not being represented on the Council by a permanent seat.

These aspirations have been carefully integrated into the HIC Africa Strategic Plan for the years of 2023 to 2027.

B) HIC Africa Commits to International Protocols and Conventions.

- [The United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda](#)
- [The New Urban Agenda](#)

HIC Africa members recognize the fact that the region must not work in isolation, and as such has taken full cognizance of the United Nations, charters, protocols, policies, conventions, and resolutions on all issues affecting the region of Africa, and particularly those to which Africa Member States are signatory to.

These instruments and policies are intended to ensure that people everywhere on this planet are guaranteed their basic rights to life, food and shelter.

HIC Africa aligns itself with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, as well as the Beijing Platform for Action

HIC Africa also recognizes the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Targets, and Indicators. The strategic plan has focused on the following SDGs in line with Habitat International Coalition's strategic priorities and pillars:

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

SDG 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

a) The New Urban Agenda shares vision and aim 11 & 12:

A vision of cities for all, referring to the equal use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements, seeking to promote inclusivity and ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements to foster prosperity and quality of life for all.

Aim to achieve cities and human settlements where all persons are able to enjoy equal rights and opportunities, as well as their fundamental freedoms, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law.

In this regard, the New Urban Agenda is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. It is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development.

b) The New Urban Agenda envisage under article 13(A) Cities and Human Settlements that:

Fulfil their social function, including the social and ecological function of land, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, as well as equal access for all to public goods and quality services in areas such as food security and nutrition, health, education, infrastructure, mobility and transportation, energy, air quality and livelihoods.

c) The New Urban Agenda Under Article 13(C), 15(C), 26 & 92, intends to:

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal rights in all fields and in leadership at all levels of decision making, by ensuring decent work and equal pay for equal work, or work of equal value, for all women and by preventing and eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence and harassment against women and girls in private and public spaces.

d) Under Article 31, 106 & 49, New Urban Agenda states:

We commit ourselves to promoting national, subnational and local housing policies that support the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing for all as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, that address all forms of discrimination and violence and prevent arbitrary forced evictions and that focus on the needs of the homeless, persons in vulnerable situations, low-income groups and persons with disabilities, while enabling the participation and engagement of communities and relevant stakeholders in the planning and implementation of these policies, including supporting the social production of habitat, according to national legislation and standards.

e) Under Article 65, 67, 71, 79 & 80

We commit ourselves to facilitating the sustainable management of natural resources in cities and human settlements in a manner that protects and improves the urban ecosystem and environmental services, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution and promotes disaster risk reduction and management, by supporting the development of disaster risk reduction strategies and periodical assessments of disaster risk caused by natural and human-made hazards, including standards for risk levels, while fostering sustainable economic development and protecting the New Urban Agenda 19 well-being and quality of life of all persons through environmentally sound urban and territorial planning, infrastructure and basic services.



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