

2023

HIC

ANNUAL REPORT



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

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1. Message from HIC President



exciting and meaningful times of my career as an activist-academic, and I want to thank you for all the work we have done together over the course of my mandate.

After much consideration and thought, I decided to close the year with a poem written by my dear colleague Catalina Ortiz, a poem she wrote to commemorate the life of Dr Refaat Alareer. Born in Gaza in 1977, he promoted the power of storytelling as a means of resistance, and was sadly killed on 6 December 2023 in an Israeli airstrike, along with his brother, sister and her three children:

We read poetry when the bombs are deafening
We hold to poetry when our hearts are broken
We invoke poetry to distinguish us from brutality
We bleed poetry when words are our only seeds
We turn to poetry to ignite our fire
We carry poetry to soothe our souls
We bring poetry to harvest our hope
We spread poetry in a refusal to forget
We honour poetry as the language of liberation

Catalina Ortiz (2023)



Dear HIC Community,

As 2023 comes to an end and so does my time as our Coalition's President, I thought much about all the things I would like to share with you, the struggles we fought together, the struggles ahead of us, the need for HIC to continue its work inspired by the values, vision and mission that brings us together. Serving as HIC President has been one of the most

“ Thanks to all and each of you for an incredible journey, for coalescing together through our learning, political debates, actions and advocacy; but above all, thanks for being like poetry, a collective reservoir to heal, unite, resist, defy, build hope and seek justice and liberation.

In many ways, our Coalition is poetry, something to hold to when our hearts are broken, something to invoke to distinguish us from brutality, something to heal us when words are our only seeds, a collective space to ignite our fire, to soothe our souls, to harvest our hope, to spread our voice in a refusal to forget, to practice the language of liberation.

Thanks to all and each of you for an incredible journey, for coalescing together through our learning, political debates, actions and advocacy; but above all, thanks for being like poetry, a collective reservoir to heal, unite, resist, defy, build hope and seek justice and liberation.

I am delighted to welcome HIC's incoming President, and Vice-President, Grace Chikumo-Mtonga, from the Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat Zambia (Zambia) and Guillermo Marzioni, from Federación de Tierra Vivienda y Hábitat (Argentina). I have full confidence in their commitment and capacity to lead our Coalition in a collaborative way, working closely with our Board, General Secretariat, Thematic and Regional Reference Centers and Members and allies to take HIC from strength to strength.

I look forward to continue working together in the future. As a HIC Member and with my UCL DPU hat, I will remain closely engaged in advancing the goals and principles that unite us all.

For future communications I can be reached at a.allen@ucl.ac.uk.

Always in solidarity,

Adriana Allen
HIC President



2.Highlights from 2023

This year, HIC made significant progress in advancing human rights related to habitat. Here are 10 key achievements that marked our collective impact:



1

Strengthening HIC's Work in Asia: Asia Habitat Dialogues

HIC and its Member, the Working People's Coalition, launched the Asia Habitat Dialogues to build a regional network addressing habitat rights. This initiative fosters collaboration among diverse organizations in Asia and develops advocacy strategies to foster deeper discussions for human rights related to habitat in Asia.

[Read more](#)



2

Cross-Regional Working Groups on Land Rights and Feminist Approaches

HIC established cross-regional working groups focused on Land Rights and Feminist Approaches to Habitat. These groups drive interregional learning and advocacy, shaping HIC's global strategy around these strategic pillars.

[Read more](#)

3

HIC Africa's First Regional Strategic Plan

For the first time, HIC Africa Members collaboratively developed a strategic plan (2023-2027) addressing key regional challenges. This plan sets a roadmap for targeted actions across the continent.

[Read more](#)



4

Global Convergence of Social and Feminist Movements

Over 20 HIC Members convened in Buenos Aires to map out a roadmap for uniting regional struggles under a shared vision between social movements for Human Rights and Feminist Approaches to Habitat.

[Read more](#)

5

Strengthening Our Coalition Governance: HIC Board and Presidency Elections

HIC conducted key elections for Board Representatives in Latin America, Africa, Europe, and the Presidency, ensuring a diverse and representative leadership.

[Learn more about our Board Members](#)



6

Urgent Appeals to Defend Housing and Land Rights

HIC launched urgent actions appeals to address violations of Housing and Land rights, including evictions in Cameroon, the terrible consequences after the earthquakes that affected Turkey, Syria and Kurdistan, and risks to the forced evictions of 3,000 families in Chile. HIC also supported SERI South Africa's in calling on the authorities to take responsibility for the victims of a tragic fire in Johannesburg.



7

Advancing Habitat and Gender Justice

HIC hosted impactful events like the [UN Commission for Social Development Side Event on women's unequal access to work](#) and the [Commission on the Status of Women session on digital inclusion for gender equality](#). These forums elevated gender-focused solutions.

[Read more on our actions](#)



8

Expanding Cross-Regional Learning Through Podcasts series and the new Co-Learning Spaces

In 2023, HIC launched a new podcast series on [Land Rights](#), [Feminist Approaches to Habitat](#), and [Multi-level Advocacy](#), capturing the valuable interregional learnings from the 2022 Co-Learning Spaces. Additionally, two new co-learning spaces were introduced, focusing on [Climate Justice](#) and [Social Production of Habitat](#). These multi-session encounters provided platforms for HIC Members and Allies to prioritize, strategize, and advocate collectively for human rights related to habitat.

[Learn more](#)

Advocacy at Global and Local Levels

HIC brought the Coalition messages to key international processes, including the UN-Habitat Assembly, the High-Level Political Forum and the SDGs Summit, advocating for transformative global agendas. Locally, HIC supported grassroots mobilizations, such as [protests against Kenya's housing levy](#) and the [West African Climate Caravan](#) between many others.



9

10

Campaigns for Justice and Rights

HIC led and endorsed impactful campaigns, including:

» [Highlighting the role of Women, in all their diversity, in claiming the Right to Housing and Land](#)



» [Recognizing land as a Human Right during Urban October](#)



» [Supporting the "Just Sanitation for African Cities" campaign for SDG6](#)



» [Advocating for rural women's land rights on the International Day of Rural Women](#)



» [Condemning violence against Palestinians and calling for a ceasefire.](#)



3. About HIC

Habitat International Coalition (HIC) is the global, independent and non-profit Members' organisation for the defence, promotion, full and progressive realisation of Human Rights related to Habitat, in particular the Human Right to adequate Housing: a safe place to live in peace and with dignity in both urban and rural areas.



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

Our Vision

A world in which all human rights related to habitat are protected, promoted and fulfilled so that everybody, everywhere has a safe and secure place to live in peace and with dignity, in rural and urban territories.

Through solidarity, networking and capacity development of social movements and organisations, and influencing public policies within the international agenda, while seeking systemic change, HIC works to develop and advocate transformative practices, norms and standards as a means to achieve social justice and improve living conditions. HIC and its Members work across four strategic areas: human rights related to habitat - in particular adequate housing and land, social production of habitat, habitat and gender, and habitat and sustainable environment. HIC operates locally through Members and within regional and UN bodies as a non-governmental organisation in consultative status with UN-ECOSOC (since 1993).

HIC's mission

Through solidarity, coordination, networking, capacity-sharing and collective, cross-regional action of social movements and civil society organizations, HIC seeks systemic change and works to



a) develop and advocate transformative practices, norms and standards, including the social production of habitat



b) influence public policies within local, national, regional and international agendas



c) protect and fulfil the human right to adequate housing, land and other human rights related to habitat, advance toward gender and racial equality and equity and defend the right to a safe, healthy, clean and sustainable environment.



For more info visit:
www.hic-net.org

4. HIC Members

4.1.HIC in the world

On 31 December 2023, the Coalition had 376 Members (of which 83 had the right to vote) and 224 Friends. In addition, 1,184 organizations and individuals formed the HIC Social Base. The figures below present the geographic distribution

384 Members	224 Friends	102 Members with right to vote	1,988 Social Base in the world
-----------------------	-----------------------	---	---

North America and Canada

30 Members, 34 Friends,
4 Members with right to vote

Europe

58 Members, 56 Friends,
11 Members with right to vote

Middle East / North Africa

52 Members, 35 Friends,
18 Members with right to vote

Africa

84 Members, 27 Friends,
21 Members with right to vote

Asia and Oceania

41 Members, 34 Friends,
3 Members with right to vote

Latin America and the Caribbean

119 Members, 44 Friends,
39 Members with right to vote

4.2.Welcome to HIC New Members in 2023

Between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, the online system received 11 new Members applications. Of the complete applications with full institutional documents received, HIC approved and welcomed 7 organizations in Africa and Middle East/North Africa within the considered period.



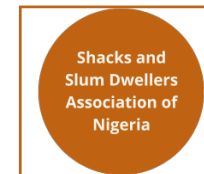
Center for Community
Initiatives (Tanzania)

www.ccitanzania.or.tz



Organisation Tunisienne de Défense
du Droit au Logement (Tunisia)

[Facebook Profile](#)



Shacks and Slum Dwellers
Association of Nigeria



At The Heart of A Woman (Kenya)

[Facebook Profile](#)



Go Green Sudan

www.gogreensudan.com



Association de Citoyenneté et de
Développement Durable (Tunisia)

[Facebook Profile](#)



Palestinian Environmental NGOs
Network - Friends of Earth Palestine

www.pengon.org

4.3. HIC Remember John Turner: 1927 - 2023

British architect John Turner, was an advocate of self-help housing and human centred housing policies. He presented Peru's urban squatter settlements – “*barriadas*” – to a global audience as not a problem but a resource.

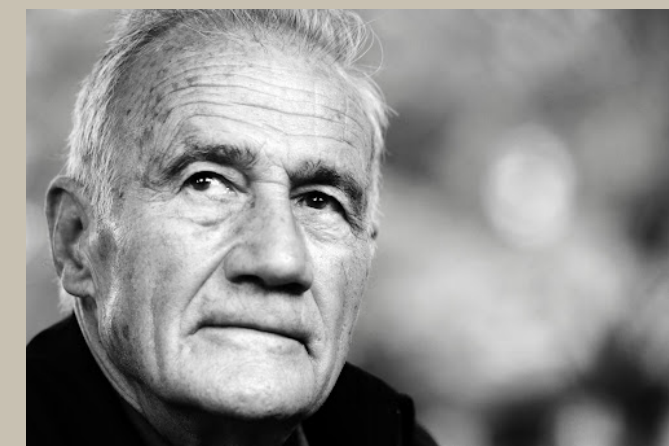


Image Wolfgang Schmidt for RightLivelihood.org

John Turner, a key housing theorist, studied squatter settlements in Peru, the U.S., and the U.K. In the 1950s-60s, he highlighted how rural migrants in Peru built their own housing when official planning failed them. He reframed these settlements as a resource, not a problem, to address urban housing crises. His influential work remains relevant today, offering insights into inequality, insecure tenure, and community-based housing solutions in the Global South.



[Watch the DPU70 Dialogues in Development in commemoration of the work of John Turner.](#)



HIC works through wider networks because bringing forces with other organisations and social movements internationally is essential to advance the defense of the Human Rights related to Habitat. For this reason, HIC, in addition to being a global coalition, actively participates in international networks, campaigns and alliances.

Allies and partnerships were vital to advancing different aspects of HIC's three workstreams in 2023. On a global-level, HIC counted on its longstanding collaborations with United Cities & Local Governments (UCLG) and Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) as to advocate for priority issues and influence the outcomes of different processes, including UN Habitat Assembly (June 2023), the SDG Summit (September 2023) and the Commission on the Status of Women (March 2023). Likewise, the longstanding collaboration with the Development Planning Unit (DPU) at the University College London was strategic both to carrying-out the second instalment of co-learning spaces in 2023, as well as in collaboration at the regional level, through the Overdue Campaign, in collaboration with the [Just Sanitation for Africa Campaign](#) (through President Adriana Allen). At a regional level, the work in the scope of HIC-Asia, particularly through the Asia Habitat Dialogues, has been developed in close consultation and partnership with the Working People's Coalition (WPC) in India.

Moreover, participation at different fora, events and activities served as an opportunity to rekindle old bonds and start new partnerships. For instance, attendance at the 8th Asia Pacific Urban Forum (APUF 8) allowed for reconnecting with the [Asian Coalition for Housing Rights \(ACHR\)](#) and forming contacts with the [United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Commission - Asia Pacific \(UN ESCAP\)](#), and with [Habitat for Humanity Asia Pacific](#)

([HfH-AP](#)). Similarly, the in-person participation at the [Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#), opened the way for establishing collaboration with [Huairou Commission \(HC\)](#), while the [High Level Political Forum and SDG Summit](#) saw a strengthening of the relationship with the UN Women's Major Group and the participation at the [UN Habitat Assembly](#) (June 2023) and the adoption of the Resolution on Informal Settlements, opened the way for re-engaging with the UN-Habitat Land & Housing Section.

HIC also continued to work in the framework of its membership of other ally-networks such as the [CoHabitat Network](#), particularly through collaborations during the [International Social Housing Festival](#), and the [International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(ESCR-net\)](#), through participation in its Working Group (WG) on Environment and ESCR and on Corporate Accountability. Finally, in terms of partnerships with donors, HIC strengthened its relationship with the [Misereor](#) Urban Team as a valued thinking partner for strategies relating to climate justice (in particular loss and damage in informal settlements). The year also saw the continuation of collaboration and support with the Catalan Agency for Cooperation and Development (ACCD), in the framework of the co-learning project, and also saw the beginning of a new collaboration relationship with the Heinrich Boell Stiftung Southern Africa Office based in Cape Town, focused on the field of commons for housing and land.

5.1. HIC-HLRN Networking and Allies during 2023

HLRN has collaborated directly and with HIC Members in numerous global alliances, contributing the Human Rights approach. In the general and global sphere, HIC-HLRN has been active in the [Global Land Tool Network \(GLTN\)](#) since its origins in 2006, where it forms part of the Urban Civil Society Constituency Group. With its focus on housing, land and property (HLP) restitution globally, HLRN has been active in the [Global Shelter Cluster and HLP Area of Responsibility \(HLP-AoR\)](#), fostering collaboration among UN-based and other international service organizations in the HLP field. In that connection also, HLRN has been an active participant in [The Peace Coalition](#), a diverse group of experts and organizations seeking reconstruction and recovery in Ukraine. On the African continent in 2023, HLRN has participated in the [International Alliance of Inhabitants \(IAI\)](#) through its Virtual African Assembly with a focus on forced evictions.

In the High-level Political Forum on the 2030 Agenda, HLRN has represented HIC in the [Major Groups and Other Stakeholders \(MGOS\)](#), under the auspices of the [UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs \(UNDESA\)](#). In particular, that collaboration has been through HIC's home constituency, the NGO Major Group, as well as with the [Women's Major Group and Major Group of Children and Youth](#), supporting constituent assessments of their country's Voluntary National Reviews on SDG progress.

On land rights and food sovereignty, [Food First Information and Action Network \(FIAN\)](#) International continues to be an important ally. Also, on [Food and Agricultural Organisation \(FAO\)](#) and related global policy matters, the [Food Sovereignty International Planning Committee \(IPC\)](#) and its Land and Territory Working Group are particularly active alliances.

Other important global platforms and frequent collaborators include the [Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights](#), [Coalition for the International Criminal Court \(CICC\)](#), [Extraterritorial Obligations \(ETO\) Consortium](#), [Global Initiative on ESC Rights](#), [International Service for Human Rights \(ISHR\)](#). On the habitat-right dimensions of climate change, HLRN especially values collaboration with the [Human Rights and Climate Change Working Group](#), [Loss and Damage Collaboration](#) and the [Santiago Network](#), catalyzing technical assistance to avert, minimize and remedy loss and damage in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.


During 2023, allies on country-specific issues and information sharing have included the [Kenya Human Rights Commission \(KHRC\)](#), the [Tibet Justice Center \(TJC\)](#) and the [Kashmir Law and Justice Project \(KLJP\)](#), as well as intermittent cooperation with partners in the legacy HLRN initiative of the [Solidarity Network on the habitat rights of peoples under occupation and alien domination](#).

5.2. HIC-AL Allies

During 2023, the Latin America regional Office had numerous links with different actors for the development of activities throughout the region. By way of example, we can mention the work carried out in the framework of the [Regional Campaign "Our Neighbourhoods, Our Rights, Our Cities"](#), a collective of more than 60 organisations, social movements, academic spaces and networks in Latin America that came together at the invitation and coordination of the Office and the Member organisation [Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia \(ACIJ\)](#) from Argentina, to work for neighbourhood improvement and socio-urban integration of settlements and popular neighbourhoods. In particular, this year a [regional event](#) was held to present the [Collective demands for the improvement and socio-urban integration of poor neighbourhoods in Latin America](#) with the participation of high-level decision-makers from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico City; the then President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG); international bodies including representatives of UN Habitat Latin America and the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF); the Latin American University Network of Housing Chairs (ULACAV) and the Lincoln Institute.

This year also highlights the collective effort between some Members' organisations ([Cooperación Comunitaria](#), [Centro de Estrategias y Acción por la Igualdad \(CEAPI\)](#), [Red Hábitat](#), the [International Institute for Environment and Development \(IIED\)](#) and those that make up the Habitat Production and Social Management Working Group of HIC-AL) and allies ([Global Platform for the Right to the City](#)) to carry out the hybrid forum "[The habitat crisis and climate change: From local responses to the international debate](#)", with the participation of Representatives of international networks and bodies such as the [Centre for International Environmental Law \(CIEL\)](#), the [Climate Route](#), [Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung](#), the [Global Nature Fund](#) and the current [UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment](#). In the space, 18 experiences presented by an equal number of organisations from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico and Peru were shared. As a result of this activity, HIC-AL joined the [Working Group on Human Rights and Climate Change](#), which brings together around 50 civil society organisations and experts, representatives of indigenous peoples, academics and allies in intergovernmental organisations that work permanently on international advocacy on climate issues, as well as around 400 individual Members on its main listserv.

For more info visit:
www.hic-net.org



6. HIC Global, Regional and Thematic Activities

House and City Reconstruction in San Mateo del Mar, Mexico, Oaxaca. Image from HIC AL

6.1. HIC Presidency

Dear HIC Community,

2023 marks not just the end of another rich year in the life of our Coalition, but one that closes my four-year mandate serving you as HIC President. I take this opportunity to reflect on some of the many milestones achieved across 2023, and on what makes the social and political force of HIC, the meaningful impact of our work together and challenges ahead.

HIC continues to bring to the fore the **centrality of housing and land rights** as crucial foundations to build a better world. In June 2023 we met as a Board, GS and regional and thematic structures in Nairobi to create a **Strategic Plan** to guide our work over the next four years, while strengthening the connections across HIC four pillars. Key directions in the devised strategic plan articulate the importance of **advancing housing justice** by linking our ongoing advocacy work on **Housing and Land Rights** with a deep learning from the grassroots powerful forces driving the **Social Production of Habitat** across all regions. We also proposed to deepen our commitment not just to advance environmental sustainability, but more fundamentally towards **environmental justice** by contesting hegemonic narratives that justify all forms of extractivism, pushing the boundaries of climate change negotiations and mobilising to advance climate justice, food sovereignty and agroecology. Last, but not least, we reinforced the need to advance a **feminist perspective** across our work, to actively counteract discrimination along multiple axes of identity including: gender, race, class, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and mental and physical ability. This is critical, because struggles over critical lifelines - housing, land, water, sanitation, food and more - are simultaneously a race struggle, a class struggle, a women's struggle, an age struggle, and environmental struggle and more, all at once.



In a nutshell, **difference should no longer be equated with inequality.**

Moving into the international arena in which HIC operates, once more I feel it is important to highlight that the UN System suffers an ongoing crisis of corporate and corporate-State capture, loss of legitimacy and fitness to serve its original purposes. For this reason, much of our advocacy this year has focused on fighting against the shrinking of spaces within the UN system for organised civil society to have a voice that is heard and a meaningful seat to shape the future. In June 2023, we participated in the Second UN-Habitat Assembly in Nairobi to call UN-Habitat and Member States to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA). We urgently call for implementing commitments that still are far from being fulfilled, such as protecting the social and ecological function of land and human settlements, supporting the social production of habitat, as well as the social, solidarity and care economy, while advancing participatory governance toward the democratic management of cities and territories.

We reiterated the same message at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF), held in New York in July 2023. In



preparation for this high-level advocacy event and working in association with critical and long-term partners such as United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), I coordinated the production of five position papers on the Localisation of SDG 11, launched by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Government and UCLG at the 2023 HLPF. These documents provide an integrated vision of the pathways local and regional governments and organised civil society are jointly taking to achieve SDG 11 and closely related SDGs and reinforce our call not just to localise action but to give room for local actors to drive global agendas.

Many bold actions took place across 2023, including our efforts: (1) to seek the cross-regional convergence of social and feminist movements, through a gathering held in Buenos Aires in March with the contributions of over 20 social movements Members of the Coalition, prior to HIC's participation in the 3rd World Human Rights Forum; (2) to stand in solidarity with HIC Members in Kenya to withstand a discriminatory housing levy; (3) to demand a transition of African food systems away from corporate-control and towards agroecology; (4) to support HIC-AL Campaign "Our Neighbourhoods, Our Rights, Our Cities"; (5) to demand an urgent stop to the Palestinian people genocide; (6); to launch HIC cross-regional podcast series co-learning on land rights; (7) to promote community-led housing at the International Social Housing Festival held in Barcelona; (8) to stop forced evictions in Chile, where 3000 families are at risk of forced eviction in Valparaíso region; (9) to reflect collectively on the rental housing crisis in Argentina; (10) to mobilise local governments and civil society organisations to co-create our "Just Sanitation for African Cities" campaign; (11) to advance our co-learning spaces on Climate Justice and Social Production of Habitat; (12) to launch our Asia Habitat Dialogues: shaping sustainable, equitable, and resilient habitats; (13) to advocate for the Human Right to Land on World Habitat Day and the whole month of October; (14) to

participate at the 2023 SDG World Summit in September; (15) to engaged in radical South-to-South exchanges at the International Forum on Feminising the Urban Struggle: bodies, territories and politics in the female production and reproduction of peripheral spaces; and much more.

This journey reminds us again and again that **transformative change is always collectively forged**. Therefore, to be meaningful and impactful, our advocacy works needs to continue engaging with a wide spectrum of activities to strengthen collective action and our social and political force, from mobilisation through co-learning to seeking change in public fora across different scales and

geographies. It is also clear that seeking transformative change requires further efforts **to root our work in the struggles of social movements in all their expressions**, to strengthen the political agency of the protagonists of these struggles in their own territories and to **pluralise our voice while speaking with a unified message**. Our strong commitment on this front will grow bigger by progressing further encounters to seek the convergence of social and feminist movements across the world.

Furthermore, we need to continue deepening and expanding our commitment to work cross-regionally and to honour and celebrate our history with openness to learn from each other, while opening our Coalition to new generations. As argued by Angela Davies in her powerful 2015 book *Freedom is a Constant Struggle*: "our histories never unfold in isolation." This means that we cannot truly pull apart what we consider to be our histories from those of others, and the multiples stories and struggles silenced or erased by hegemonic forces. **Other people's histories, stories and struggles are actually our own**, they call for bold and continued solidarity and action. It is in our collective anti-hegemonic struggling that we find reservoirs of inspiration, hope and optimism to advance towards a more just world.

The last four years working as HIC President have solidified my conviction that simply insisting on more equity bypasses **emancipation as the clear goal of all struggles**. As we close 2023, the indifference and refusal of so many world leaders to stop the ongoing genocide in Gaza and to affirm and support the Palestinian people cause for liberation have further crystallised my persuasion that not all critical politics dream of freedom. The challenge ahead is to move from critical to radical action across all we do.

Always in solidarity,

Adriana Allen , HIC President



6.2. HIC General Secretariat

In 2023, HIC's cross-regional work continued to be influenced by global poly-crises: the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, and conflict, occupation and war. These dynamics intensified threats to democracy and multilateral relations, persecution of mobilized civil society groups and side-lining of habitat-related human rights. The General Secretariat (GS) worked towards centering habitat-related human rights in national and global agendas and advanced the following along HIC's work streams:

1) Supporting popular processes - convergence of social and feminist movements

The voices and actions of diverse social movements are crucial for advancing habitat-related human rights. As part of HIC's commitment to ensure that social movement priorities inform HIC's cross-regional agendas, the GS, HIC-AL and the HIC Board brought together diverse movements converging around feminist approaches and habitat-related human rights in a hybrid [exchange in Argentina in March 2023](#).

Outcomes included structuring collective work around shared political advocacy objectives such as the social production of habitat; practices of struggle, and shared guiding principles. To continue the momentum, Sub-Saharan Africa was identified as a location for a potential second exchange.

2) Building a strong coalition for joint action - co-learning spaces, working groups and regional support to Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia

As part of building the cross-regional social force of HIC members - i.e. shared learning and agenda-setting to

centre habitat-related rights - the GS held the final of two co-learning spaces on [habitat and climate justice](#) in October 2023 and [the social production of habitat](#) (SPH) in November 2023. Strategic reflections with HIC members affirmed the value of, and ongoing need for co-learning as a pedagogic and cross-regional agenda-setting practice among HIC Members. In 2023, [the formation of two working groups](#) (on housing and land rights; and feminist approaches to habitat) gave continuity to previous co-learning and agenda-setting for advocacy. Additionally, the GS also facilitated regional coalition-building in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, as part of its commitment to advance regional balance in HIC. See the [HIC Africa](#) and [Asia sections](#) for details.

3) Advancing advocacy and policy influence

Based on previous advocacy strategies and efforts (2022), some advances in centering housing and land in policy agendas could be observed in 2023. These can be attributed to the collective efforts of HIC and its advocacy allies: following the [report of the UN Secretary General](#)



on the NUA, a draft resolution on ["Inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness"](#)¹ was presented to and approved by the UN General Assembly. Similarly, despite the initial absence in the [zero draft](#), the [final draft of the 2023 SDG Summit Declaration](#) directly mentions housing and the New Urban Agenda (37-h). Read HIC's contributions to the SDG summit [here](#).

HIC continued to advocate for a self-organised [stakeholder engagement mechanism within UN-Habitat](#) during the second [UN Habitat Assembly and preceding Stakeholder Forum \(2023\)](#). While the related political discussions seem to be at an impasse, the Assembly opened opportunities for advocacy through the adoption of policy resolutions on accelerating the transformation of [informal settlements](#) and [adequate housing for all](#). Such conversations are to be advanced as part of the next strategic cycle in the agency.

The GS also supported national and local advocacy initiatives such as rent regulations in Catalunya that came into effect through a State Law approved in 2023, but

¹ The draft resolution references measures such as "upgrade slums and take steps to end arbitrary evictions and the commodification of housing, through such actions as taxing empty units, requiring a certain percentage of new housing construction to include affordable housing, providing access to legal remedies, promoting housing cooperatives, promoting caps on rental costs and moderating housing costs" ([UN General Assembly, 2023](#))

originated in previous legal texts (e.g 24/2015 law), [which HIC contributed to advancing](#). Finally, the GS continued to work with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) as a strategic ally in joint cross-regional advocacy (e.g. UN Habitat Assembly 2023) as well as for shaping the housing agenda at the local sphere.

Institutional review and strategic planning 2024-2027

Organisationally, 2023 included the conclusion of the HIC institutional review, which resulted in a set of [political and operational motions](#) on matters of membership and participation, governance and organisational structures in HIC. These were presented to the HIC General Assembly in December 2023 and [endorsed with an outright majority](#). Next steps include forming a drafting committee that will work on updating the HIC constitution and by-law.

Following regional meetings with HIC members, the GS and Presidency facilitated a coalition-wide strategic planning retreat with the HIC Board in June 2023, for the period 2024-2027. The ensuing strategic plan will form the basis for the regional and cross-regional strategies and objectives of HIC's projects and funding proposals.



6.3. Housing and Land Rights Network - HLRN

HLRN has operated through three interrelated mission goals and related activities:



Coalition and network building that involves communication and support for Members and developing allies across urban, rural and Indigenous Peoples human rights movements



Knowledge creation and capacity development to conduct



Advocacy at all levels, especially in global processes

HLRN outputs and activities focus on developing the human rights-based norms, filling remaining gaps, and developing tools and methods of evidence gathering and argumentation that will serve these purposes. HLRN continues HIC's historic contributions developing these norms in the international system, including interpretations of state's binding obligations and voluntary commitments related to habitat, including the human rights to adequate housing, land, food, water and environment, building on the prohibition of forced eviction and related displacement as a gross violation of human rights.

Through 2023, work concentrated on developing the norms and methods for remedying loss and damage associated with climate change in cooperation with such Partners as the Human Rights and Climate Change Working Group with input to the fourth and fifth meetings of the Transitional Committee developing the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage. These contributions have built on HLRN's 15 years of experience at quantification of values at stake in cases of housing and land rights violations in diverse contexts.

Since Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine and

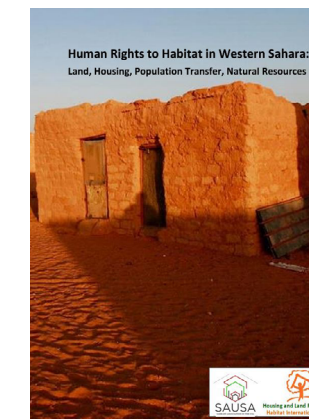
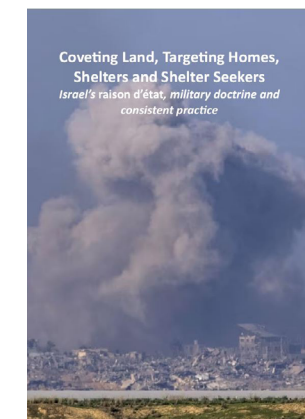
related [crimes of war](#), HLRN has collaborated with the Peace Coalition Pilot Project linking actors on Ukraine reconstruction efforts. The new contacts included academic partners in Europe who consulted on HLRN's 2023 World Habitat Day report [Counting Costs, Loss & Damage: Quantifying Impacts of Habitat-related Human Rights Violations amid Environmental Hazards and Climate-change](#), elaborating cases from HLRN's Violation Database.

Amid the escalation of attacks on homes and lands in



occupied Western Sahara and Palestine, culminating in Israel's genocide of the Palestinian People in the Gaza Strip, HLRN coordinated with legal advocacy platforms to focus housing and land rights violations in the context of conflict, occupation and war, culminating in the publication of [Coveting Land, Targeting Homes, Shelters and Shelter Seekers: Israel's raison d'état, military doctrine and consistent practice](#) and [Human Rights to Habitat in Western Sahara: Land, Housing, Population Transfer, Natural Resources](#).

HLRN training and capacity-development events with Members and Allies in Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Sudan and Uganda consistently covered the normative framework (theory) and quantification of impacts and advocacy (practice) relevant to habitat-related human rights.



Advocacy efforts have been directed to the media and the UN Human Rights System and UN Development System such as responding to a timely call by the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing on ["Resettlement after eviction and displacement: addressing a human rights crisis."](#) The war in Ukraine and geopolitical polarization also deeply affected food sovereignty issues across regions and contributing to the [International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty](#) and to the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism for relations with the Committee on World Food Security (CSIPM), in which HLRN facilitates HIC's Representatives of the urban food-insecure constituency.

HLRN represented HIC in the 2023 UN High-level Political Forum and assessed the [Voluntary National Reviews of Bahrain, Comoros, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania and Zambia](#). In that context also, HLRN collaborated with the NGO Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, UCLG and participated in several events addressing the urban impacts of climate change, Indigenous Peoples and gender equity in habitat policies and practice.

In 2023, HLRN recruited and welcomed seven organizations from Africa and the Middle East into the HIC family. These organizations bring additional competence to the Coalition, especially in the defense and restitution of housing, land and property (HLP) for refugees, displaced persons and people under occupation, as well food sovereignty, which will remain the priority workstreams for 2024-27.

Read more about HLRN issues and activities in [Land Times/ضرائلنا لواجأ online](#).





6.4. HIC Africa

In 2023, the [HIC Africa regional strategic plan](#) was finalised and launched with regional priorities advanced through different avenues:

Gender and Habitat

The Women and Habitat African Working Group (WHAWG) led actions related to the **habitat and gender** pillar focusing on awareness-raising and alliance building for women's equal access to, use of and control over land in Africa. Actions included discussing [women's struggle for access and right to the city during urban October 2023](#).



Housing and Land Rights

In relation to **housing and land rights**, HIC members in Kenya initiated a campaign calling for coalition-wide solidarity, awareness-raising and support of [grassroots protests against the housing levy in Kenya](#). HIC held a peaceful demonstration at the UN Habitat Assembly (June 2023), which featured in Kenyan online media and

was re-tweeted over 3000 times. A few weeks later the housing tax was indeed lowered. Several HIC members also participated in a campaign for [Just Sanitation in African Cities](#), facilitated by HIC President Adriana Allen and co-organised by HIC & other organisations. The HIC Africa Coordinator was invited by Habitat for Humanity Africa to join the Inaugural stakeholders' workshop for the co-creation of an Africa Urban Housing Practitioners Hub in Nairobi, Kenya; while two HIC Africa members from



Tanzania and Zambia respectively, participated through HIC in the Voluntary National Review process at the 2023 High Level Political Forum.

Co-learning Spaces

HIC Africa Members participated actively in HIC Co-Learning spaces on climate justice and social production of habitat. HIC Africa Members also took part in an online Co-Learning Space on tackling gendered sanitation taboos across urban Africa, funded by the UK Global Challenges Research Fund.



Social Production of Habitat

In relation to **Social Production of Habitat**, the General

Secretariat, together with HIC Africa and the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) submitted a proposal to the Heinrich Boell Stiftung Cape Town Office to develop a series of dialogues on commoning practices in relation to housing and land in Sub-Saharan Africa. The project was approved for a duration from January - June 2024, with preparation beginning towards the end of 2023.

Habitat and Environment

Concerning **Habitat and Environment**, HIC Members identified the need to collaborate through a working group so that regional initiatives such as the [West African Caravan for the right to land, water and peasant agroecology](#), or work on loss and damage and advocacy in front of the [International Planning Committee \(IPC\)](#) on [Food Sovereignty](#) could receive more traction.

Governance and representation

In 2023, HIC Africa Members re-elected Mr Moussa Ka regional Board representative for a second tenure and agreed to locate the [HIC Africa Reference Center](#) in Abuja, Nigeria, with the HIC Member "Initiative for the support and Promotion of Human Shelter (ISPHS)" as the host organisation, supported by an interim Reference Centre Committee consisting of 8 members. The GS developed a dedicated website section for [HIC Africa region](#), and the HIC Africa Coordinator has also been collaborating closely with HLRN on regional initiatives related to the human

rights dimension such as the High Level Political Forum, advancing on the observer status registration process of the region to the African Union.

Participation in international forums

Additionally, HIC Africa Members participated actively at quarterly advocacy meetings and cross-regional working group activities. The HIC Women and Habitat Africa Working Group also hosted a parallel event at the 67th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) on the theme: ['Digital Inclusion for All: Key to Achieving Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls in Access, Use, Ownership, and Control of Land and Habitat-related Rights'](#). Moreover, during World Habitat Day 2023, the Working Group commemorated the theme 'Women's Struggle for Access and Right to the City' in a virtual event with 76 participants from civil society organizations, UN agencies, MNGOs, coalitions, and networks.

Overall, HIC Africa is transitioning from setting up governance and operating arrangements for the region to focusing increasingly on implementing actions related to the HIC Africa strategic plan. To continue implementing the regional strategic plan, HIC Africa will be focusing on fundraising while advancing those actions that can be independently of additional funding through the organisational support of the GS.



Field Visit in Nairobi during the Board Meeting and UN Habitat Assembly, June 2023



Technical Workshop: Abuja Urban Development



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6.5. HIC in Latin America and the Caribbean – HIC-AL

Throughout 2023, HIC-AL consolidated its role as a regional reference point thanks to the collective efforts of its Members and allies, despite the ongoing systemic crises affecting Latin America and exacerbating the living conditions of its population. Through solidarity actions, multi-level advocacy, knowledge exchange, training initiatives, systematization of experiences, research and data gathering, and even litigation in cases of habitat-related human rights violations, HIC-AL worked to expose the barriers that hinder the realization of these rights and support grassroots movements that defend and promote them.

To strengthen transformational grassroots processes, HIC-AL raised awareness and supported complaints regarding human rights violations related to evictions in Chile, Peru, and Mexico. In partnership with Cooperación Comunitaria in Mexico, the office launched a fundraising campaign to provide corn, restore livelihoods, and support housing reconstruction for rural communities heavily affected by Hurricane Otis in Acapulco and surrounding areas. These communities were visited twice over the course of the year.

Spaces for dialogue, experience-sharing, critical analysis, and the co-creation of proposals and sustainable alternatives were established on key topics such as the social production and management of habitat, neighborhood upgrading, rental housing, climate justice, and displacement. The outcomes of these processes were systematized and shared through networks and strategic platforms, including with decision-makers, UN agencies, and national authorities—highlighting both the organizing processes and the unique challenges faced in each context.

In November, HIC-AL co-organized the hybrid forum [“The Habitat Crisis and Climate Change: From Local Responses to International Debate”](#) alongside Cooperación Comunitaria, CEAPI, the Global Platform for the Right to the City, Red Hábitat, IIED, and HIC-AL's Working Group on Social Production and Management of Habitat. The event fostered dialogue between urban and rural communities, strengthened alliances among social actors from Latin America and beyond, and promoted climate justice through

a rights-based lens. Eighteen case studies from ten countries were shared, with participation from international networks and the current UN Special Rapporteur on a healthy environment.

Together with HIC's General Secretariat and other Coalition offices, HIC-AL helped organize two [Co-Learning Spaces](#) on Climate Justice and the Social Production of Habitat, which brought together nearly 300 members and allies—many of them from Latin America. Both events received highly positive feedback.

To expand HIC-AL's visibility, an alliance was established with the **TAL Network** (Union of Latin American Public and Cultural Channels), with the support of CEAPI. In this framework, 11 video capsules were produced on the rise of short-term rentals, featuring interviews with experts from Canada, the U.S., and Latin America. Additionally, 5 videos on experiences shared during the climate justice forum were produced and will be released in 2024.

The document [“Internal Displacement due to Megaprojects, Changes in Productive Processes, Environmental Impacts, and Climate Change in Mexico: A Diagnostic”](#) was completed and presented. Based on official data and interviews, it analyzes patterns of displacement and dispossession driven by economic and socio-environmental forces.

Early in the year, HIC-AL and Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City launched

[the “María Luisa Marín” Legal Clinic on the Right to](#)

[Adequate Housing](#)—the first of its kind in the country. The clinic provides practical training to law students and legal advice to vulnerable communities. Backed by a multidisciplinary Advisory Council, it has provided 12 free consultations so far, with some resulting in direct legal accompaniment.

HIC-AL also co-organized [the 4th Ibero-American Diploma Course on Sustainable Participatory Habitat Design](#) with UNAM's Faculty of Architecture. The course gathered 29 students and over 70 instructors from across the region. Evaluations showed a marked improvement in participants' skills and capacities.

The office maintained a **strong media presence** in Mexico, participating in [around 50 interviews covering habitat-related rights, gentrification, housing financialization, rental issues, and evictions](#). Public statements and denunciations were also disseminated to amplify HIC-AL's advocacy efforts.

Advocacy and Policy Engagement

In line with HIC's second strategic objective—policy advocacy—HIC-AL took part in national and international forums to denounce rights violations and advocate for public policies on land access, fracking, water and sanitation, and the right to housing. Regionally, HIC-AL launched the document [“Collective Demands for the Improvement and Socio-Urban Integration of Informal Settlements in Latin America”](#), a product of [the campaign “Our Neighborhoods, Our Rights, Our Cities”](#), which brings together over 60 organizations, movements, academic institutions, and networks. The launch featured key figures such as

Carolina Cosse, Elkin Velásquez, Fernanda Miño, Julia Lins Bittencourt, among others, along with representatives from governments and multilateral agencies.

HIC-AL also participated in the [UN Habitat Assembly in Nairobi](#), where it strengthened relationships with international networks, foundations, and public officials, while presenting the policy proposals outlined in the document above.

Strengthening the Coalition

Aligned with the strategic goal of building a stronger Coalition, HIC-AL used the Nairobi visit to meet with African Members, conduct field visits, and participate in three days of collective planning. [Three additional regional meetings were held](#) throughout the year—each with an average of 30 participants—to follow up on the collective planning process and working group commitments. HIC-AL staff also took part in weekly coordination meetings and advocacy spaces convened by the HIC Secretariat.

The office supported the [key meeting in Buenos Aires](#) that brought together social and feminist movements from across HIC, facilitating the development of a joint agenda for grassroots action, advocacy, and knowledge exchange.

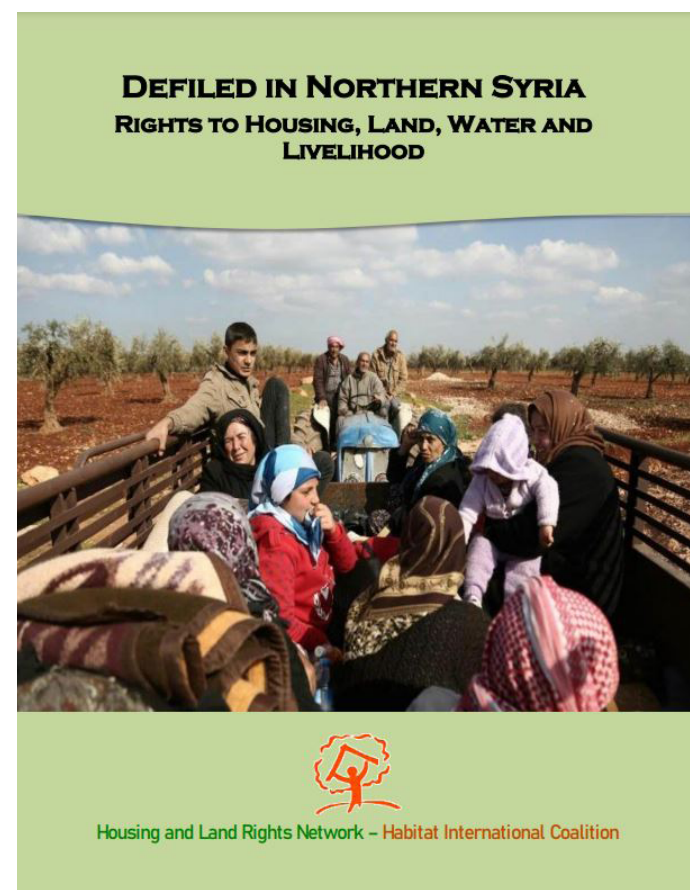
Finally, the [VIII Regional Meeting of the Working Group on Social Production and Management of Habitat](#) took place in Caracas, Venezuela, in a hybrid format. Forty-three participants from 12 countries attended. [The group assessed](#) the current landscape, emphasized the need for a shared vocabulary, and established action points, responsibilities, and timelines for future work.





6.6. HIC in the Middle-East and North Africa Region - MENA

During 2023, the HLRN and the HIC-MENA regional programme acted in solidarity with, and in support of victims of the tragic incidents in the region, especially in the context of conflict, occupation and war. HIC-MENA focused primarily on the cases of housing and land rights in Syria, Western Sahara and Palestine. Amid all events and developments, Israel's institutionalized apartheid and occupation in Palestinian territories remains the central injustice affecting the region.



HLRN supported new HIC Members in Syria to document the deprivation of the human right to water, among other habitat-related human rights. HLRN and HIC-MENA issued an urgent appeal to UN Special Procedures on the situation



in northeast Syria under the occupation of Turkish-backed militias, instrumentalizing the denial of water as a weapon of war.

In collaboration with the Sahrawi Association in the USA (SAUSA), HIC-MENA contributed to the Universal Periodic Review of Morocco, leading to the first-ever publication—previously referenced in the HLRN report—on [Human Rights to Habitat in Western Sahara](#).

HIC-MENA formed solidarity with HIC Members and their communities in Palestine with public-advocacy statements on Land Day (30 March) and Nakba Day (15 May). At the end of 2023, HIC-MENA dedicated its website to the call to Stop Genocide of the Palestinians that Israel perpetrated across the Gaza Strip, ostensibly in response to a massive Hamas armed reprisal attack on 7 October 2023. Related monitoring and documentation on the mounting Israeli attacks on Palestinian homes, villages and towns throughout 2023 were the subject of multiple articles in [Land Times/](#)

[ضررألا ل اوحأ](#) and online HIC-MENA News and Habitat Library.

In line with its current focus on displacement, in general, as a form of forced eviction across the region, including the costs, loss and damage resulting from climate change, HIC-MENA dedicated its [29th Land Times/ضررألا ل اوحأ](#) to identifying applicable norms and the need for data to apply them in the form of remedy and reparations for those affected.

Punctuating the monitoring process was the catastrophe of the double [dam collapse at Derna, Libya](#), which devastated the town and washed away some 30,000 people in a single extreme weather event. Such cases in the MENA region have contributed to HLRN's development of its Violation Database monitoring methodology to identify human factors by both commission and omission, while keeping focus on the corresponding entitlements of victims under the UN Remedy and Reparation Framework.

Displacement by other means was the subject of a joint statement with HIC Members in Africa, including a united movement of Members in Tunisia to condemn the actions by the Tunisian government to arbitrarily displace sub-Saharan African refugees.

Within its thematic priority of food sovereignty and the human right to adequate food as related to human habitat, HIC-HLRN joined the regional consultation between the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN (FAO) with the CSOs in preparation for its 37th Near East Regional Conference. However, FAO's management since 2021 has narrowed the formerly conducive space for dialogue on FAO policy and program, triggering an autonomous track

by traditional partner CSOs in the region.

In September 2023, HIC-MENA, in collaboration with HLRN, joined FIAN and other Partners of the Food Sovereignty



International Planning Committee (IPC) to provide input to [FAO's report](#) on the state of land tenure and governance.

In formal advocacy forums, HIC-MENA contributed to a joint report with HIC Member from Jordan to that country's UPR process on the right to equitable and sustainable access to, use of, and management/control over land and water, applying the principles of climate justice at local level. Jordan was the focus of a HIC-MENA analysis of climate finance since 2010 to better inform and enhance the analytical capacity of regional CSOs on the performance of their country's 'green transition.'

As previously mentioned in HLRN report, the environmental destruction of Gaza, Palestine, and the desiccation of Iraq were highlighted in the [HLRN's annual World Habitat Day report](#) with HIC-MENA contributions. These cases, drawn from HLRN's 2022 report [In Pursuit of Climate Justice](#), were selected for further efforts to quantify their impacts and seek remedies.



6.7. HIC in Europe

Housing is a fundamental human right, yet it remains one of Europe's most persistent challenges. As access to affordable housing dwindles, HIC Members and Allies in the region continue their work to address these urgent issues. Our efforts in 2023 were marked by collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to advancing human rights related to habitat across the region.

June Event on Social Housing in Europe

In June 2023, our Coalition participated at the [International Social Housing Festival \(ISHF\)](#) celebrated in Barcelona, 7-9 June 2023. The activities led by HIC Members and Allies highlighted the diversity of actors and approaches to defend the right to adequate housing. In particular, the activities promoted by the [Cohabitat network](#), including a session focused on cities leading community-led housing initiatives in France, Belgium, Spain and other countries; as well as the network's annual Member meeting, which focused on updating their strategy and action plan.

On the 8th of June, HIC along with [CIDEU](#), the [Global Platform for the Right to the City](#), the [International Institute for Environment and Development](#), [Observatori DESCA](#), UCL's [Bartlett Development Planning Unit](#) and [United Cities and Local Governments](#) and its [Committee on Social Inclusion, Participative Democracy and Human Rights](#) organized a joint workshop entitled "[Housing policies from below: local co-production strategies for housing justice](#)".

Focus Areas

Our discussions at the ISHF centered on:

- **Recognizing** the housing entitlements of those systematically discriminated from their rights, as well as acknowledging housing processes that take place beyond the realm of formal planning;
- **Protecting** housing rights by providing adequate regulations, frameworks, and incentives, including market regulation, protection to different forms of land tenure and regulations against forced evictions and discrimination,

- **Fulfilling** housing rights through the direct provision of housing units, by building new houses to keep and manage them as rental public units or to give in private ownership; or by recovering existing building stock, including enabling different forms of community-led and co-produced housing

Housing Challenges in Europe

Europe continues to face a housing crisis of unprecedented scale. Access to affordable rental or purchasable housing has become a daunting challenge, driven by international corporations investing heavily in real estate, inflating prices, and effectively locking middle-class families out of housing opportunities. This dire situation underscores the urgency of collective action to combat speculative practices in housing markets.

Collective Action Through HIC

Many HIC Member organizations have been actively organizing to address these challenges. Their efforts demonstrate the power of collective advocacy in demanding housing policies that prioritize people over profit. The encounter in Barcelona also served to strengthen solidarity among Member organizations, paving the way for coordinated strategies to confront systemic inequities in housing access.

Looking Forward

As we move into 2024, our Coalition remains steadfast in its commitment to advocating for housing as a fundamental human right. Through collaboration, advocacy, and innovative solutions, we aim to ensure that housing policies in Europe evolve to meet the needs of all its residents.



6.8. HIC in Asia

Building HIC's Asian Agenda Through Dialogue and Regional Coordination

In 2021 the HIC General Assembly set a priority to ensure more representation and inclusion of voices from Asian social movements and civil society organisations in HIC's cross-regional agenda. At the same time the Working People's Coalition (WPC), a HIC Member in India, approached the General Secretariat (GS) to initiate regional exchanges of priorities and thematic to build solidarity between civil society actors and identify joint strategies for civil society organising. Consequently, the online [Asia Habitat Dialogues](#) initiative (AHD) was jointly developed between WPC and the HIC GS, and led by a part time Asia program officer based in the GS from March 2023 onwards.

A Process of Collective Growth and Participation

The AHD process included [mapping 28 organisations](#) and holding 4 online dialogues on priority themes across national contexts. These were identified through the mapping process and included (1) Sustainable development and livable cities in Asia (over two sessions), (2) Housing, land, and public services: towards affordable, adequate, accessible, and resilient solutions and (3) Ecology, climate justice, indigenous communities and just transitions for working people. The aim of the dialogues was to identify shared structural trends and challenges, facilitate political

reflection and exchange on approaches and practices.

Active Participation in Regional Forums

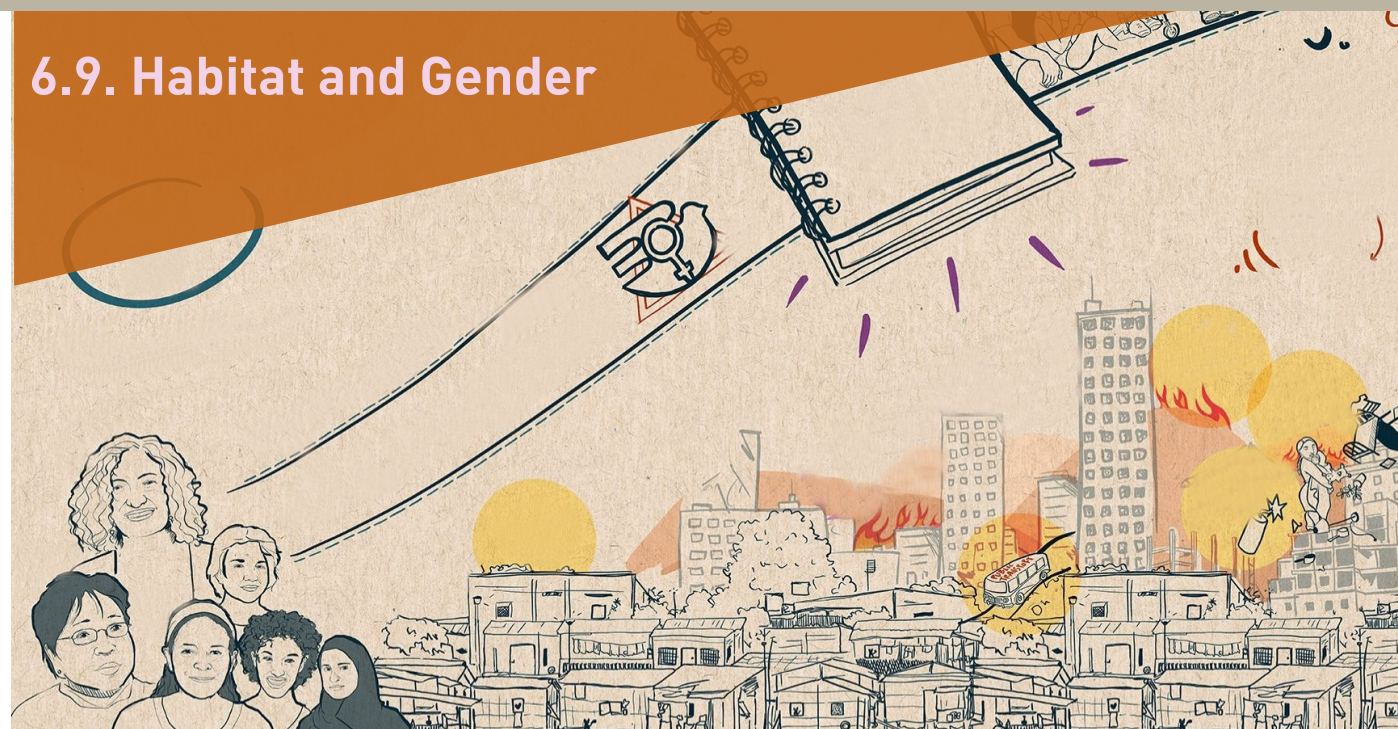
In addition HIC attended the 8th Asia Pacific Forum held in Suwon, South Korea in October 2023, to familiarise with current regional policy trends (see [UN ESCAP report here](#)), debates and connect with regional civil society actors and movements such as the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR). HIC also attended Habitat for Humanity's Asia Pacific Housing Forum which took place directly after APUF 8, including an initial workshop on an [Asia Urban Practitioners Hub](#).

What's Next: Pathways and Possibilities

By the end of 2023, the first two dialogues on the first thematic had been held, with the remaining two to be concluded in early 2024. Simultaneously, WPC and the GS are reflecting on possible next steps on sustaining the momentum of exchange, while refining the agenda to setting concrete objectives for learning and agenda-setting on relevant thematic and cross-cutting priorities. Politically, WPC, as an India-based coalition, identified that it would be important to have more countries from South- and South-East Asia involved in the coordination of the AHDs (the organisations that have joined the AHD's so far have primarily been located in these sub-regions). In this way the



6.9. Habitat and Gender



Written by Ana Falú, Representative of Women and/or Feminist Movements 2019-2024 to the HIC Board and HIC General Secretariat

The year 2023 has seen profound challenges and transformations in our Coalition, and as a Representative of Women and/or Feminist Movements to the Board, I have worked with determination to put equality and justice at the heart of our Coalition's actions. In every meeting, in every decision and in every proposal, the call for gender mainstreaming has resonated strongly, because we know that change begins with recognising the inequalities that mark our territories and lives.

The end of 2023, marked by the electoral process to renew the HIC Presidency, brought with it opportunities to rethink how we understand inclusion and gender balance. The outgoing President, Adriana Allen, and the General Secretariat have been allies in this journey, integrating gender issues into the projects presented and reaffirming a collective commitment. In this context, I raised with the Board the need to revitalise our feminist representation.

A notable achievement of this period has been the launch and strengthening of the [Feminist Approaches to Habitat Working Group](#). From the [Co-learning Spaces of 2022](#), where organisations from different regions discussed gender intersections, to the collective construction of a work plan for 2023-2024, we have seen how cooperation allows us to make visible and transform realities. This effort has put women and their diversities at the centre, highlighting the multiple oppressions they face in accessing their rights.

From the cities to the rural areas, inequality takes specific forms that demand attention. In urban and rural areas, women face historical barriers to accessing land and housing. They are often invisibilised in their role as

community managers and leaders, despite being pillars of their households and communities. In rural contexts, difficulties in accessing productive land contrast with the crucial role they play in agriculture.

Urban planning, for its part, remains gender-blind. Public spaces, such as streets, squares or schools, are not always safe or inclusive, and women face greater risks and challenges in their daily use of the territory. The incorporation of feminist urbanism emerges as a response that makes these differences visible and proposes solutions from the voices of those who know their environments best.

Climate change has also been a priority issue. Its effects, although global, disproportionately affect women, who not only face the greatest adversities, but also resiliently lead initiatives to counteract its impact. We have seen this in cases such as that of the women of northern Argentina, who defend their ancestral lands from extractivism while safeguarding the right to a dignified life for their communities.

A year of voices and encounters

2023 was full of moments to raise our voices. From [International Women's Day and Month](#), when HIC echoed the struggle and leadership of women and girls in all their diversity in demanding the right to housing and land, to the [World Habitat Day Campaign](#), and more specifically the celebration of Rural Women's Day on 15 October, which under the coordination of the Interregional Working Group on Feminist Approaches to Habitat, highlighted women's territorial struggles to [recognise, protect and realise their human right to land](#). On all these dates, we have sought to



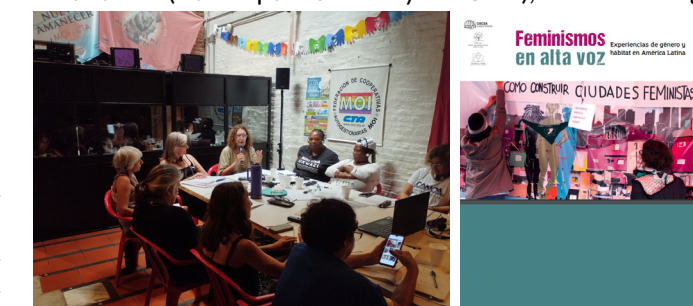
connect global discourses with local resistances.

In March, two important meetings took place. On the one hand, HIC participated in the [67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\) 2023](#). HIC was at the centre of a side event that focused on [digital inclusion as a tool for achieving gender equality in access, use, ownership and control of land and habitat-related rights](#). The event brought together diverse voices from different regions to share experiences on community-led social and technological innovations. Through digital learning and cross-regional exchange, strategies for building more equitable and democratic cities were explored, reaffirming that improving women's access to land is essential to ensure their empowerment and full enjoyment of their human rights. HIC's active participation in multiple CSW



sessions reaffirmed that ensuring women's access to land and productive resources is not only a matter of justice, but an essential foundation for gender equality and collective empowerment.

Also in March, the [convergence meeting between social and feminist movements](#), held in Buenos Aires, showed us the richness of diversity. Representatives from Argentina, Brazil, India, Mali, Mali, South Africa, Uruguay and Zimbabwe met to share stories, build trust and chart common paths. From there, a renewed commitment emerged: to strengthen the articulation between movements, learning from feminisms and recovering emblematic works such as [Feminismo en Alta Voz](#). A publication compiled by Ana Falú and Silvia Emanuelli (2021 published by HIC-AL), which brings



together the experiences of civil society organisations, activists, academics and social movements in the feminist organisation and struggle for human rights linked to Habitat, in eight Latin American experiences.

Looking to the future

Feminism is not an add-on at HIC, but a transformative force that runs through us. It is not possible to talk about housing, territory or rights without recognising that all these dimensions are marked by gender inequalities. However, the setbacks in rights and the advance of conservative forces call us to redouble our efforts.

The Coalition must allocate resources, integrate gender into every project and listen to feminist voices more carefully. The road to equality is long, but every step we take reaffirms that we are building not just a more inclusive HIC, but a fairer world.

6.10. HIC Cross-regional Convergence of Social and Feminist Movements



More than 20 social movements of the Coalition meet in Buenos Aires

From March 19 to 24, 2023, Habitat International Coalition (HIC) hosted a landmark meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, bringing together more than 20 social movements, feminist organizations, and support groups from Argentina, Brazil, India, Mali, South Africa, Uruguay, and Zimbabwe. This gathering was a groundbreaking moment for fostering connections across regions, generations, and struggles, aligning movements on a shared trajectory toward the defense, promotion and realization of human rights related to habitat.

The meeting laid the foundation for a collective roadmap, culminating in a series of impactful activities led by HIC Members and Allies at the 3rd World Human Rights Forum.

Purpose and Key Outcomes

The convergence aimed to:

Develop a Common Action Plan: Strengthen advocacy, dialogue, and linkages among social, feminist, and workers' movements within the Coalition.

Incorporate Feminist Perspectives: Examine principles, processes, and practices that empower feminist political leadership within movements.

Build Alliances: Foster solidarity and shared strategies across diverse movements to address the challenges of capitalist, patriarchal, and racist systems.

Key discussions focused on transformative practices and the shared power of social production of habitat to build popular power, emphasizing collective action as a tool for social transformation.

Conclusions

The meeting resulted in significant agreements and a forward-looking action plan:

-> **International Solidarity:** Foster solidarity with movements facing repression and political persecution.

-> **Interregional Political Reflection:** Create a collective space to reflect on economic and political contexts, promoting anti-patriarchal, anti-racist, and counter-hegemonic principles to support advocacy and mobilization globally.

-> **Militant Vocabulary:** Develop a multilingual glossary of transformative concepts to articulate and reinforce shared principles and strategies, such as "social production of habitat," "self-management," and "cooperativism."

Next steps

This meeting marked a pivotal moment in HIC's history, establishing an ongoing space for interregional solidarity, reflection, and advocacy. By connecting grassroots organizations and movements globally with feminist movements, we aim to collectively forge counter-hegemonic alternatives and mobilize shared imaginaries for social transformation.

This first step underscores the Coalition's commitment to empowering social and feminist movements and reinforcing their role as key drivers of change in defense of human rights linked to habitat.



6.11. Global Platform for the Right to the City



During 2023, the [Global Platform for the Right to the City](#) (GPR2C) has centered its work on fostering democratic, diverse, just and sustainable cities, villages, and human settlements through three core areas of focus: **climate justice, diverse & inclusive economies and commoning**, and **localizing global agendas through human rights and civil society engagement**.

Climate Justice

In terms of **climate justice**, in 2023 the GPR2C strengthened its work on the subject through a partnership with Members Kota Kita (Indonesia), Development Workshop (Angola) and Polis Institute (Brazil). **Two webinars** were held as to provide conceptual and practical resources for project Partners and other Allies to foster a common understanding of climate justice through a territorial and human rights-sensitive approach. As a result, key components of a shared action plan were also identified. This short project worked as a preparatory process helping to set the bases for long-term interconnected projects of the before-mentioned partners, starting in 2024. The upcoming initiatives will focus on **advancing mobilization, civil society capacity building and public policy advocacy on climate justice** through a right to the city approach at local and global levels.

Commoning, diverse and inclusive economies

The work on **commoning & diverse and inclusive economies** was particularly marked by the Urban October 2023 campaign, during which GPR2C Members RIPESS, Streetnet, WIEGO and Urgenci called for the promotion and support of diverse and inclusive economies, to fulfill the Right to the City. [The campaign](#) aimed to shed light on the **contributions from the social and solidarity**



economy, the popular economy and the care economy to decent livelihoods and work for all, while at the same time strengthening community ties and care for the environment. The thematic paper "[Cities and human settlements with diverse and inclusive economies](#)" was presented and discussed during an [online event](#). This line of work is to be further continued and enhanced in 2024, in synergy with the [efforts being led by the GPR2C in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments](#) around strengthening capacities and enabling actions for supporting the collective protection and management of the commons at local level.

Localising global agendas and defending the Right to the City

Finally, throughout the year, the GPR2C **advocated at global fora to call for UN agencies and States to act on their New Urban Agenda (NUA) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) commitments**, through the realization of the Right to the City. At these events, we championed a human

rights and socio-spatial justice approach, amplifying the voices and initiatives of civil society organizations and local communities. Highlights include our participation in the second session of the [UN-Habitat Assembly](#) (June 2023), the [International Social Housing Festival](#) (ISHF) 2023 (Barcelona, 7-9 June 2023) and the [SDG Summit](#) (New York, September 2023).

The urgency for a paradigm shift is evident. The convergence of environmental crises, socio-economic inequalities, armed conflict, shrinking civic space and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic underscores the need for economic models rooted in a rights-based solidarity approach, which leverage the social and economic function of common goods, putting the care for the people and the planet at the core. Such points centered the contributions sent by the GPR2C and HIC at the end of the year for the zero draft of the final declaration for the **Summit of the Future**, which will be held in 2024 and represents a relevant advocacy process for the year to come.



7. Institution



7.1. The HIC Board

Governance and Representation of the Coalition and its Diversity

The HIC Board oversees the Coalition's operations and decision-making processes. Its composition reflects a commitment to gender balance, regional representation, and generational diversity.

Elected Members

Regional Representation: One elected Board Member from each of HIC's active geographic regions. In 2023 HIC Board was composed by the following Members:

HIC President: Serves as elected Board Member:



Moussa Ka,
Africa



Adriana Allen,
London (UK)



Khalid Khawaldeh,
Middle East and North Africa

Invited Members



Alexandre Apsan Frediani,
Europe



Massa Kone,
Social Movements



Facundo di Filippo,
Latin America and the Caribbean



Ana María Falú,
Women's and/or Feminist movements

The HIC Board Elections in 2023

In 2023, HIC celebrated the elections of the new Representatives for Latin America and the Caribbean, Facundo di Filippo from Argentina as Representative and Isidora Hasting, Mexico, as Alternate. Also the election of representative for Europe took place during this year, Alexandre Apsan Frediani, United Kingdom, being re-elected as Representative for his second mandate together with Irene Escorihuela, Spain. HIC also celebrated the re-election of Moussa Ka, Senegal, for his 2nd mandate as Representative of Africa to the Board.

The regions of North America and Canada and Asia were still pending elections for the lack of regional membership and social base.

During the fourth trimester of 2023, the process of election of HIC President was launched, leading to the renewal of HIC Leadership for the period 2024-2028.

7.2. Funders

The HIC General Secretariat receives funding from key partners, which enables us to make a large-scale, deep and lasting defense, promotion and realization of human rights related to habitat.



7.3. HIC Financial Statement 2023

The 2023 audited financial statements shall be presented by the Treasurer to the Board and the General Assembly for review and approval.

8. Contact



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