



HIC Annual Report 2009

Global network for the right to habitat and social justice



Human Dignity and Housing Rights
Right to the City
Gender Equality
Sustainable Environment



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Foreword – Message from the President

HIC is a global coalition of member organizations. They are based in over a hundred countries in the world, operating in the local, national and transnational arenas. HIC also includes individual members—the Friends of HIC.

The commitment of HIC is integrating knowledge and practice to advance the human right of all, to a place to live in peace and dignity. HIC is at the forefront on combating the deprivation of housing and land rights of people in zones of conflict and illegal occupation, including forced evictions and involuntary displacements worldwide. These acts are a form of torture and tantamount to gross violations of human rights.

Our focus of attention is the nexus between human habitat and human rights and dignity, with due recognition of peoples' claims and capabilities and the struggles for freedom and solidarity. But HIC goes beyond the respect for individual rights. HIC asserts that the commitment of civil society and the state to realizing the collective rights and responsibilities and social dignity is fundamental to striving for a just, habitable world—for the many rather than the few.

Peoples' claims as history testifies emerge as rights through prolonged struggles and solidarity. In 2009, HIC continued working with those domestic and transnational civil society organizations and movements striving for the idea: "another world is possible", and advancing the diverse emerging claims—rights of indigenous people, of migrants, for food security and sovereignty, for the right to the city and so on.

The Annual Report for 2009 narrates the achievements of HIC during its thirty-third year of existence. I convey my appreciation to all HIC members, organizational units—including the General Secretariat, the communities, partners and collaborators for their contribution and cooperation, and more important, the trust they continue to invest in HIC.

Davinder Lamba

In Solidarity
Davinder Lamba
HIC President

Homage to Han van Putten

HIC co-founder, former General Secretary and President, HIC Wisdom Keeper and Honorary President. Han passed away on October 25th, 2009 in Den Haag, The Netherlands

Davinder Lamba: "Han was the father of HIC: as a coalition of people and institutions around the world, we are here not only because of our continuing collective actions but because of his inspiration, commitment and action, which helped bring that collective into being and sustained it over time. He is gone but we remember him and we shall follow the example he set us."

Enrique Ortiz: "His integrity, coherence, wisdom, and vast experience, were and will continue to be essential references for the daily activity of our Coalition in its long struggle for the realization of the rights of all persons to a dignified and secure place in which to live."



The Coalition

Habitat International Coalition (HIC) is an independent, nonprofit alliance of organizations and individuals working in housing and human settlements for more than 30 years.

This global network for the right to habitat with social justice is composed by social movements, social organizations, community-based organizations, support groups, activists and academics. The strength of the Coalition is based on its worldwide membership and on the fact that it brings together a range of civil society groups. Dedicated to advocacy, empowerment of the poor and the discriminated, solidarity networking, popular mobilization, debate, training and analysis, HIC works to unite civil society in a shared commitment to ensure sustainable habitat and a livable planet for all. Its work focuses on defending and implementing the human rights linked to housing and habitat; i.e., land, housing, clean water, sanitation, a healthy environment, access to public goods and services; e.g., health, education, transport and recreation; access to livelihood and social protection, pluralism and the preservation of social, natural, historic and cultural patrimony.

Since the 80's HIC has been developing special capacities seeking gender equality, in a balanced articulation between reflection and action on different issues: the rights' approach, the right to the city, the social production of habitat, women and habitat and the sustainable habitat.

HIC specific work on the right to the city seeks to deepen the analysis and the actions on the proposal of building more just cities worldwide. HIC has been committed for decades in the creation of a theoretical and practical framework for the right to the city. The Coalition

articulates and accompanies social movements and organizations in their struggle to achieve the realization of all human rights to ensure the collective well-being of inhabitants; the democratic management and the social function of the city. HIC is also aware of the global challenges facing worldwide on climate change and food sovereignty and the obvious impacts on the cities: the Coalition works on broaden exchanges between urban and rural movements.

In order to strengthen HIC support to social struggles for housing and land rights, there is a need to analyze the nature of civil society in urban and rural areas, understanding their strengths, weaknesses and opportunities.

HIC seeks to envision alternative ways, evolving bottom-up perspectives on governance and decision-making, empowering livelihoods, assets and shared knowledge, access to technology. HIC supports and nurtures grassroots movements in their self management initiatives to improve their life struggling for collective rights.

The Coalition articulates and supports people's processes through specific instruments and actions for both governments, civil society organizations and others international networks, like the Urgent Action Appeals and the HICademy, as well as outputs to realize the human right to adequate housing and equitable land.

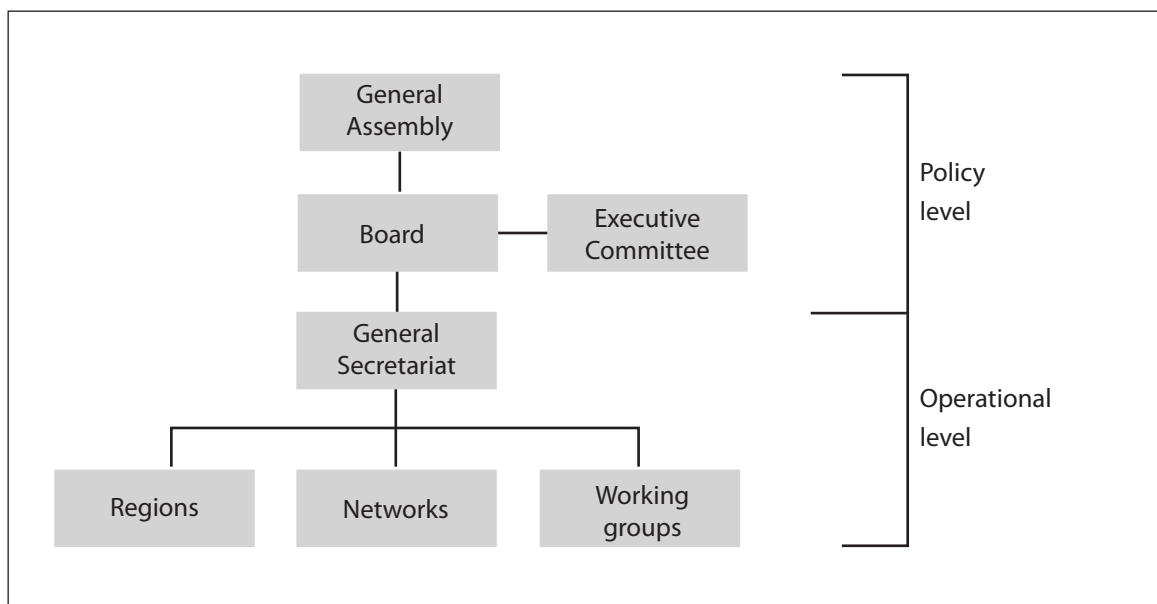
The General Assembly (GA) of members is the Coalition's core that defines its political strategy. The GA is convened annually: in 2009, the GA was held in different moments and places, in the decentralized perspective to facilitate a broader participation of HIC members. The first meeting took place in Belem, Brazil in January

Global network for the right to habitat with social justice:

- Developing relationships inside and outside HIC, through advocacy, promotion, facilitative, supportive and direct action; and strengthening civil society's role in improving housing and settlement development.
- Strengthening people's processes by supporting community based efforts to improve housing and settlements and alleviate poverty by assisting a broad range of people's actions, addressing a set of core issues: housing, governance and poverty.
- Advocacy for recognition, defense and full implementation of housing rights, to improve the quality of life of the poor through improvement of housing conditions, in additional to income enhancement and social empowerment; and to move toward sustainable development.

during the World Social Forum; see the minutes at <http://www.hic-net.org/document.php?pid=3035>. The second part was a two-day meeting in Cairo in May; see the minutes at <http://www.hic-net.org/document.php?pid=3067>.

A Board of delegates from its regional and thematic bodies, as well as a President elected from and by the membership oversee HIC operational level, which is coordinated by the General Secretary and its staff based at the moment in Chile.



HIC in the World

Throughout 2009, the Coalition counted 322 members, from which 68 with right to vote; 62 friends and 1,591 organizations and individuals were part of HIC social base.

On 31 December 2009, the geographic distribution of HIC members, friends and social base was the following:

Region	Members	Members with Right to vote	Friends	Social base
Africa Anglophone	34	9	5	160
Africa Francophone	28	8	3	109
Asia	36	7	11	234
Europe	52	6	15	280
Latin America and Caribbean	120	29	12	503
Middle East/North Africa	26	3	4	195
North America	26	6	12	110
Subtotal	322	68	62	1,591

During 2009, 51 new applications (31 organizations and 20 individuals) and 119 new subscribers to HIC News have been processed. HIC GS and Structures approved 28 applications: 19 organizations and 9 individuals.

HIC General Assembly is composed of all members of the Coalition eligible to attend General Assembly meetings and participate in elections. The activity of the General Assembly during 2009 was its annual meeting in 2 parts: Belem and Cairo.

The HIC Structures' Faces

HIC Wisdom Keepers



Han van Putten (1922-2009)
The Netherlands



Enrique Ortiz
Mexico



Barry Pinski
Rooftops Canada

HIC Board Members, Regional Representatives



Davinder Lamba
President
Mazingira Institute - Kenya



Anelise Meléndez
Vice President
FUNDAPROVI - Bolivia



Rabial Mallick (1950-2009)
Asia
CISRS - India



Tabitha Siwale
Anglophone Africa
WAT - Tanzania



Issa Samander
Middle East/North Africa
The Wall Committee - Palestine



Katherine Coit
Europe
UdE - France



Félix Yanes
Latin America
CMMLK - Cuba



Korotimy Théra
Francophone Africa
CO.FE.PE. - Mali



Nick Volk
North America
CHRA - Canada

HIC Board Members, Thematic Representatives and Others



Alejandro Florián
HIC-HLRN
FEDEVIVIENDA - Colombia



Khady Diagne
HIC-HSEN
ENDA RUP - Senegal



Maria das Graças Xavier
HIC-WAH
UMP SP - Brazil



Léon Guy Mfomou
HIC-WAH
CONGEH - Cameroon



Na Hyo Woo
LOCOA - Philippines
Social Movements



Michael Kane
NAHT - USA
Associate Member

HIC Board Regional and Thematic Alternates



Abdul Hamid Slatch
Anglophone Africa
YMA - Kenya



Joseph Fumtim
Francophone Africa
CIAH - Cameroon



Carmen González
Latin America
FUPROVI - Costa Rica



Leonardo Pessina
Latin America
CAAP - Brazil



Amal al-Basha
Middle East/North Africa
SAF - Yemen



Anita Beaty
North America
NCH - USA



Alicia Gentolia
HIC-HLRN
UPA - Philippines



Diana Miloslavich
HIC-WAH
CMP Flora Tristan - Peru



Juliet Bannoura
HIC-WAH
ARIJ - Palestine



Mobola Fajemirokun
HIC-WAH
DIN - Nigeria

HIC Regional and Thematic Staff



Joseph Schechla
HIC-HLRN
Cairo



Miloon Kothari
South Asia Regional Program
Delhi



Shivani Chaudhry
South Asia Regional Program
Delhi



Angie Balata
HIC-HLRN
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Yasser Abdel Qader
HIC-HLRN
Cairo



Rabie Wahba
Middle East/North Africa
Cairo



Leena Essam
Middle East/North Africa
Cairo



Lorena Zárate
Latin America
Mexico



Maria Silvia Emmanuelli
Latin America
Mexico



Malick Gaye
Francophone Africa
Dakar



Deborah Gathu
Anglophone Africa
Nairobi



Shivani Bhardhwaj
HIC-WAH
Delhi

HIC General Secretariat in Santiago - Chile



Ana Sugranyes



Charlotte Mathivet



Marie Bailloux



María Cristina Harris



Pablo Gutiérrez



Shelley Buckingham

Reporting Regional and Thematic HIC Structures

HIC is not only composed by a variety of organizations sharing a common mission, but it is also filled with a variety of rich realities, methods and cultures. The connectivity of such vast diversity poses a challenge when trying to establish coordinated activities within the Coalition, but this challenge is what strengthens our actions as a whole: it is in this diversity that our strength and complementarity lies.

HIC Regional Structures

HIC in Anglophone and Francophone Africa

The HIC Africa Project continued for a second year in 2009. The project aims at strengthening African habitat civil society networks in order to advance the implementation of the Habitat Agenda throughout the continent. The three thematic areas that form the basis of the project are: women and their access to housing and land; HIV/AIDS and housing; and social production experiences in the areas of water and sanitation. The project is a partnership between HIC, the Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament (ACCD) and Rooftops Canada. Its coordinator is Mazingira Institute, HIC Anglophone Africa focal point.

Three workshops were organized this year to provide a space for capacity building of social actors to influence habitat policy and to bring social organizations together for the exchange of experiences. From February 23rd to 26th, Rooftops Canada and Mazingira Institute/Settlement Information Network Africa co-hosted a workshop on housing, HIV and AIDS. Twenty eight participants from eleven countries shared their experiences and gained new tools and strategies to prevent, mitigate and adapt to HIV/AIDS involving housing and habitat. The workshop allowed participants to gain a better understanding of social problems of HIV/AIDS in relation to housing and land rights, and reflected on policy issues addressing the connection between HIV/AIDS and urban and environmental planning policies at the national and regional levels.

African civil society organizations gathered for a workshop focusing on their strategies regarding the provision of drinking water and sanitation services in Senegal from August 13th to 15th. The workshop aimed at bringing together African civil society organizations that are working on the issue of water and sanitation to strengthen their networks and share their experiences.

Another workshop, organized by Coalition des Organisations Non Gouvernementales du Cameroun oeuvrant dans le domaine des Établissements Humains (CONGEH), centered on Women's Human Right to Adequate Housing, access to land and inheritance to

property. It took place in Yaoundé, Cameroon from September 10th to 12th. All three workshops allowed HIC members to formulate plans to strengthen HIC in the Anglophone and Francophone Africa regions and register new members.

The communication component of the Africa Project allowed core unit participants of the program to have access to good communication tools. They were supported for their broadband connection, among them: COFEPE (Mali), CONGEH (Cameroon), Mazingira Institute (Kenya), WAT (Tanzania) and IHA-UDP (Ethiopia).

The Africa Project is also facilitating a closer proactive link between Africa and the other regional and thematic structures. This allowed an important Sub-Saharan participation in HIC global events in Cairo, especially the Land Forum, the Board meeting, the General Assembly, the HIC Women and Habitat Network meeting and a special HIC African workshop with representatives of other regions. At the HIC Cairo events began the electoral process of the Anglophone Africa Board representatives. It ended in September 2009 with the election of Tabitha Siwale as HIC Board Member and Abdul Hamid Slatch as Alternate. Nine HIC members participated in this regional election.

During the UN Habitat's board meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in April 2009, HIC Africa was active in: supporting the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions in presenting input from civil society organizations and partners from the private sector regarding forced evictions and violations to the right to housing; and organizing a parallel meeting regarding a human-rights based approach to housing, where the findings of the observation mission of the forced evictions of Port Harcourt, Nigeria were presented.

In the context of HIC's global strategy, HIC carried out several activities related to the issue of water sanitation on the African continent throughout the year. HIC Africa Francophone initiated construction and improvement of sanitation infrastructures in nine cities in Cameroon, Burkina Faso and Senegal. The organization was also involved in the development of the civil society report on water and water sanitation for the Blue Book of Senegal. The African focal point of HIC also participated in several activities organized by the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation, such as a workshop on the rights to water and sanitation organized in partnership with Water Aid West that took place in May 2009.

Using the Housing and Land Rights Network Urgent Action System, Collectif Interafricain des Habitants (CIAH) reported housing and land right violations in Yaoundé and called out the Cameroonian and the international communities to act against the numerous forced evictions that occurred throughout the year.

Collaborating with the Latin American, African, and

Asian Social Housing Service, CIAH also gathered human and financial resources to help building latrines and new roofs for the residents of two neighborhoods in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

As of December 31st 2009, HIC Anglophone Africa membership counted with 34 members from which 9 with right to vote, 5 friends and 160 contacts. During the year, 7 new applications were received and the region welcomed 1 new member. The total amount of membership dues collected in the region was US\$648.

Francophone Africa had 28 members, from which 8 had right to vote, 3 friends and 109 contacts. The region received 4 new applications within the year and 4 new members were welcomed to the membership. The amount of membership dues collected in Francophone Africa reached US\$349.



HIC in Latin America and the Caribbean

HIC members are involved all over Latin America in numerous types of activities and processes regarding the right to housing, to the land, and to the city. The following presents some highlights for 2009.

In January, in the context of the World Social Forum of Belém do Pará, Brazil, HIC Latin America and other organizations planned a workshop on the right to the city as an alternative to neoliberalism. The aim was to promote an exchange of ideas between the academic research done in the North and the actions and proposals from social movements and organizations from the South on the topic of urban reform.

6 Along with other organizations involved in the habitat

sector, Fundación Promotora de Vivienda prepared and coordinated a workshop for emergency response of the housing sector to the earthquake in Poás that took place in San José, Costa Rica on February 27th. HIC members from DESCO and FEDEVIVIENDA were invited to share their experience.

In the context of the 5th World Water Forum in March, the focal point collaborated to the organization of activities for the Days in Defense of Water in Mexico. For this event, HIC Latin America provided assistance to community representatives to travel from different areas of the country to Mexico City. The regional focal point also contributed to the elaboration, revision, and distribution of different documents such as the manifesto "In Defense of our Lands, Territory and Water" that was later submitted to the Mexican Presidency.

Also in March, the Forum for the Right to the City and to Housing took place in Guadalajara, Mexico. During two days, 250 participants from civil society organizations, public organizations, and the University of Guadalajara had the opportunity to exchange experiences and ideas. HIC members from Ecuador (CIUDAD and Somos Ecuador) were also present to share their experience.

In association with other organizations, the focal point coordinated the Latin American Seminar on the Right to the City in Quito, Ecuador, held between September 25th and 27th. Fourteen countries were represented at this event that gave participants the opportunity to debate and share experiences on the right to habitat and to the city and on the social production of habitat.

Along with other stakeholders, HIC Latin America organized the Latin American meeting "Urban and Housing Policy in Times of Crisis: Good Practices to Good Policies", that took place from November 9th to 13th in Mexico City. Among participants were civil servants, professors, students, civil society organizations members and social movement organizations.

From November 22nd to 28th, with the support of the Centro Memorial Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the office coordinated a meeting of Latin American representatives of social movements and civil organizations in Havana, Cuba. The objective was to establish communication and collaboration strategies between organizations involved in the right to the land, to habitat, and to the city in Latin America.

During the year, HIC Latin America also worked with Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción al Desarrollo (ALOP) to include a HIC article in the thematic newsletter of ALOP's Habitat group. The article was published in October 2009 and can be found on the website of HIC Latin America.

As of December 31st 2009, HIC Latin America included 121 members from which 29 with right to vote, 12 friends and 503 contacts. During the year, 9 new applications were received and the region welcomed 7 new members. The total amount of membership dues collected in the region was US\$1,620.

Think global, act local! HIC GS anchored in its Chilean context

Since 2008, HIC GS has been involved with the Observatory of Housing and the City. The Observatory is a collective network of Chilean social organizations aimed at creating a meeting space for critical reflection and articulation of housing and urban issues in Chile from a human rights perspective.

HIC and the Observatory have been committed to reconstitute Chilean social organizations dedicated to habitat rights, after more than 20 years of absence, especially on the international level, as caused by the disaggregation of social movements during the dictatorship. Great efforts have been made to include these organizations in Latin American spaces of debates and struggles. As a result, ANDHA Chile a Luchar – a movement of housing debtors – was invited to the international seminar/workshop “Towards the Implementation of the Right the City in Latin America: Building a Civil Society Agenda”, organized by COHRE and HIC-AL in Quito, Ecuador, September 2009. Also, a lot of work has been done to represent Chilean grassroots movements in SELVIP, through the preparation of exchanges, workshops and seminars.

In 2009, the Observatory published a book for social

leaders “The Right to Housing in Chile”, and organized several workshops and seminars to promote the right to adequate housing. An emphasis was made on working with grassroots people during decentralized training workshops on the right to housing, in four different neighbourhoods of Santiago’s poor urban areas. For further information see www.observatorioviviendaciudad.cl.



HIC in Asia

Throughout the year, the involvement of members and friends of HIC Asia took different forms. Rallies against forced evictions, awareness campaigns on precarious housing conditions and capacity building workshops took place all over the continent. In its different activities, HIC Asia has also been emphasizing the need for inclusive growth and greater priority for an alternative development strategy whereby the basic amenities of life are made available to the poor and the economically weaker sections.

In India, along with its partner organizations in the country, such as: Institute for Development Education and Action (IDEA), PUDAR, the State Habitat & Environment Forum, Hawker Sangram Committee, PROUD, POWER, and Urban Poor Forum, HIC has been carrying out campaigns and meetings on housing rights, fighting against eviction and the need for proper rehabilitation (prior to any eviction) in various cities of India, especially Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi.

In Bangladesh, with the initiative of ten NGOs from Dhaka, HIC Asia has been working on organizing the slum dwellers with grass-root leadership. In January, with the support of Leaders and Organizers of Community Organization in Asia and of Shelter for the Poor, IDEA has trained 45 civil society organizations representatives to start a community organizing program in Dhaka.

In Hong Kong, HIC’s partners have been involved on the issue of cage dwellers. Amidst Hong Kong’s fancy malls

and apartment towers, it is estimated that between 53,200 and 130,000 people (the numbers vary greatly depending on the estimate) live in less than 100 square feet. Non-governmental organizations, such as Society for Community Organization, have spearheaded the advocacy for policies and reforms at the governmental level to address the issue of cage dwellers.

In Cambodia, evictions and land grabbing are common occurrence all over the country. The Cambodia Human Rights Committee and HIC Member Housing Rights Task Force (HRTF) have been working against such violations, which include restriction of freedom of expression and right to demonstration, forced eviction, the use of judicial system for suppressing opponents, and threats against human rights defenders. The HRTF and Bridges Across Borders continued their advocacy campaign on the threat of eviction faced by 4,500 families of the Boengkok lakeside due to a real estate development project. Demands, petitions, and actions such as an anti-eviction protest rally that took place in August in Phnom Penh (with an estimated participation of 1,200 to 1,400 people) have lead the government offer compensation.

As of December 31st 2009, HIC Asia included 36 members from which 7 with right to vote, 11 friends and 233 contacts. During the year, 15 new applications were received and the region welcomed 2 new members. The total amount of membership dues collected in the region was US\$309.

HIC in the Middle East and North Africa

HIC Middle East/North Africa (MENA) program's mission goals include Network, Coalition, alliance development and maintenance; knowledge creation, empowerment and capacity building to ensure Human Right to Adequate Housing (HRAH); and advocacy at all levels (multilateral, regional, national and local).

The networking efforts around the right to water—a contiguous right to HRAH—has contributed to supporting the regional and national efforts in this context, which reflected ultimately in the active participation in the Climate Change Forum in Copenhagen. This, in turn, provided opportunities to members in Morocco and Egypt to focus on a bundle of related rights, including the rights to water, to food and to housing for the most impoverished and marginalized. The MENA Program assisted in mobilizing participants in that networking and capacity-building event. The Africa Human Rights Spaces project, in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Human Rights and constituents across the continent, continued to be one of the main opportunities to support the values of human rights and mobilization towards implementing the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in Africa through MENA subregional and Africa-wide collaboration among human rights organizations.

The year 2009 also coincided with dramatic developments in the region, not least involving further displacements and dispossession of Palestinians in the West Bank due to the Israeli Wall and Israel's serial military operations and blockade of the Gaza Strip, the dispossession and forced evictions of farmers in Egypt and Ahwazi Arabs in Iran, and the continued deprivation of Palestinian and Sahrawi refugee rights. Investigations and reports were realized on these issues

and the consequent violations and potential remedies of housing and land rights.

As part of its capacity-building Mission Goal, the MENA program conducted a series of training activities for Members and their communities in 2009, including training events in preparation for self-representation and parallel reporting before the UN Human Rights Council, refugee rights and strategic planning. The training benefited 150 participants with a total training time of 120 hours.

The foregoing activities also served the advocacy efforts: at the international level, the MENA program shifted its focus from the treaty bodies (not reviewing MENA countries in 2009) to the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review mechanism, jointly preparing civil society participation for Egypt. Other efforts were dedicated to the Durban Review Process, a special submission to the UN Fact-finding Commission on the Conflict in Gaza (Goldstone Commission), and developing the legal arguments for country reviews in light of their extraterritorial obligations and “international cooperation,” with particular reference to four cases in MENA.

From the HLRN Urgent Action system's 83 cases, 22 were in MENA (6 in Egypt, 16 in Israel/Palestine) in 2009. Several cases saw developments, including participating Member responses and UN actions through Special Rapporteurs and decision-making bodies.

As of December 31st 2009, HIC MENA had 27 members from which 3 with right to vote, 4 friends and 195 contacts. During the year, 9 new applications were received and the region welcomed 13 new members. The total amount of membership dues collected in the region was US\$156.



The Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless' Struggle against Foreclosure

Since 2007, the sub-prime mortgage crisis has resulted in rising homelessness across the United States, a fact confirmed by HIC member the National Coalition for the Homeless. Six cities have reported increased use of emergency shelter facilities and transitional housing programs. Rising foreclosures have been cited as the largest contributing factor, with over 2 million foreclosures reported in 2007 alone. These foreclosures are not only affecting previous homeowners and renters but also their last resort: emergency shelters.

The Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, which operates emergency shelter facilities for the homeless in Atlanta, has earned a reputation for its fierce advocacy of the right to adequate and affordable housing and its political demand for policy change favouring low-income people and the homeless. In 2009, The Task Force's Peachtree Pine Center emergency shelter provided 15,000 homeless people with housing and another 1,500 with permanent homes.

Throughout its struggle, the Task Force has filed lawsuits against the City of Atlanta and other groups representing political and business interests that are attempting to appropriate the land. The Task Force demanded access to documents that would prove that

city government officials and business associations colluded to block funding to the Task Force's shelter in the Midtown area. They have also organized press conferences to educate the public about illegal foreclosures of downtown shelters and to exert political pressure on city officials.

Anita Beaty, executive director of the Task Force who also sits on the HIC Board, insists that this illegal pressure to acquire the shelters in Atlanta is part of a larger ongoing process of discrimination. "They don't want homeless African-American men on the streets downtown or anywhere they can control access to public and private space."

Among its successes, the Task Force has won temporary injunctions and restraining orders against the city administration that have allowed it to continue operating. It has also been authorized by the court to pursue legal actions against the city administration. The determined efforts and achievements of the Task Force in 2009 demonstrate the capacity of organizations such as the Task Force to not only provide shelter for the homeless but to fight for their right to housing in the climate of a nation-wide real estate crisis.

HIC in the North

HIC North American members have been instrumental in coming together to strengthen relationships and develop partnerships with social movements to bring positive changes. Advocacy has included mobilizations, public events, meetings, written documents, and direct visits with officials at all three levels of government – Federal, Provincial/State and Municipal.

HIC Members in the US were active participants in the mission of the U.N Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, which was coordinated by the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative and the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. The Special Rapporteur's visit was a milestone that served to galvanize the movement for housing rights across the US.

The National Alliance of HUD Tenants (NAHT) and the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) and the Poor Peoples Economic Human Rights Campaign kicked off International Housing Rights Days of Action in October with a protest at the UN World Habitat Day event in Washington, D.C. HIC General Secretary joined this rally and a press conference urging the US government to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

The ICESCR was an element of continual involvement for HIC Members in 2009. The June NAHT Conference featured a rally near the Senate office buildings and a House Forum with Congressional representatives to advance the issue.

NCH has been supporting the struggle of the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless against political and business interests that seek to undermine their efforts in providing both emergency shelter services and more long term solutions. For more information on this topic, see article The Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless' Struggle against Foreclosure on page above.

In Canada, HIC Members National Housing and Homelessness Network, Rooftops Canada, and Wellesley Institute met in an event organized by the Centre for Urban and Community Studies of the University of Toronto in October. HIC General Secretary made a presentation on housing policies and the Right to the City.

As of December 31st 2009, HIC North America had 26 members from which 6 with right to vote, 12 friends and 110 contacts. During the year, 4 new applications were received. The total amount of membership dues collected in the region was US\$1,026.

As for HIC Europe, the work of building alliances with major actors dedicated to housing rights and advocacy on behalf of the homeless continued in 2009.

The members of the region attended the European Crossroads networking meeting in January. The objective was to devise ways of having an impact on the policy makers of Europe, in relation to the economic and financial crisis, to adopt progressive policies, including more social housing.

Throughout the year, it supported the actions of several social movements, mostly in France. The following are examples of social mobilization:

Along with about twenty organizations bringing together thousands of people, HIC Europe participated in a large demonstration against evictions in Paris, on March 15th. This day marks the end of the winter truce when landlords can evict tenants who are behind with their rent.

In September and October, a caravan of the homeless went from Clermont-Ferrand to Strasbourg, where they demonstrated in front of the Prefecture, the Communauté Urbaine of Strasbourg, and in front of the European Parliament, where they were received by three officials.

As of December 31st 2009, HIC Europe had 52 members from which 6 with right to vote, 15 friends and 280 contacts. During the year, 2 new applications were received and the region welcomed 1 new member. The total amount of membership dues collected in the region was US\$1,900.



HIC Thematic Structures

Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN)

In 2009, HLRN pursued its work of building networks with social movements organizations, promoting housing and land rights, and bringing attention to cases of violation of these rights.

Through an alliance with Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN), La Via Campesina, and Amnesty International, HLRN organized a Human Dignity and Human Rights Caucus event: a panel on "Global Human Rights Struggles over Land, Habitat and Environment" during the World Social Forum in January.

The network also hosted a "Land Forum" that brought together various regional and international civil society actors to discuss issues of the right to land, dispossession, displacement, and alternative development with a particular focus on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Consultation with local Egyptian organizations, HLRN members in the region, OXFAM and Brot für die Welt resulted in the formation of a specialized network and a regional research and advocacy agenda. For more information on the Land Forum, see article Land Rights in the Middle East and North Africa on page 12 .

The Extraterritorial Obligations Consortium (a network of some 30 civil society organizations, university institutes and individuals) aims to understand extraterritorial obligations pertaining to economic, social, and cultural rights, through actual cases. This process seeks to develop an eventual soft law instrument. HLRN contributed four cases to this process and participated in the 2009 Lancaster University conference and publishable dossier on the subject.

The network also participated in the Durban Review Conference which aims to evaluate progress towards the goals set by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance that took place in Durban, South Africa, in 2001. HLRN identified patterns of housing and land rights violations, as well as new forms of discrimination affecting housing and land rights since the 2001 Conference.

During 2009, a close relationship has developed with a non-member ally in Nigeria, the National Union of Tenants of Nigeria (NUTN). Contact with NUTN began through a request for help in publicizing the mass evictions that had been planned for Port Harcourt in the Rivers State region as a consequence of the mass privatization schemes the Nigerian government was implementing.

Regarding educational tools, HLRN produced three colored world maps, based on the Violation Database (VDB) data. The VDB, available in English and Arabic, documents the world's most-common housing and land rights violations including: forced eviction, demolition, confiscation, and violations resulting from the privatization of public goods and services. A report was also issued on the findings and trends arising from the VDB's cases.

During the year, HLRN updated and further developed the curriculum of some of its training modules, as events, developments and training opportunities have required. In 2009, the network benefitted 250 trainees over a total of 97 hours of actual training delivery.

As of December 31st, 2009 HLRN had 93 members (4 friends + 89 members) and 121 contacts. HLRN counted 28 new membership requests (16 members and 12 friends), of which 6 were approved in the year. From the 324 HIC members, more than a third was affiliated to the thematic network.



Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) in South Asia

HLRN's South Asia Regional Programme (HLRN SARP) based in New Delhi is engaged in a range of activities related to promoting human rights to adequate housing and land in the region:

In 2009, HLRN SARP played the lead role in creating a new platform of human rights organizations and activists called "Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN" (WGHR), assuming the responsibility of hosting its Secretariat for the first year. This working group helped organize a national civil society consultation in Delhi in March 2009 with the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights and has been engaged in subsequent follow up. WGHR also took the lead in several advocacy efforts with the Indian government, including on caste-based discrimination and repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act.

The South Asia programme continued to work actively in the campaign against homelessness in New Delhi, playing an integral role in the work of Shahri Adhikar Manch: Begharon ke Liye (Urban Rights Forum: For the Homeless). This involved supporting the Beghar Foundation – an organization of the homeless, while leading advocacy efforts for improved services for them, including the creation of more shelters, voter identity cards, and launching initiatives against arbitrary arrests of and violence against them. This involved using legal measures and advocacy at the National Human Rights Commission. In collaboration with partners, HLRN SARP continued its campaign against forced evictions. The programme revised and promoted the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement by conducting workshops, committing government officials in the effort to encourage the use and adoption of the Guidelines in local laws and policies,



and translating and publishing the guidelines into Hindi, Telugu, and Urdu. In the same effort to create a strategy to both prevent forced evictions and support already displaced communities negotiating rehabilitation packages, it has been playing the lead role in developing an eviction impact assessment tool.

The South Asia programme worked intensively on promoting human rights in post-disaster response. It continued engaging with, and assisting, local communities and organizations working on their behalf in Tamil Nadu and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on housing, land and livelihood issues in the post-tsunami context.

Over the last year, efforts were also focused on human right education, with a focus on education, awareness, skill-sharing and training efforts for different constituencies: students, activists, civil society organizations, government officials, and the general public. It also worked on preparing popular education material related to forced evictions and the human right to adequate housing.

During the year, HLRN SARP organized two successful regional consultations on housing and land rights – one in Imphal and the other in Kolkata, both in India.

Land Rights in the Middle East and North Africa

The HIC-Housing and Land Rights Network (HIC-HLRN) organized and hosted a civic forum on the human rights dimensions of land in the Middle East / North Africa (MENA) region, held in Cairo, Egypt, 10–12 May 2009. The first conference of its kind in the region, the forum brought together experts from diverse approaches in an exploratory dialogue concerned with upholding land rights, ranging from popular and legal challenges to the privatization of public and environmental goods and services, affecting land and—especially—water, exploring regionally specific tools for land and water management as public goods, also involving Islamic law and moral principles.

The forum sought to support processes of emerging claims to a human right to land by identifying and developing methodologies and tools for monitoring, documenting and resolving the problems of land management by applying the criteria of human rights and corresponding state obligations.

A series of analytical country papers from Sudan, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia, Palestine, Algeria, Bahrain, and Egypt prepared by the forum's expert contributors described the theoretical and material facts related to land rights and the current campaigns and initiatives at multilateral, national and civil society levels. These were shared with regional and international participants in advance and guided a general discussion, feedback and questions during the forum. Working groups divided around shared themes between country-specific cases, to culminate and further define recommendations stemming from the country papers.

The first working group discussed women's rights to land and inheritance, which participants agreed were indivisible issues. The main obstacles to realizing these rights stem from women's experiences with multiple forms of discrimination and social exclusion, in some cases due to an inadequate legal framework and in others due to cultural trends, traditions, and customary practices. Recommendations responded to these issues by identifying a need to strengthen research, documentation and advocacy for legal reforms in those countries where there are inadequate or contradictory laws on women's rights to land and inheritance. In this regard, there is a need to improve the evidence base by documenting women's experiences and collecting baseline information.

The second working group focused on land in conflict situations, a major theme specific to the MENA region which is plagued with land conflicts that originate in struggles over natural resources, colonial legacies, civil war, demographic manipulation, institutionalized discrimination, ethnic and tribal disputes, and intense competition between nomadic and settled populations over land and resources. Recommendations called for legal reforms and the prohibition of practices that deny restitution and secure tenure to all people, especially

women, subject to dispossession, property destruction and displacement. For the full restitution of land for all displaced persons, civil society's enhanced capacity, methodological development and production is required in field research, documentation, quantification of damages and losses, analysis, identification of violations as crimes, cooperation with the media, networking, and campaigns. Recognizing these needs, for its part, HIC-HLRN is refining the Loss Matrix methodology for quantifying costs and losses arising from housing and land rights violations generally, in order to harmonize with the Special Rapporteur's Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement. Moreover, it is committed to completing a manual for addressing such housing and land rights violations that constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity with a view to both prosecution and reparations, incorporating the quantification methods.

Finally, the third working group on agrarian reform and privatization identified the need for more civic engagement in initiatives against hunger, document experiences of landless peasant social movements, establish a specialized database for land that includes civil society information, opinions and studies, and give voice to excluded social groups to demand their human rights. The working group affirmed ongoing efforts of HIC-HLRN and Members to develop new FAO "Voluntary Guidelines on responsible governance of tenure of land and other natural resources," special initiatives against hunger such as the Right to Food and Nutrition WATCH Consortium, which FIAN is coordinating, and an eventual guide based on agrarian-reform experiences in select countries.

At the forum's closing session, male and female participants volunteered to form a Steering Committee to follow-up communications, review the Forum's output and consult on future activities in order to achieve the agreed objectives leading up to the next Land Forum in 2010. In the meantime, HIC-HLRN has launched a "Landpedia" to stimulate debate and information exchange on the human rights dimensions of land with a focus on the MENA region.

Women and Habitat Network (WAHN)*

During HIC annual events in Cairo in May 2009, a group of HIC Board representatives, members, and staff met to discuss a revitalization process for HIC WAHN. The agenda for these meetings included re-defining the network's structure and corresponding roles as well as to establish a common working plan between regions through HIC WAHN representatives. These challenges are ongoing and while global activities remain fragmented, communication is continually taking place between representatives to strengthen their interregional ties and define a common global agenda towards women and habitat rights. Mentioned below are some actions in different regions that were undertaken by HIC WAHN regional representatives throughout 2009.

In Asia, HIC WAHN member Sathi All for Partnerships (SAFP) from India has been working to increase WAHN membership in Asia by participating in various seminars representing women's habitat issues related to climate change, resources, local development plans, and food and water security. SAFP also participated in the further development of UN Habitat's Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) alongside the Huairou Commission and the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) among other partners.

CONGEH, a coalition of civil society organizations from Cameroon, continued strengthening their Land Consultation Clinics which support women in attaining vital information on their habitat rights including valuable advice on actions that may be taken to guarantee their inheritance rights to housing and land. Throughout 2009, CONGEH worked to mainstream gender issues related to HIV/AIDS in habitat, which included their participation in a strategic workshop that took place in Nairobi in February.

Many actions on women's habitat rights in Latin America are focused on issues surrounding gender violence, with many organizations participating in UNIFEM's Safe Cities Campaign. In line with this work, HIC WAHN member Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán hosted the public forum "Cities Without Violence Against Women, Safe Cities for All" on November 27 with participants from Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Peru who presented their lived experiences related to public safety from a gender perspective. As of December 31st 2009, HIC WAHN had 48 members, 4 friends, and 30 contacts. Of the 51 new applications for HIC membership in 2009, 31 applicants requested to also become a member of HIC WAHN.

*In accordance with a proposal made during the 2009 HIC Board meeting, the Women and Shelter Network (HIC WAS) name was changed to the Women and Habitat Network (HIC WAHN) as the term 'shelter' was considered to be too limiting in the scope of the network's activities related to various habitat issues.

Latin American Regional Workshop on the Right to the City

The seminar-workshop "Towards the Implementation of the Right to the City in Latin America" took place from 25 to 30 September 2009 in Quito, Ecuador, organized by COHRE and HIC-AL, among other international and local organizations. Thirty-nine representatives from thirty-four regional and national networks, social movements and civil society organizations engaged in promoting the right to the city in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela participated in this event.

Following the proposal of this collective right, this workshop represented a milestone in the articulation of social movements and organizations to address urban inequalities and implement alternatives to the neoliberal model. The right to the city is a slogan; it is a banner of social movements' struggles which has been developing for 40 years and reflects communities' efforts against the perverse effects of neoliberalism. In this perspective, the following issues arose from the debate: strengthening the self-management of habitat, the democratization of land management and access to property, the regularization of tenure and access to public services, and the harmonization of national and local legislation to international standards and commitments on human rights.

The experiences of some Latin American countries show that the creation of legal and administrative instruments for the effective implementation of the right to the city is rising due to a favorable political context for social change. It is increasingly expanding the understanding of the right to the city as the collective rights of urban dwellers to achieve universal access to goods and services without discrimination based on origin, economic status or other forms of prejudice. Recognizing the right to the city also means

acknowledging that cities are not only built of cement and bricks, but that they are built and recreated by all inhabitants through social relations.

The seminar-workshop identified the core elements of an advocacy strategy - both at local and national Latin American levels - outlining proposals and concrete actions to ensure security of tenure, prevention of evictions, access to public services and facilities by all citizens, and social participation in the definition, implementation and monitoring of urban policies. The objective was to strengthen advocacy for public policy, legislation and jurisprudence of Latin American countries in order to implement the right to the city from the analysis of existing tools and experiences, practices and suggestions as developed by civil society. The objective of the seminar was to strengthen social movements' and organizations' capacities and to concretize housing rights as well as to disseminate the right to the city, favoring democratization and inclusiveness in cities. The group also developed a joint proposal toward the World Urban Forum 5 (Rio de Janeiro, March 2010) to achieve a common understanding of the recognition, respect and implement the right to the city from a human rights perspective.



Implementing The Habitat Agenda in Africa

One of the biggest development challenges facing Africa is to build institutions that make sense to ordinary people – institutions that address their concerns and engage their energy. For the last few years, funders have been channeling resources through a network of organizations that have been making a real difference by working from the bottom up. Since 1987 HIC has been knitting together a fabric of such neighborhood and local institutions by support and sharing at regional and even global level, at the same time building their collective power and influence.

In Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia for example, about 90 percent of residents were living in very ramshackle dwellings in slums without water and sanitation, when a local HIC Member (IHA-UDP) started an integrated approach to upgrading housing through community mobilization. The approach – involving health, education, housing and income generation – had reached a population of 42,000 by 2008, with communities in four kebeles (a local authority neighborhood unit) working with the City Council and donors. Residents were able to get access to water points and various means of livelihood as well as improved houses that they could afford. They were simple dwellings, but much better than what they had before, and they were what people wanted. Some people even started businesses by providing access to better latrines so more people had access to sanitation for which they paid a few cents.

This is one of the six organizations forming the core of the HIC-Africa Project supported by ACCD to increase capacity building so that similar organizations across Africa can make their presence felt in local and national housing policies. All are HIC members, others being from Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa, as well as from Cameroon, Mali and Senegal in West Africa. The project aims at implementing the Habitat Agenda – formulated at the United Nations in 1996.

Themes addressed by the HIC-Africa Project are women's access to land and housing, water and sanitation, and HIV-AIDS and housing. Workshops in Ethiopia, Mali and Burkina Faso, dealt with these in various ways, building up local capacities and sharing learning in the many places participating.

Rooftops held the first ever international workshop on HIV-AIDS and housing at the World Urban Forum in Vancouver in 2006, and in February 2009 an African Regional Workshop was held in Nairobi. The results of a related six-country survey of HIV-AIDS and housing can be found in SINA-Newsletter 73 on the website www.mazinst.org and detailed news of the HIC-Africa Project can be found (in English only)

at the same website in SINA issues nos. 71-74.

Because organizations – civic and governmental – are already overstretched, the connections between HIV-AIDS interventions and other programs are often not made while the burden of the disease is increasing with densely-built slums. Mainstreaming HIV-AIDS into organizations dealing with housing for disadvantaged people makes a crucial difference on the ground as the HIC-Africa Project is showing.

CONGEH, a coalition of thirty such organizations and groups in Cameroon, has been working on HIV-AIDS since 1998 when it found communities had little information and women were worst affected. Its experience of empowering women through information, skills, economic potential and legal support was shared with others at the Mazingira-hosted workshop. PLANACT in South Africa – where HIV-Aids prevalence is 26% in informal or slum areas – has supported community-based responses to the problem in partnership with Johannesburg City Council.



HIC members from thirteen African countries participated in the Land Forum organized by the Housing and Land Rights Network in Cairo in May 2009. They explored the burning challenges arising from land deprivation among the poor, as well as rights-based approaches that helped them to develop a common agenda. Legal challenges and other strategies to address issues such as evictions, women's lack of inheritance and other rights, the privatization of land and water resources, and land in conflict situations were tackled at the Forum, which strengthened the different organizations' capacities to confront their problems at home.

Also in 2009, a workshop on providing drinking water and sanitation, along with affordable housing, was held in

West Africa. It was hosted by HIC's Habitat and Sustainable Environment Network in Dakar, Senegal. COFEPE from Mali was one of the organizations there, grappling with problems such as building catchments to provide safe water at schools especially by bringing low income people together with other actors in the housing sector.

Another problem was lack of success in trying to help women evicted from their housing. Typical of many African capital cities, Abidjan in Ivory Coast lacks official attention to suitable technologies or ways of providing public goods for low-income groups. Those at the workshop benefitted from learning so that, for example, women in Mali are getting teaching aids and help with acquiring land from the state, while successful experiences with water and sanitation in Senegal and Niger helped many others. During site visits to poor communities in Dakar supported by ENDA-RUP people saw how groups of households have developed networks of small diameter waste pipes with grease-traps and septic tanks, as well as water supply, making big improvements in the neighborhoods affected.

This is an example of how, even though the pace of development of institutions and their capacities may be uneven, mutual exchange helps bridge many gaps. Another example is Nigeria, which is way ahead on gender budgeting and planning, including public participation in advancing women's rights to a safe environment and adequate shelter. Networking in the

Sub-Saharan Africa is achieving implementing the Habitat Agenda by bringing about lasting change on the ground. These changes do not often make headlines but they will mean a lot in the long term. And without them, the big changes in Africa's development will not only be slowed down – they may not happen at all.



HICademy

HICademy is an idea that was proposed by the HIC President in 2008, based on the belief that the knowledge produced within the Coalition had to be systematized and shared in an effort to further strengthen HIC's mission to fight for decent habitat and the achievement of social justice.

HICademy is a space for exchange between members and structures to support HIC's mission and facilitate the achievement of the Coalition's objectives. The HIC global website (www.hic-net.org) permits the implementation of HICademy, serving as its operating platform. During HIC meetings in Cairo in May 2009, HIC-GS released the newly designed global website with an improved, free and more open Linux operating platform. This new site permits the development of new tools to serve HIC needs in terms of knowledge, communication and networking.

A reorganization of the database documents (Habitat Themes) has been completed in 2009, creating a library focused on housing issues and providing a space where members are able to offer and receive services. The challenge is to encourage members to participate in

this tool so that together with HIC structures, HICademy is built collaboratively in order to achieve their own objectives and those of the Coalition. To do that, HICademy proposes services for and by members in a section where it provides a space for members to display their offers and demands for training, internships and technical assistance:

HIC members seeking support

HIC members seek guidance and support for training, internships and technical assistance.

Showcase of HIC Services

HIC members and structures present their services and documents that serve the Coalition in the fight for the right to habitat and social justice.

I support HIC!

This service allows website visitors who are interested in supporting the Coalition to present their demands and offers of services to HIC members and structures that are seeking support.

HIC Award

The National Forum for Urban Reform (FNRU)

FNRU is the Brazilian coalition of social and professional movements and organizations, as well as unions and research institutes, struggling for the right to the city. It is made up of 20 different civil society organizations, led by four central urban dwellers organizations throughout Brazil. For more than 20 years, the coalition has been fighting for more just and equitable cities.

FNRU uses a collective and sustained work strategy. Over the years, FNRU has developed coordination capacity based on a methodology that respects the differences between its movements and organizations. Decision-making within FNRU is by consensus.

FNRU's activities involve the formulation and implementation of public policies to address the civil and political rights of all women and men to participate in building and managing the city, and to guarantee economic, social and cultural rights, such as access to urban land and the right to a sustainable habitat, and to facilitate coexistence among all inhabitants of urban space.

Its activities are complementary, although separated into two lines of action: government advocacy – in relation to central government, state and local government–; and linking social movements through solidarity work, accompanying social organizations, social communication, and training.

FNRU made a substantial contribution to the 2001 promulgation of the “Statute of the City”, a national

consensus that includes the federal government, municipalities and civil society. In this compendium of laws, Brazil defines the regulatory instruments required for urban development and management to make social control a priority, thus putting into practices the principles and proposals of UN-Habitat’s global campaigns, Urban Governance and Secure Tenure for the Poor. The Statute specifies the application of constitutional provisions and defines innovative instruments for urban management.

Since the Statute of the City was put into practice, FNRU has continued to be able to both criticize and present proposals that are reflected in the federal government’s habitat and urban policies and programs, particularly in policies related to housing, environmental sanitation, and transportation. Whether confronting or working with the Ministry of Cities, FNRU provides oversight for the implementation of the Statute in the spirit of urban reform, or in other words, the creation of a new urban ethic.

As recognition to this civil society capacity and in the process towards World Urban Forum (WUF 5) that defined its encounter in Rio de Janeiro for the Right to the City –one of Brazil’s main contributions to urban issues in the world– HIC presented FNRU to the Habitat Scroll of Honour Award 2009. UN Habitat did not honour FNRU with their award, but HIC does.

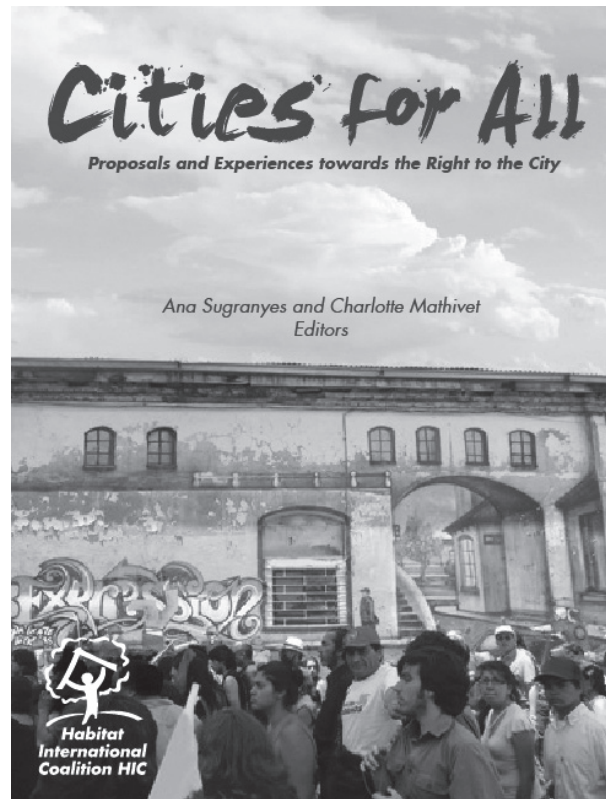


Cities for All: Proposals and Experiences towards the Right to the City

Throughout 2009, the HIC General Secretariat worked on the publication *Cities for All: Proposals and Experiences towards the Right to the City*. This publication compiles 30 experiences on how to implement the right to the city in 23 different countries and it has been translated into English, Spanish and Portuguese.

The book not only documents and publicizes these diverse experiences, but seeks to analyze the concept of the right to the city from a critical standpoint. Proposals are offered in the first section of the book which analyze the diversity of reflection and action from which this concept has arisen, guarding against the use of the concept as an empty political slogan, and restoring its transformative potential in the creation of a more just and equitable urban environment for all.

Ultimately, the goal of *Cities for All* is to not only create a space for debate, the exchange of ideas, and the illustration of experiences, but to demonstrate the strength of the right to the city as a tool for a more just and sustainable world characterized by the equitable usufruct of cities in accordance with the principles of sustainability and justice. More specifically, it seeks to mobilize the concept and offer a practical alternative to the current process of mass urbanization characterized by deep inequalities, increasing global poverty, the scarcity of natural resources, and environmental fragility. HIC has been involved in the creation of a theoretical and practical framework for the right to the city for the past two decades and *Cities for All* serves as an additional source of inspiration for people to live in peace and dignity in every city.



The book also initiates the project of exploring the challenges and opportunities of the implementation of the right to the city in the regions of Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America. Though this concept is well established within Latin America, there is a need to explore and expand its productive potential as a criticism of current neoliberal urban development in all regions of the world, a criticism that will lead to political strategies and proposals that

allow for the conceptualization and actualization of a new and socially just world.

Rather than offering final solutions and inflexible conclusions, *Cities for All* serves as a platform for the discussion and construction of the right to the city. Following its publication, the work that lies ahead is the refinement of an agreed political strategy in the use of the right to the city worldwide.

Cities for All was launched on Tuesday March 23, 2010 during the World Urban Forum 5 in Rio de Janeiro. The publication and its vision of the right to the city was presented to more than 130 participants from different parts of the world who attended the book launch and the debate that followed, including authors of the publication. With international institutions such as UN Habitat adopting the slogan of the right to the city, there is a risk that its politically transformative potential may be lost and it remains more crucial than ever to promote the right to the city as understood and developed by HIC and many other social movements and organizations. *Cities for All* and its presence in the World Urban Forum were important achievements in this regard.

Gender Mainstreaming within HIC

Reaching goals towards the realization of women's habitat rights have been central in HIC debates and actions throughout its 30-year history. Gender equality is included as one of four central perspectives in HIC's mission to guarantee habitat rights with social justice and is one of 20 organizational principles that HIC members and structures should reflect in their work. While gender equality is also promoted through various ways within HIC structures and is upheld in the



Constitution – for example by maintaining a gender balance on the HIC Board – the formal link between HIC and efforts in support of women and the struggle for decent habitat is assumed by the Women and Habitat Network (HIC-WAHN).

An outcome of the international seminar on women and habitat rights (Barcelona 2008), which also served to survey the gender dimension within HIC, suggested that HIC consider undertaking a gender mainstreaming process, which has been identified by many international institutions and organizations as the best strategy to reach the goal of gender equality.

Mainstreaming gender is a process of assessing the implications of any action, policy or program on women and men and then including women's concerns and experiences into all policy development, research, advocacy, resource allocation, planning, implementation and monitoring of projects, programs, and tools. It is meant to be a transformative process which changes the stream of development by integrating gender equality as a means and an end.

These perspectives are included in the work of many HIC members and structures, and HIC-GS has been working to formulate tools to initiate a gender mainstreaming process within the Coalition as a whole. This would involve a Coalition-wide audit of HIC members and structures' activities, products and services which include goals towards gender equality, followed by a group analysis of the audit results, and culminating in the formulation of a gender plan of action to address any gaps identified and strategize how to further progress on HIC goals towards gender equality in habitat rights with social justice.

The will, commitment and dedication of all members and structures to this process is vital in order to make significant progress towards gender equality and to uphold HIC's mission to "enhance the implementation of international consensus, commitments and obligations to ensure the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women" and to "promote the equal access of women and men to social, economic, cultural and environmental features of habitat, and the effective participation of women in decision-making". This mission must first be upheld by HIC members and structures, which represent civil society, if there is to be any powerful force enhancing the commitments and obligations of international institutions and states. This is a challenge that HIC assumes through membership management and HICademy by facilitating the means for exchange of experiences among members, influencing local processes towards habitat rights, and strengthening advocacy capacities.



HIC Financial Statement 2009⁽¹⁾

Expressed in US Dollars

Year 2009	HIC-AA ⁽²⁾	HIC-AL ⁽³⁾	MENA	SARP ⁽⁴⁾	HRLN ⁽⁴⁾	HIC-GS	Total	Balance expressed in percentage	
Income	140,492	230,366	317,011	158,672	117,180	177,701	1,141,422		
Donor Agencies ^(5a, b, c, d, e, f)	140,492	212,680	255,994	145,437	106,520	136,086	997,209		
HIC Membership fees	---	---	---	---	---	6,008	6,008		
Solidarity, special contributions	---	17,686	61,017	13,235	10,660	35,607	138,205		
Expenditure	140,492	221,100	218,520	107,287	168,166	166,882	1,022,447		
Staff Costs ⁽⁶⁾	16,016	109,961	84,279	43,038	108,778	73,729	435,801		38%
Projects, activities ⁽⁷⁾	119,699	88,184	124,556	58,303	51,491	80,408	522,641		46%
Administration Costs ⁽⁸⁾	3,372	20,273	5,956	4,986	5,637	12,745	52,969		5%
Audit ⁽⁹⁾	01,405	2,682	3,729	960	2,260	0	11,036		1%
Difference for operation 2010⁽¹⁰⁾	0	9,266	98,491	51,385	- 50,986	10,819	118,975	10%	

Notes:

- (1) Financial Statements are reported from six structures that have infrastructure dedicated to the Coalition purpose: Anglophone Africa (AA), Latin America (HIC-AL), Middle East/North Africa (MENA); South Asia Regional Program (SARP); Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) and the General Secretariat (HIC-GS).
- (2) HIC-AA office, Mazingira Institute in Nairobi, Kenya, works in three dimensions: (1) HIC networking in Africa, (2) Kenyan advocacy, research and publication and (3) support to HIC Presidency. Mazingira Institute's accounting includes the three dimensions. The reported amounts correspond to HIC networking in Africa.
- (3) HIC-AL office in Mexico works in two dimensions: (1) HIC networking and advocacy in Latin American, (2) Mexican advocacy and networking. The HIC-AL accounting includes the two dimensions. 4% of the reported amounts correspond to the national Mexican activities.
- (4) Middle East/North Africa (MENA), South Asia Regional Program (SARP) and Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) have an integrated accounting system.
- (5a) Contributions to HIC-AA correspond to the 2009 project "Implementing the Habitat Agenda in the Sub-Saharan African Region", supported by the Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament de la Generalitat de Catalunya (ACCD)
- (5b) Main contributions to HIC-AL: Misereor USD.91,162.35; RLS USD 93,380.84; UUSC USD 25,000.00
- (5c) Main contributions to HIC-MENA: include difference 2008, USD 31,678; Ford Foundation USD 25,050 and ICCO USD 141,529.51
- (5d) Main contributions to HIC-SARP: include difference 2008, USD 58,212; Tata Foundation USD 75,000
- (5e) Main contributions to HIC-HLRN: include difference 2008, USD 44,201; Misereor USD 119,760.92
- (5f) Main contributions to HIC-GS: include difference 2008 USD 15,362; Misereor € 18,000, KZE € 82,000; Ritimo/FPH € 5,000
- (6) The staff costs cover administrative and professional staff, whose duties are not related to a specific project but to the operation and administration throughout the HIC structure.
- (7) The costs of projects and activities include fees, travels, associated events, per diem, publication and promotion (web sites)
- (8) Administrative costs related to rent and office supplies (including telephone, ASDL and security), bank charges and fixed assets for the office (e.g. computer hard and soft wares)
- (9) Audit: (i) HIC-AA, the auditor is Swaly & Company, Nairobi, Kenya; (ii) HIC-AL, the auditor is Resendiz y Asociados Consultores, S.C., México DF, México; (iii) MENA, SARP and HLRN, the auditor is Waleed al-Batawy & Assoc., Cairo, Egypt; (iv) HIC-GS, the auditor is Canales Asociados Limitada, Santiago, Chile.
- (10) The calculation of the difference in each structure is based on the total income. In the six cases the balance corresponds to activities already committed and projects to be executed at the beginning of 2010, especially towards WUF5 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

HIC partners


Throughout 2009, HIC advocated before the following institutions:

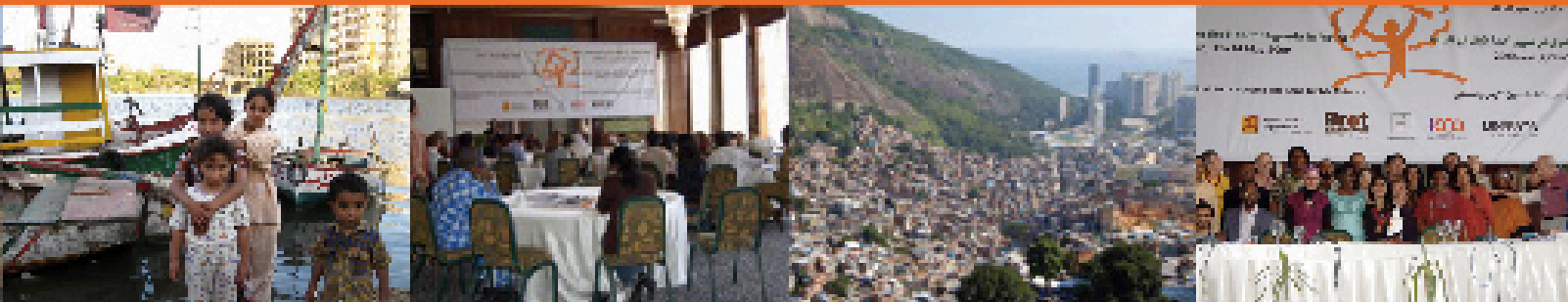
- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
|  Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) |  Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) |  Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) |  Food and Agriculture Organisation |
|  International Labour Organization (ILO) |  United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs – NGO Branch (UNDESA) |  United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) |  UN Human Rights Council (UNRC) – OHCHR, CERD, CESCR |
|  United Nations Centre for Human Settlements UN-Habitat (International and Regional offices) |  United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |  Urban and Housing Ministries Assembly in Latin America and Caribbean (MINURVI) | |

The global partners HIC has been working with during 2009 are the following:

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|  Africa Center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies |  Amnesty International |  Arab Institute for Human Rights |  Dignity International |
|  Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción |  Association of International Dalit Solidarity |  CEMIRADE (Center for Minority Rights and Development) |  Center for the Study of Human Rights and Democracy |
|  Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation |  Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) |  Development Support Center |  Frente de autoridades locales (FAL) Front of Local Authorities |
|  European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) |  Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN) |  Forum Nacional de Reforma Urbana do Brasil (FNRU) |  Friends of the Earth |
|  Global Call for Action Against Poverty (GCAP) |  Habitat for Humanity HIC works with HFH's regional and local offices |  Human Sciences Research Council (South Africa) |  IPC Food Sovereignty |
|  International Alliance of Inhabitants |  International Union of Tenants |  Lutheran World Federation |  Near East Foundation |
|  Rooftops Canada Abri International |  Secretaria Latinoamericana de Vivienda Popular (SELVIP) |  Servicio Latinoamericano, Africano y Asiático de Vivienda Popular (SELAVIP) |  Social and Economic Rights Action Centre (SERAC) (Nigeria) |
|  Transnational Institute (Netherlands) |  Regional Council of Unrecognized Villages |  UN Millennium Campaign |  Via Campesina |

During 2009, HIC has been working as part of:

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|  WSF, World Social Forum |
| • International Council (IC) |
| • Communication Commission of the IC |
| • Urban Social Forum |



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For more information on HIC and its structures refer to the following websites:

Habitat International Coalition
www.hic-net.org

HIC Latin American Office
www.hic-al.org

HIC South Asia Regional Programme
www.hic-sarp.org

HIC Middle East and North Africa
www.hic-mena.org

HIC Housing and Land Rights Network
www.hlrn.org



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