

London, 30 September 2019

Re. Letter of acceptance for the nomination as President of HIC (2019-2023)

Dear HIC community and members of the Electoral Committee,

It is with great honor and humility that I accept the nomination as candidate to the Presidency of the Habitat International Coalition (HIC) (2019-2023). I have followed and admired the work of HIC for decades, and its vision has been an inspiration throughout my career. It was the work of many HIC members – and people like Kirtee Shah, Enrique Ortiz, John Turner, Hilda Herzer and Ana Sugranyes, among many others - that back in the 1980s took me to question what I had learnt as a planner at university. They also inspired me to immerse myself in the processes and struggles of those who **actually** plan, manage and run cities despite the recurrent violation of their right to be treated as entitled citizens.

Over the last 35 years, I have had the opportunity to work with grassroots organisations in almost 25 countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and less extensively, the Middle East. Through the lens of land, housing, food, water, sanitation, risk and health, my work looks at the interface between everyday city-making practices and planned interventions, and aims to expand the political arena and capacities required to generate transformative spaces, places and social and political relations.

I am based at the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) at University College London, an organization whose ethos, mission and vision are closely aligned with those of HIC. Working at the DPU and in close collaboration with many grassroots networks and HIC members has provided me with invaluable insights on the many challenges faced to confront injustices and to advance the right of all people to a safe place to live in peace and with dignity. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to support the Habitat process and other international campaigns, fighting for justice in relation to climate change, universal access to water and sanitation, informal workers and women and girls' rights.

Furthermore, counting on the support of several HIC member and DPU colleagues – including the experience of Alexandre Apsan Frediani who assist the Coalition as a Board Member – gives me confidence that I could serve HIC as part of a wide 'team', tapping into the knowledge, experience and perspectives of the multiple constituent parts of the HIC family. In a separate statement, I outlined some of the main challenges I believe we face in advancing the social production of habitat.

I have huge respect for the extraordinary work of Lorena Zarate – current HIC President – and I am fully aware that she leaves big shoes to fill. If you so choose, I am ready to apply my commitment, experience and capacities to the service of the Coalition, seeking to work collectively and inclusively, with deep respect for HIC's diversity and all my passion and energy to strengthen the Coalition's work across the multiple scales, cultures, generations and geographies that make HIC.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adriana', is placed on a light grey rectangular background.

Adriana Allen