

**Civil Society Statement for World Habitat Day on Preparations for the United Nations
Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development
(Habitat III)**

**Text signed by 106 networks, civil society movements, universities and individuals from 28
countries worldwide**

The General Assembly of the United Nations has called for the year 2016 to host the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, also known as Habitat III. Habitat III's first preparatory meeting was held in New York in September 2014.

For civil society organizations internationally, this conference means the possibility of a New Habitat Agenda, not just a New Urban Agenda that considers rural and urban areas as one continuous territory. It will identify international standards and obligations to recognize the right to the city, the right to land and territory for all, as well as quality transportation for a safe and inclusive urban mobility, environmentally-friendly energy and collective urban memory, inter alia.

In 1976, the Habitat I Conference in Vancouver adopted a Declaration on Human Settlements. Although the Conference occurred during a period of rapid urbanization, conferees never lost sight of the rural-urban relationship. The Habitat II Conference in Istanbul in 1996 achieved significant advances in the recognition of the right to housing in the Habitat Agenda adopted by participants, thanks to the participation of civil society.

Despite these achievements, we cannot ignore the current accelerated process of speculative urban developments, financialisation of housing, property and mortgage as well as land grabbing witnessed around the world. This process often violates basic human rights and leads to irrational sprawl of cities and social segregation with serious impacts on the lives of human beings, nature and territories, as well as in everyday social life. Moreover, it harms the right of all people, to live in peace, dignity and safety without discrimination.

For our organizations, the metabolic relationship between the rural and urban cannot be ignored. The policies of recent decades have sought to weaken the rural areas and empty its population in favor of big agribusiness, that have allowed cities to grow at the expense of rural areas. We disagree with the hegemonic model of development from which these policies are derived, which causes the seizure of the territories of indigenous peoples and peasants as well as the destruction of their habitat and sources of income. This model has also increased criminal violence that provokes mass migrations, increased poverty, and a loss of culture and community practices. All this makes life impossible for those not concentrated in the cities.

These dire consequences require that the discussions, proposals and resolutions of Habitat III focus primarily on human rights and obligations for the states. Grassroots and civil society organizations have advanced alternative proposals that should be considered in Habitat III, such as:

-The evaluation of the implementation of the Habitat II Agenda and its corresponding Global Plan of Action;

-The promotion of measures to overcome inequalities, discrimination, segregation and lack of opportunity to enjoy the habitat and good living conditions for all in both the city and country;

-The development of proposals to create instruments for participatory planning and budgeting, institutional support for the social production of habitat, the democratization of areas of territorial management, citizen control and coordination of the public sector with the planning sectors, habitat production and management, as well as the recognition of the social function of property.

All this, among other things, is made explicit and developed in the framework of the right to the city that endorses struggles, experiences and expectations of urban dwellers as subjects of law.

In a complementary manner, HABITATIII shall encourage measures and instruments that promote responsible production and consumption, avoiding distortions of the "green economy". In the new agenda that will arise, there must be tools to prevent, avoid and compensate for human rights violations related to habitat, particularly the dispossession of territories, evictions and forced displacement of populations caused by megaprojects and works of infrastructure. Finally, in HABITATIII, beyond the plan to construct resilient cities, measures must be designed to address the root causes of environmental degradation and climate change.

None of this will be possible if, in HABITAT III, civil society does not guarantee equal participation with respect to the other actors. This is especially important for issues such as representation and participation in national committees, access to information, and the inclusion of their concerns and proposals on national and international debates and throughout the process. The way to make sure social participation is fulfilled in Habitat III is by creating ways to facilitate appropriate and dignified conditions in the planning, as well as during and after the conference. All must have access to information and logistical support for all social proposals to reach very level during each phase of the process. It is important to consider that social participation reflects gender equity, facilitation of various age groups and the inclusion of people with disabilities and representatives of indigenous peoples, with respect of their customs.

It is indispensable that the new Habitat Agenda include the participation of social movements and civil society organizations and addresses also the diversity of interests, senses and practices. Therefore, we demand that this international effort include and recognize innovations by the social and popular sector –that frequently has to face opposition, lack of support and even criminalization– in order to achieve more just, democratic and sustainable cities. In one word: the building of another city and another possible world.

The City is a Right, not a merchandise!

Housing is a Right, not a merchandise!

The territory is a Right, not a merchandise!

Add paragraphs about the local situation.

October 6, 2014

International Organizations

Habitat International Coalition (HIC) and International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI)

National, regional organizations and individuals

Angola

Individuals

Murielle Mignot, Consultant in Development and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Argentina

Organizations

Asociación Civil Madre Tierra

Centro de Estudios Urbanos y Regionales (CEUR-CONICET)

Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo Institucional (CIDI)

Centro de Intercambio y Servicios para el Cono Sur (CISCOSA)

Federación de Tierra y Vivienda (FTV)

Fundación Equipo de Arquitectura de Servicio y Acción Social –Organización Técnica de Apoyo (EDAS-OTA)

Habitar Argentina "Iniciativa Multisectorial por el Derecho a la Tierra, a la Vivienda y al Hábitat

Instituto Internacional de Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo (IIED América Latina)

Individuals

Virginia Miranda Gassull, CONICET Grant holder

Bolivia

Organizations

Comité Articulador de Cooperativas de Vivienda por Ayuda Mutua de Bolivia (CACVAM)

Construyendo Comunidades

Foro Permanente de la Vivienda (FOPEVI)

Fundación Prohábitat

Red Hábitat

Red de Mujeres Líderes Barriales (RMLB)

Red Nacional de Asentamiento Humanos (RENASEH)

Individuals

Jancarla Loayza M.

Brazil

Centro de Estudos, Articulação e Referência sobre Assentamentos Humanos (CEARAH)

Instituto Pólis

Terra de Direitos

União dos Movimentos de Moradia de São Paulo (UMM-SP)

União Nacional por Moradia Popular (UNMP)

Cameroon

Développement et des Droits de l'Homme au Cameroun (GICAR-CAM)

Chile

Organizations

Asociación Chilena de Barrios y Zonas Patrimoniales

Corporación de Estudios Sociales SUR

Desarrollo de Hábitat | TECHO - Latinoamérica y el Caribe

Hábitat para la Humanidad- Chile

Movimiento Nacional por la Reconstrucción Justa

Vecinos por la Defensa del Barrio Yungai

Vicaría de Pastoral Social y de los trabajadores, Arzobispado de Santiago

Individuals

Ana Sugranyes, architect

Colombia

Congreso de los Pueblos

Grupo de Investigación "Procesos Urbanos en hábitat, vivienda e informalidad", Universidad Nacional de Colombia, sede Bogotá

Poder y Unidad Popular

Korea

Asian Bridge

Costa Rica

Fundación Promotora de Vivienda (FUPROVI)

Dominican Republic

Cooperativa de Producción Social de la Vivienda y el Hábitat

Ecuador

Somos Ecuador

Egypt

The Egyptian Center for Right to City

El Salvador

Fundación Salvadoreña de Desarrollo y Vivienda Mínima (FUNDASAL)

United States of America

International Accountability Project

France

Apoyo Urbano/Appui urbain

Habitat en Mouvement

Ghana

Tenant Resources and Advisory Centre-TRAC

Guatemala

Asociación Servicios a Programas de Desarrollo e Investigación (ASOSEPRODI)
Servicios Jurídicos y Sociales (SERJUS)

Israel

Arab Association for Human Rights-HRA

Mali

Association Malienne pour la Sauvegarde du Bien-être Familial (AMASBIF)

Mexico

Organizations

Asamblea de Barrios Santa María de la Rivera

Barzón de la Ciudad de México

Centro Operacional de Vivienda y Poblamiento, A.C. (COPEVI)

Centro de Estudios Sociales y Culturales Antonio de Montesinos (CAM)

Central Unitaria de los Trabajadores (CUT)

Coalición de Colonias Unidas de Oaxaca

Coalición Internacional para el Hábitat, Oficina para América Latina (HIC-AL)

Colectivo de Ciudadanos de Iztapalapa en Defensa de la Energía Eléctrica

Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, A.C.

Comité Lucha Popular (CLP)

Consultoría Especializada en Justiciabilidad de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales (CEJUDESC)

Cooperación Comunitaria CCONG México, A.C.

DECA Equipo Pueblo, A.C.

Espacio de organizaciones civiles sobre derechos económicos, sociales y culturales (Espacio DESC)

FIAN México

Fomento Solidario de la Vivienda A.C. (FOSOVI)

Frente Popular Francisco Villa México Siglo XXI

Frente del Pueblo (Resistencia Organizada)

Hábitat para la Humanidad-México

Hábitat, Participación y Género (Lahas) de la Facultad de Arquitectura de la UNAM

Instituto Mexicano para el Desarrollo Comunitario AC (IMDEC)

La Asamblea Veracruzana de Iniciativas en Defensa del Agua y del Ambiente (LA VIDA)

Movimiento Urbano Popular de la Convención Nacional Democrática (MUP-CND)

Ocupa Tu Ciudad A.C.

Organización Independiente de la zona de Tlahúac-Movimiento Proletario Independiente (OIZT-MPI)

Organización Nacional del Poder Popular Chiapas ONPP-Chiapas

Patria Nueva

Programa Mesoamérica del Instituto de Derechos Humanos Ignacio Ellacuría S.J. de la Universidad Iberoamericana de Puebla.

Regional sureste de la red de producción social de vivienda

Sociedad Organizada en Lucha (SOL)

Unión de Colonias Populares (UCP)

Unión de Colonos de San Miguel Teotongo A. C.

Unión de Colonos, Inquilinos y Solicitantes de Vivienda del Estado de Veracruz (UCISVER-Pobladores)

Unión Popular Francisco Villa A.C.

Unión Popular Valle Gómez

Unión Popular Revolucionaria Emiliano Zapata (UPREZ)

Vecinos en Defensa del Parque Reforma Social

Vecinos Justo Sierra 27

Individuals

Adelina González Marín, Maestra en Desarrollo Rural

Alejandro López Ángeles

Federico Bolaños

Sergio Gallegos Nieto

Palestine

Arab Center for Agricultural Development (ACAD)

Land Research Center

Popular Development Center(PDC)

Pakistan

Sewa Development Trust Sindh

Peru

Organizations

Centro de Estudios y Promoción del Desarrollo (DESCO)

Centro de Investigación, Documentación y Asesoría Poblacional (CIDAP)

Instituto de Desarrollo Urbano (CENCA)

Individuals

Angélica Nagy Román, Arquitecta

South Africa

School of Architecture and Planning, University of the Witwatersrand

Spain

Associació Catalana d'Enginyeria Sense Fronteres (ESF)

Switzerland

urbaMonde

Turkey

Individuals

Batur Talu, Media Consultant, "Touch the Life Association"

Uruguay

Federación Uruguaya de Cooperativas de Vivienda por Ayuda Mutua (FUCVAM)