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- Human-Made Disaster
- Human-Made Hazard
- Stakeholder
- Stakeholder participation

Contributors to this Land Times

- Yasser Abdelkader
- Heather Elaydi
- Humphry Otieno
- Ahmed Mansour Ismail
- Joseph Schechla

Neologisms

Neologisms are compound words newly formed from actual words, often derived their original classical or foreign languages to address new situations. Some neologisms are especially relevant to this issue of *Land Times*/أحوال الأرض. For example, “domicide” is the subject of the current UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing proposing international law recognition of this crime of attacking homes.

This neologism follows the post-World War II-era legal usage of “genocide,” coined by Polish legal scholar [Raphael Lemkin](#) in 1944, combining the Greek word γένος (people, or “race”) with the Latin suffix *-caedo* (act of killing).

In the case of domicile, the verb “to kill” may not seem a suitable reference to inanimate objects and non-living things. However, looking deeper into the etymology, we find derivatives with related meanings such as “to cut,” “to hew,” “to tear,” “to strike” or “to beat.” In other words, domicile is the act of striking houses and homes.

HIC-HLRN reports its support of the proposition here, while reporting on the long history of the term “ecocide,” from its origin before the first UN Conference on the Human Habitat at Stockholm, in 1972. The 50-year anniversary of that pivotal norm-setting process in 2022 reminds us how long it takes to develop needed specificity in international law.

The Vietnam War neologism “ecocide,” coined by [Prof. Arthur W. Gaston](#) in the context of US invasion forces’ [use of agent orange](#), was raised by Swedish PM Olof Palme at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment 50 years ago. Now, its legal definition is [formally proposed](#) as an amendment to the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court.

The term, “apartheid,” borrowed from the Afrikaans language (pronounced: *apart-hāt*), has accrued legal specificity. Features in this issue clarify how the term is now commonly applied to the situation in Palestine, after at least 60 years of usage in [the scholarly literature](#). From the perspective of institutionalized discrimination in housing and land, HIC-HLRN contributes to the debate here, while also reporting on the latest progress of the Human Rights Council mechanisms on Palestine.

Multiple crises in the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) explored here converge to involve public health, food sovereignty and climate change. This year’s climate-change summit (CoP27), hosted in the MENA region, saw negotiations resolve to establish a loss-and-damage fund, but failed to reach vital agreement on progressive carbon-reducing commitments. HIC-HLRN and this *LT* issue offer recommendations for human-centered climate justice in any loss-and-damage process. This approach also amplifies

HIC President Adriana Allen's "[climate justice IS a human right](#)" statement of last year, whose central vision calls for reshaping climate action from a technical effort to cut emissions into an approach that also addresses human rights and social inequality.

Food sovereignty and food systems were the focus of HIC representatives in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its 50th session through the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism. The report by Hala Barakat illuminates the issues involved and values at stake for stakeholder engagement in that policy forum.

The anticipated new stakeholder-engagement mechanism for UN Habitat could become as productive a policy advisory platform, Such is the vision HIC-HLRN is putting on the table, as summarized here.

Meanwhile, *LT* monitors and reports contributions to the UN's often too-divergent Human Rights and Sustainable Development Systems. These a groundbreaking report covering housing and land rights conditions under Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara, as well as the global context of climate change. HIC-HLRN's October 2022 World Habitat Day violation database report illustrates how to identify environment-hazard and climate -change-related housing and land rights loss, cost and damage as violations (i.e., in light of human rights obligations and norm-based remedies). That forensic exercise produces many lessons.

These outcomes leave observers with mixed feelings, described in another neologism: "ambivalence." Sigmund Freud constructed that term from the Latin "*ambo*" (meaning both) and verb "*valēre*" (meaning to be strong). This mixed feeling of being repelled and attracted at the same time reflects the sense that, amid certain—however slow—progress, current efforts at remedy against the dominance of parochial interests are insufficient to resolve current and future crises.

On the optimistic side is the plethora of timely concepts and international norms established by states, while violations of the same persist. Words and language evolve, while implementation still falls short.

Regional Developments

Food Crisis Event and MENA Report



The World Council of Churches (WCC), in collaboration with the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSIPM) for relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) will be holding a webinar in December 2022 providing a comprehensive update and discussion on the global food crisis and the response to that crisis. The event will build on the regional popular consultations organized by CSIPM regional facilitators in July 2022, with

representatives sharing key updates and insights on regional strategies to surmount the food crisis and build a sustainable future. The objective of this process is to help mobilise civil society, Indigenous Peoples and Faith communities to advocate for justice and promote resilience among communities. The work is also expected to help inform policymakers, from national governments to the UN system, about the challenges and needs in each region.

HLRN Program Advisor, Heather Elaydi, and HIC's facilitator for the CSIPM urban food insecure constituency, Hala Barakat, were asked to contribute a report on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to the event, given that regional CSIPM facilitators for West Asia and North Africa did not hold a consultation. The report, to be published after the event, outlines the particular challenges faced by the MENA region during this multi-layered crisis brought on by increased food prices, inflation, supply chain disruptions caused by the pandemic, and now the war in Ukraine. In the report, the authors focus on two of the most pressing issues in the MENA region: conflict, war and occupation, and women's rights.

The MENA is the world's most food import-dependent region, resulting in a food supply that is highly vulnerable to price fluctuations and supply chain disruptions. It represents just 6% of the world's population yet is home to 20% of the world's food insecure people, due largely to the impact of protracted conflict. In Yemen, even prior to the onset of the war, the country had high levels of food insecurity amongst its population and was highly dependent on imports for food, as its own food production system was severely hampered by water scarcity. After 11 years of war, Syria is still a conflict hotspot, with 12 million Syrians – more than 60% of the population – now considered food insecure, which is more than at any other point during the war. Palestinian farmers and fisherfolk are frequently targeted by illegal Israeli settlers and the Israeli army, who

destroy crops, uproot trees, shoot at boats at sea, and block access to farmland and fishing waters, while Gaza is often subjected to full-scale military attacks, in addition to being impacted by the global rise in food prices. In Western Sahara, Sahrawis are winning some battles to prevent Morocco from profiting from their natural resources, but countries such as Spain are ignoring rulings on respecting Sahrawi sovereignty, while food rations to Sahrawi camps in Algeria have been recently cut by WFP.

Throughout the MENA region, where roles and responsibilities associated with food security and nutrition largely fall on the shoulders of women and girls, and despite the key roles women play in food systems, female-headed households experience more severe financial burdens and themselves are the most susceptible to food insecurity, with a prevalence of malnutrition, including undernourishment and obesity (13.2% and 28%, respectively). Women in the MENA region own only 5% of agricultural land but represent at least 40% of the agricultural workers. Women's land ownership in Egypt is only 5%, while Morocco sits at 4.4%, Tunisia at 6.4% and Jordan at only 3.4%. It is estimated that 90% of women in the MENA region have experienced sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), with hunger known to be a main cause of SGBV. Some of the most food insecure women in the region are displaced domestic workers, who are often migrants and refugees.

The impact of conflict on food security is well known, and its role as the "single greatest driver of hunger" has been acknowledged by the FAO. Despite this, governments are not taking the necessary actions to end conflicts, nor are they willing to meet the humanitarian needs of communities facing hunger and famine situations through funding. In this context, it is necessary for affected communities to be given the power of decision-making for their own well-being.

Photo: A bread vendor carrying Egyptian traditional Baladi flatbread in the Old Cairo district of Cairo, Egypt, March 22, 2022. (AP Photo/Amr Nabil)

Regional Developments

A Palestinian View from under Apartheid Landmark Palestinian Coalition Report: Israeli Apartheid: Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism



On the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, 29 November 2022, Al-Haq launched its inaugural coalition report titled: [Israeli Apartheid: Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism](#). It reflects the collaborative efforts of civil society and academic authors Rania Muhareb, Elizabeth Rghebi, Pearce Clancy, Joseph

Schechla, Nada Awad, and Maha Abdallah.

Endorsing the publication is a coalition of leading Palestinian civil society organisations, including Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association (Addameer), Al-Haq Law in the Service of Man (Al-Haq), the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC), Al Mezan Center for Human Rights (Al Mezan), Al-Quds University 'Community Action Center' (CAC), the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), and the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem (CCPRJ), the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH).

Importantly, the report is the first major Palestinian publication to expand the current international discourse on apartheid. Importantly, it examines apartheid as a structural element of Zionist settler colonialism on both sides of the Green Line and against the Indigenous Palestinian People as a whole. Further, the report illustrates the additional need to end Israel's settler colonialism consistent with the requirements of international rule-based order, and toward the fulfilment of the Palestinians' inalienable right to self-determination.

The new report adds clear Palestinian voices and analysis to the wider international calls, demanding an end to Israel's apartheid regime. It elaborates the Palestinian civil society demand for decolonization and dismantling of Israel's settler colonialism and apartheid regime, the fulfilment of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, systematically denied since the British Mandate, and the right of refugees and exiles in the diaspora to full reparations, including return.

This ground-breaking apartheid report is the product of four years of research and advocacy by the coalition of Palestinian human rights organisations, and answers questions left by other organizations arriving at the same conclusion.. In this time, and from the efforts of this coalition of authors and endorsing organizations, international consensus is growing about the reality that is Israel's oppressive apartheid regime. While Al-Haq and the wider human rights community are encouraged by this emerging global recognition, they note that Zionist settler colonialism and its eliminatory and population-transfer logic remain understated or absent from recent analyses and reports on apartheid by Israeli and international human rights organisations such as [Yesh Din](#), [B'Tselem](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), and [Amnesty International](#).

Notably, this report aims to expand and reveal the roots of the current apartheid paradigm, including the manipulation of discredited race theory at its ideological foundation. It calls for the recognition of the colonial practices of Israel, both past and present, and its consistent use of settler-colonial policies against the Palestinian People, recognizing the connection between the Palestinian struggle for self-determination and the wider, global movement of Indigenous Peoples' liberation against both colonialism and other associated forms of structural and institutionalised racism.

It is within this frame of both historic and ongoing violations that this new study analyses apartheid as a tool for the wider Zionist settler colonial project, rather than in isolation from contextual processes and facts. The contents of the report focus on the institutionalization of material discrimination through Israel's racist regime, including its formational history, before and during the start of the *Nakba* in 1948; the legal basis of maintaining apartheid in Israel's constitutional Basic Laws, other legislation and military orders; and the importance of delivering the long-promised self-determination of the Palestinian people.

Among the many conclusions from this report, a key take-away is how any description of the situation in Palestine as a mere 'conflict' ignores the reality of the situation. The lopsided power dynamic, the aggression of the colonial regime, the prolonged indefinite occupation, the exploitive nature of systematic dispossession, and the constant transfer and expulsion of population with complete disregard for established international criminal law show that Israel's policies are more than an apartheid regime, and amount to a colonial-settler policy in the 21st century, with the intention of further uprooting and erasing the Palestinian people from their homeland.

The authors stress that no solution to the situation is possible as long as the international community continues to condone Zionist Israel's systematic human rights abuses and settler colonial apartheid regime and, through it, sustain the illegal situation at the cost of Palestinian liberation. This report calls on the international community, the United Nations, states and communities worldwide to act in lawful opposition against Israel's settler colonial apartheid regime through a series of practical recommendations for states to uphold their extraterritorial obligations under human rights and peremptory norms on international law, including international cooperation, to bring the unlawful situation to an end.

The conclusions and recommendations also call upon the UN General Assembly to reconstitute the UN Special Committee against Apartheid and the UN Centre against Apartheid, and for the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to expedite the current investigation into the Situation in Palestine, including the war crimes and crimes against humanity, comprising, *inter alia*, the crimes of apartheid, population transfer, acquisition of territory by force, appropriation and destruction of property, pillage, persecution, wilful killing, murder, and torture carried out on the Palestinian territory.

Download [Israeli Apartheid: A Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism](#)

Additional Resources:

* See Al-Haq's [Information Sheet](#).

* See the Visualizing Palestine infograph "[Divide and Dominate](#)"

Regional Developments

From Charity to Development Land Governance toward Durable Solutions for Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons in Sudan



Habitat International Coalition's Housing and Land Rights Network (HIC-HLRN) and Khartoum-based Istadama Center for Land and Environmental Governance have joined forces to support Sudanese civil organizations in their transition from charity and relief work to development roles toward durable solutions for the country's internally displaced persons (IDP). The majority of the IDPs needing secure land tenure and adequate housing have been uprooted from their original rural locations due to conflict

under the previous two decades of military government.

This “twinning” project, “Land governance toward durable solutions for resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sudan,” is supported by the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) hosted by UN-Habitat and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Development Cooperation. Those partners have pooled resources to support the Arab Land Initiative (ALI), which seeks to diagnose and resolve problems in land governance on a regional scale. For their part, HIC-HLRN and Istadama launched the twinning project by conducting a rapid assessment of the learning and capacity needs of IDPs and key local organizations working in humanitarian assistance to IDPs in Sudan.

This early step in the project encouraged local organizations to expand their vision and constructive activities beyond charity work—often the only civic space permitted under authoritative and repressive governments—to also fulfill their potential to assume roles in policy formulation and implementation in Sudan's transition. Informed by both (1) a literature review of the situation of local nongovernmental actors, in general, in the priority regions of Darfur and South Kordofan, (2) an institutional mapping of key actors and stakeholders, and (3) an electronic survey of invitees to participate in training and capacity-building workshops programmed during the project.

A primary source of analysis on the knowledge and experience gaps, and expected concerns of the target civil organizations is the 2020 UN Habitat and Global Land Tool Network (GLTN). [Darfur Land Administration Assessment](#), among other sources.

An additional aspect of the rapid assessment involved the needs of other parties to the IDP-resettlement and durable-solution process. The 92 survey participants especially noted the needs, rights and interests of host communities and the national priority of peace building as integral to the durable solutions sought.

In operation, the rapid assessment extended beyond the geographical scope of the five Darfur states and South Kordofan to include also the states of Blue Nile, Khartoum and al-Qadarif. This adjustment enabled participation of those working on analogous cases across Sudan, including actors whose field operations span more than one state or region.

This broader view of Sudan's enduring displacement crisis considers the totality of some 3.6 million Sudanese citizens driven from their homes and lands due to conflict, as well as large-scale land investment and environmental factors. The project's human-centered and victim-focused approach emphasized the solutions for IDPs as rights holders, regardless of the context, cause or perpetrators of the displacement.

The 92 online-survey participants (73 male and 19 female) produced responses from South Darfur (23 participants), Khartoum State (16), South Kordofan (12), North Darfur (8), East Darfur (7), Central Darfur (5), Blue Nile (3), North Kordofan (2), and 1 participant each from West Kordofan and al-Qadarif. It found that only some 36% have had exposure to training in human rights and international standards on land and housing.

In addition to the needs of IDPs and other stakeholders, including statutory and customary authorities, the participants expressed needs for:

- A policy framework that is conflict sensitive, builds peace and limits further conflict;
- Programs and strategies conducive to policy monitoring and evaluation;
- Knowledge about the full range of legitimate tenure options;
- Greater number and capacity of civil organizations;
- Knowledge about their state's obligations and commitments relevant to the pursuit of durable solutions for IDPs;
- Local, regional and international partnerships to support normative and technical capacity building, and advocacy of durable solutions;
- Background in the international and regional norms pertaining to housing and land governance, and norms related to refugee and IDP rights;
- Reliable access to the internet for communication, learning and participation in the planned training workshops.

The twinning organizations, HIC-HLRN and Istadama, then jointly designed and delivered a series of four online workshops for local Sudanese organizations under the title "Transitioning from Charity and Relief Work to Development." This activity within the ALI-supported project "Land governance toward durable solutions for resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sudan" introduced 40 participant organizations to normative frameworks and practical tools to play greater development roles in Sudan's transition.

The twinning organizations designed the course to fulfill expressed needs and challenges that participants prioritized in a foregoing assessment:

- Conflict-sensitive policies that build peace and limit further conflict;
- Programs and strategies for policy monitoring and evaluation;
- More and more-capacitized civil organizations working in the field;
- Knowledge about Sudan's relevant human rights obligations and global development commitments;
- Local, regional and international partnerships for normative and technical capacity building;
- Advocacy capacity toward durable solutions to long-standing displacement.

Thus, the online workshops were conducted to expose participants to a range of globally agreed-upon norms and committed actors in pursuit of sustainable settlement and livelihoods for Sudan's IDPs, especially in Darfur and South Kordofan states. Following introductions, including background on the ALI by Heba Fekry (ALI/GLTN) and a diagnosis of the local situation by Salah Abukashawwa (Istidama), the Arabic-language workshops pursued a course from general to specific, theoretical to practical by first exposing participants to the global concepts and norms at the intersection of the state's human rights obligations and development commitments.

Within this hybrid human-rights-and-development curriculum, participants incorporated new concepts and terms in active discussions of how to support and advance the intended social-justice outcomes of Sudan's post-conflict development. In sessions led by Joseph Schechla and Ahmed Mansour Ismail (HIC-HLRN), participants learned about the Human Rights System and, in particular, human right to adequate housing with its legally defined elements and corresponding state obligations. They explored the UNGA-adopted remedy-and-reparations framework for victims of forced eviction and other "gross violations" of human rights as integral to the normative framework for both durable solutions and peace building..

Within this rubric, they discovered a range of solutions that includes guaranteeing security of a wide range of legitimate tenure types, including combinations of formal and customary tenure. This approach helped to appreciate the multiple values and functions of land, including the New Urban Agenda's commitment of states to ensure "the social function of land," beyond land as property. This understanding of the range of solutions within the normative content of a "human right to land" expands interpretation of references in the Doha Peace Agreement to "registered land" as only registered freehold in Darfur

Participants also debated multiple definitions of, and approaches to justice, emphasizing restorative justice and the anticipated long process of transitional justice in Sudan. They expressed their concern that solutions be integrated to meet the development challenges of all Sudanese pursuing diverse means of livelihood, not least host communities in cases of IDP return and resettlement.

The intensive instructional part of the four-day workshop series culminated on day 3 with Mr. Abukashawwa providing an inventory of local stakeholders, legal and systems that apply in the pursuit of durable solutions for IDPs in Sudan. The training team then facilitated a strategic-planning exercise on day 4 that precedes the next phase of the project in which each participant has been asked to prepare a brief concept note, or vision paper to incorporate the learning to express their proposals of local civic organizations' future contributions to Sudan's development transition with durable solutions for IDPs. These will be the subject of a future consultation with authorities and decision makers in Khartoum in the last week of November 2022

Regional Developments

ETO Consortium Global Conference



ETO Consortium, the collective of scholars and civil organizations promoting states' extraterritorial human rights obligations (ETOs), organized its global conference in June 2022 at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg. Over four days, the global conference covered a wide spectrum of issues through ten thematic workshops that consisted of mutual learning and sharing of knowledge, and identifying future activities and cases that can trigger diverse collaborations and

synergies.

The diverse expertise of the ETO Consortium members and other conference participants addressed the human rights dimensions of multiple crises beyond borders, including the global pandemic, climate impacts and eco-destruction, ongoing and new armed conflicts. Against this backdrop, the conference deliberated the essential role of human rights defenders (HRDs) in our increasingly interconnected, interdependent and globalized world. Participants held a special tribute to Indigenous activist Bruno Pereira and the British journalist Dom Phillips recently murdered in Brazil.

HIC-HLRN coordinator Joseph Schechla opened the conference with a [presentation](#) on the evolution of ETOs over the life of the Consortium. The global conference included updates from five regional groups who gave reflections about their respective regions and organizations (CSOs, social movements, academic centers, etc.). Each reviewed the relevant regional ETO-related processes, policies, cases and actors that could involve the Consortium activities, and agreed upon regional priorities.

One of the main purposes of the global conference was to bring academia and CSOs together in complementary fashion to work on litigation and accountability related to extraterritorial human rights violations.

Under the thematic workshop on climate and eco-destruction, participants presented the most-dramatic case studies to analyze the obstacles that victims face amid human rights violations associated with environmental damage. Examples included the deadly dam spill of an iron ore mine in Brumadinho, Brazil; the catastrophic fire at the Ali Enterprise textile factory in Pakistan; and many other cases of human rights violations in global supply chains.

Many cases involved human rights violations, including those arising from environmental damage, perpetrated by transnational corporations. Prominent among those was the case of the Brussels-based Société Belge d'Investissement pour l'Agriculture Tropicale (SIAT), involving [land grabs](#) in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

The Consortium members working in the MENA region presented analysis updating cases ongoing since the Consortium was founded in 2007, and identified new cases in pursuit of accountability, including litigation, related to extraterritorial human rights violations. HLRN, HIC-MENA and Al-Haq Foundation (Palestine) presented three main case studies. HLRN and HIC-MENA presented a session on the case of the French [Lafarge cement company](#) allegedly supporting terrorism and crimes against humanity in Syria, and presented the [case of gold extractivism](#) in Sudan and related illicit financial flows, Al-Haq dedicated one session to the NSO Group spyware and the Israelis industries, including weapons manufacturers, exploiting occupied Palestinians as research-and-development subjects for technology export and, more generally, on “economic-incentive structures perpetuating conflict, occupation and colonialism in the 21st century.”

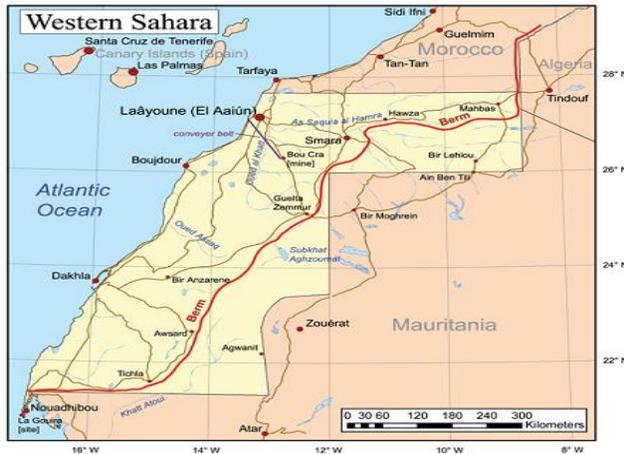
The four-day conference culminated with ETO Consortium members debating inputs to the Maastricht IV process, which is an effort to develop a set of principles based on the [Maastricht ETO principles](#) [AR] focusing on the human rights of future generations.

At the end, the global conference come out with an initiative for exchange and collaboration between CSOs and academia to identify and create strategic avenues for pursue accountability and even litigation.

ETO Consortium also issued a statement urging states to actively negotiate and promptly adopt a [Legally binding instrument on TNCs and Business Enterprises with Respect to Human Rights](#), including clear regulations on corporate accountability beyond borders and respect for democratically adopted UN Human Rights Council Resolution 26/9.

Regional Developments

Sahrawi Housing and Land Rights @ Morocco's UPR



As in the case of other illegal occupations and colonization, Morocco's 1975 invasion and ongoing effective control of Western Sahara has accompanied gross violations of human rights, in particular the human right to adequate housing amid the occupier's practice of dispossession of land, forced eviction, house demolition and plunder of natural resources. During Morocco's 8 November 2022 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) [session](#) before the UN Human Rights Council, these rights and

their violation became a matter of record, as well as a subject of several recommendations from assembled state delegations.

A joint stakeholder submission to the UPR by The Sahrawi Association in the United States of America (SAUSA) and HIC-HLRN, [Human Rights Related to Habitat \(Land, Housing, Population Transfer, Natural Resources\) in Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara](#), presented this typical colonial pattern in the context of the associated serious crime of population transfer. Although the Nuremberg and Tokyo Military Tribunals already had prosecuted these acts as war crimes and crimes against humanity in the wake of World War II, they remain the practice under the dual occupations in the MENA region, carried out by Israeli and Morocco. The report provided documented detail of this pattern in the case of Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara, concluding with recommendations, including full reparation of the individual and collective Sahrawi victims, as is their right and entitlement.

Among the devices used by Moroccan occupation authorities is The Hague Regulations' Article 43-prohibited alternation of the legal system of the occupied territory. They apply Moroccan law to dispossess Sahrawis of their lands and homes by denying customary tenure to tribal *grarat* lands. These are tribal lands with palm groves or desert trees such as acacia, which also act as natural storage of scarce water for agriculture and drinking.

The SAUSA/HIC-HLRN report also chronicles cases of Sahrawi homes demolished by occupying forces. These also illustrate the continuum of losses, costs and damages that the Sahrawi people have incurred under Morocco's policy of violating the Sahrawi people's individual and collective human right to adequate housing. The report also

recounts in detail the demolition and dispossession of Sahrawi homes and lands throughout the period from 1976 to the present.

These acts parallel Morocco's forced, coerced and incentivized population-transfer policy, with its purpose and effect of demographic transformation of the territory ahead of any eventual UN-mandated referendum among indigenous Sahrawis to determine the country's future political status. Meanwhile Morocco's extractivism continues to deplete natural resources ranging from water and agriculture to the Sahrawi people's fisheries and mineral wealth, as well as illegally exploiting Western Sahara's renewable energy potential for Morocco's own benefit.

In this UPR, SAUSA and HIC-HLRN recommended that states call on Morocco to:

- **Implement its IHL obligations in Western Sahara;**
- **Discharge its duty, as occupying Power, to protect the Sahrawi people's lives, livelihoods, lands and means of subsistence;**
- **Cease its opposition to the Security Council expanding the mandate of MINURSO to include human rights monitoring;**
- **Protect and restore all Sahrawi personal and collective properties taken and/or damaged under Moroccan occupation;**
- **Provide full reparations for all Sahrawi individual and collective losses, costs and damages endured at Moroccan hands since 1975.**

The organizations further called on all states participating in the UPR of Morocco to:

- **“Ensure respect for” the Fourth Geneva Convention and other IHL norms applicable to Morocco's occupation of Western Sahara;**
- **Fulfill the *erga omnes* duty not to recognize, cooperate or transact with the illegal situation in Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara;**
- **Implement their extraterritorial human rights and *erga omnes* obligations with respect to the Sahrawi people, including through their conduct of foreign policy, illicit trade and by regulating all natural and legal persons operating in their jurisdiction and territories of effective control in accordance with Human Rights Treaty obligations and peremptory norms.**

During the UPR session, numerous state delegations called on Morocco to reform its criminal justice, especially current criminalization of opinion and expression, abolish the death penalty, continue to strive for gender equality. Among the positive observations were Morocco's efforts at social protection of migrants. Cabo Verde and Mali commend Morocco on its ambitious housing programs.

However, the occupation of Western Sahara was a resounding theme during the constructive dialogue. Uganda called for Morocco to establish an accountability mechanism to fill monitoring gap and address the rights of the people of Western Sahara. Vanuatu thanked Morocco for its cosponsorship of the right-to-environment resolution in the 2021 Human Rights Council and at the General Assembly this year, as

well as forming part of the core group toward a GA resolution, calling for an advisory opinion. Vanuatu also recommended that Morocco allow the Working Group on Business and Human Rights to visit the Western Sahara region.

Venezuela noted the restrictions on freedom of expression and actions of security forces and the denial of self-determination in Western Sahara. The Venezuelan delegation called for Morocco to allow the referendum for free expression of the people's self-determination.

Algeria expressed serious concerns regarding serious and systematic violations of human rights under the Moroccan occupation of Western Sahara, and called on Morocco to allow all relevant organizations and observers to visit the territory, to avoid business activities in the territory without approval of Sahrawi people, and to end the occupation.

Ireland focused on the need for protection of journalists and human rights defenders (HRDs) and to continue to face violence, including sexual violations, and respect the human rights of people in Western Sahara, and enhance cooperation with OHCHR in the occupied territory.

Luxembourg also called for respect of the human rights of Sahrawis, including enabling their self-determination and cooperating with OHCHR to allow its mission to the region. Mexico: recommended that Morocco respect Amazigh and Sahrawi rights, in general.

However, Namibia was the most outspoken, reminding that self-determination is well established in law, calling for an end to the occupation and allow for the promised referendum to determine Western Sahara's status and allow Sahrawis to enjoy all their rights. In exercise of states' extraterritorial human rights and international law obligations in the UPR context, Namibia also called on all states not to recognize the illegal situation in Western Sahara, rather than to choose expediency over international law.

Norway specified the need for Morocco to respect freedoms of assembly, association and expression, especially for human right defenders and journalists, and to allow OHCHR's full access in Western Sahara.

Panama called on Morocco to cooperate with UN Mine Action to clear its mines from Western Sahara. South Africa recommended Morocco enhance cooperation with OHCHR, including facilitating its access to Western Sahara, release political prisoners; and apply international humanitarian law, in general, and the 4th Geneva Convention, in particular, to Sahrawis, also allowing the Working Group on Business and Human Rights to visit Western Sahara and a the conduct of an independent assessment of human rights there. Timor Leste also called for Morocco to facilitate OHCHR access to Western Sahara and to respect and protect the human rights of all in Western Sahara; enable the exercise of self-determination/

Meanwhile, the State of Palestine, the other occupied sovereign in the MENA region, remained silent on the matter of the treatment of Sahrawis or the denial of their self-determination.

Morocco's response asserted that the "southern provinces" is a matter of Moroccan territorial integrity and (falsely) informed the body that OHCHR already has visited the area, that Morocco already has received six Special Rapporteurs there, and continues to invite more. The delegation, headed by Ambassador Omar Zniber and Abdellatif Ouahbi, Minister of Justice of Morocco, justified its position by stating that over 30 diplomatic missions already operate there as accredited to Morocco.

The delegation asserted also that the UN Security Council has considered the Kingdom of Morocco's autonomy proposal for the territory as credible and serious. The delegation added that Morocco has invested heavily in these "Moroccan regions," but "others with allegiance to another country have created a crisis that impacts peace and security. The Moroccan delegation chastised other states speaking on the subject, saying, "You are disrupting this meeting," and called for all to take a more-constructive approach.

Download [Human Rights Related to Habitat \(Land, Housing, Population Transfer, Natural Resources\) in Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara](#)

See [all documents from the 4th cycle of Morocco's UPR](#)

Photo on this page: Nearly 200,000 Saharawi refugees live in the Algerian desert.
Source: DG ECHO.

The expert meeting at Geneva in June involved 18 invitees: one Palestinian citizen from the occupied Gaza Strip, 13 Israeli citizens and five advisors of other nationalities, including HIC-HLRN's coordinator. The advice coming from the experts included wide support for the Col mandate and encouraged the commissioners to apply its unique mandate in its upcoming GA report to emphasize the UN's special "permanent responsibility" for Palestine; the historic role of the GA among the underlying root causes; racial theory among the ideological bases of institutionalized, material discrimination against the indigenous Palestinians; and systematic human rights violations carried out through Israel's public and parastatal institutions. These fundamentals, some argued, would enable the Col to live up to its unique mandate without duplicating or overlapping the work of other mechanisms at this early stage.

The Col's report to the GA instead focused on the illegality of the occupation since 1967 and urged the GA to pursue an International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion on the matter. That aligned with the State of Palestine's bid for the same within the GA. In November, the GA's 4th Committee [voted 98–17 \[AR\]](#) to seek an ICJ opinion on the illegality of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories on the grounds that it can be considered *de-facto* "annexation." (The resolution now goes up for a vote by the whole GA.)

Nonetheless, the concurrent report of Francesca Albanese, the new Special Rapporteur on human rights in the territories occupied since 1967, complemented the Col's GA with her own [report on self-determination \[AR\]](#), and [critically addressing](#) the UN member states at the GA on 27 October.

The Col has called for inputs until 31 December on issues of its current focus:

- The targeting of human rights defenders, activists, politicians, academics, journalists, and persons participating in peaceful demonstrations;
- Specific incidents targeting women human rights defenders, demonstrators and activists;
- Specific incidents involving children.

Individuals, groups and organizations wishing to provide related information and evidence to the Col are asked to fill and submit [this form](#) by 31 December 2022.

One of the hazards of human rights-defense work in the context of such ongoing and systemic violations as in historic Palestine is the distraction posed by the latest atrocity. It remains an indispensable-but-elusive task to document, expose and remedy the foundational wrongs that perpetuate the protracted situation. As members of the June expert-group meeting advised the commissioners, the Col's remains challenged to develop a body work to meet the challenge of investigating root causes.

Since its formation, the Col has been confronting fierce denunciations from Israel and its allies in the UN, as well as from Zionist media, even [charging](#) commissioners of anti-Semitism. While some of the harm may have been [self-inflicted](#), the world still needs a

diligent and impartial Col to fulfil its ambitious mandate. No party has reached the stage in the Col's process to jump to conclusions, especially while the foundational and indispensable questions unique to the Col's mandate have yet to be explored.

The root causes of the grave situation in Palestine, the historic fragmentation of the Palestinian people in the UN System, and other core issues are subjects discussed in the groundbreaking joint study, [*Israeli Apartheid: A Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism*](#), recently published by Al-Haq. That new publication could provide a likely roadmap for the Col going forward.

For more information about the Col, see the [website](#) at OHCHR.

Photo on front page: Press Briefing on United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Occupied Palestinian Territory, 14 June 2022, in Geneva, Switzerland. Navanethem Pillay (center), the chair of the Commission of Inquiry between Miloon Kothari (right) and Chris Sidoti (left), members of the Commission. Source: UN Photo/Jean Mark Ferré. Photo on this page: Outcome of General Assembly 4th Committee vote on A/C.4/77/L.12.Rev.1, 10 November 2022. Source: Twitter.

Member News

International Service Award Winner - BCNPHA



HIC Member Rooftops Canada/Abri International (RC/AI) is very pleased to announce that the British Columbia Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) is the winner of the biennial 2022 International Services Award presented to a member of the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association for its contributions to international development through Rooftops Canada.

BCNPHA has played a key role in strengthening RC/AI's work with the social housing sector in South Africa. It has hosted many social-housing leaders from South Africa and provided scholarships to attend BCNPHA provincial conferences and participate in training opportunities. It shared information with RC/AI's South African partners and posted articles about joint work with RC/AI. This collaboration has helped promote Rooftops Canada's programs among their members, which ultimately has helped strengthen RC/AI's work everywhere.

Thanks and congratulations to BCNPHA.

See a [video](#) about this wonderful partnership.

Photo: South African social housing leaders with Kate Melliship (center) at the 2017 BC Central Housing Conference. Source: Rooftops Canada/Abri International.

Member News

Women's Spaces—Africa



Over 60% of urban residents in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) live in rapidly expanding slums characterized by insecure tenure, overcrowded poor quality housing, lack of basic services, degraded environments, poverty, precarious safety, and high rates of violence. Within this context, land and housing issues lie at the heart of urban women's poverty, exclusion and insecurity. When women's equal rights to use and control land, housing and related resources are protected, they can better

provide for their household needs and respond to challenges such as gender-based violence; HIV/AIDS, COVID-19 and other health emergencies; environmental disasters; and, political upheaval. They are also freer to use their home and the space around it for income-generating activities, including food production, processing and marketing.

To advance women's enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, habitats and livelihoods, Rooftops Canada/Abri International (RC-AI) has joined forces with other HIC Member organizations in Angola, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda in a new initiative. The 2021–27 project "Women's Spaces: Implementing Equal Rights to Land, Housing and Livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa" (SSA) will contribute to poverty reduction and deliver meaningful change to poor and vulnerable women and girls living in urban and peri-urban informal settlements. The project aims to enhance implementation of women's economic, social, cultural and process human rights to access, use and control land, housing and livelihoods in their urban environments. This is directly aligned with both Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy and the extraterritorial dimension of Canada's Agenda 2030 commitments, as well as those of the target countries.

In SSA, formal gender equality in land, housing and related livelihoods has improved with the adoption of gender-positive constitutions, laws, implementing both legally binding human rights treaty obligations and voluntary international commitments such as the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. All project partners share the experience that, in practice, a wide gender-equality gap remains, whereby implementing women's human rights locally [often faces entrenched traditional attitudes and practices](#).

This calls for action in all spheres related to land and housing tenure, which links to associated laws and norms affecting marriage, marital property, various forms of inheritance; environmental stewardship and male-dominated hierarchies of power and decision making. Through this new joint initiative, partners and human rights-bearing participants will develop sustainable responses to these cross-sectoral challenges within their demonstrated areas of competence. Testing country-specific practices and adapting them through the project's multi-country framework will contribute to comprehensive and cross-border understanding, and generate new gender-responsive policies and solutions that will be shared regionally and globally.

The experience and credibility of the project's implementing partners is key to this initiative. It will build on their positive relationships with national governments and local authorities, and extend these to include community participation, especially by women.

In Angola, implementing partner Development Workshop is a major player in the government's decentralization program. The project will focus on building the capacity of local authorities, community-based and women's organizations to co-produce land-tenure maps and data, and manage customary, social and informal land tenure using participatory land management tools that will be customized and shared with other project stakeholders. The project will further embed the protection of gender-equal land rights into these tools, and scale them up through the national government's land tenure program, while assisting the ministry responsible for women meet its gender-equality objectives.

In Kenya, Mazingira Institute (MI) has a strong working relationship with Nairobi local authorities, based on its extensive experience supporting urban agriculture and food security. The project will assist the authorities to operationalize legislation that mandates them to provide land, water and other resources to slum dwellers to produce, process and market food. Innovative mechanisms to provide gender-equal access to, use and control of public and private land will be developed. A demonstration unit will promote environmentally positive urban-agriculture practices. Capacity building of the authorities will help ensure equal participation of women through improved outreach and public education. MI's strong networks will influence other local authorities in Kenya and the region to secure women's equal access to, use and control of land and other productive resources.

In South Africa, the Socio-Economic Rights Institute (SERI) and two other well-established legal CSOs and a CSO land-advocacy platform will be supported to develop policy briefs, legal submissions, tenure rights education programs and advocacy campaigns to remedy systemic obstacles and discrimination against women in informal settlements and more-formal tenure contexts. As in the other three countries, an in-depth gender analysis will result in a gender-equality strategy focused on housing and land tenure. Key policy stakeholders in government, agencies and the legal system will be exposed to new policies and practices that will help fully implement gender equality in land and housing. Technical assistance from, and exchanges with Canadian and

regional counterparts will strengthen advocacy and paralegal capacity to support vulnerable women and children.

In Uganda, the project will partner with Shelter and Settlements Alternatives: Uganda Human Settlements Network (SSA :UHR-Net), a group of CSOs, CBOs, academic institutions and professionals to increase the ability of local authorities and community opinion leaders in four peri-urban districts to promote positive action on women's rights to land, housing and livelihoods. This will be reinforced by building the capacity of community paralegals to support individuals, primarily women, experiencing land and housing rights violations. It will also support women's groups and communities to negotiate land-tenure claims and advocate provision of increased land, resources and services. This will also encourage more-inclusive community engagement and longer-term social stability. Documenting land tenure and gender equality issues, and training on monitoring Uganda's international human rights obligations will strengthen CSO advocacy for national gender-responsive policy and legal reform.

The project's knowledge-sharing and cross-learning regional activities will be amplified by the participation of leading international partners, including the HIC Housing and Land Rights Network, United Cities and Local Governments, the former (2014–20) UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing and the Global Land Tools Network, based in UN Habitat Headquarters (Nairobi).

RC-AI, the international development program of Canadian cooperative and social-housing organizations will help guide project implementation through a Project Steering Committee. It will also manage short-term technical assistance from the Canadian non-profit housing sector, related legal rights organizations, and some regional sector specialists; learning exchanges to and from Canada and within SSA; and a communications program with the Canadian co-op and social housing sector.

The total 5-year-project budget is \$7,202,888 including \$5,800,000 (81%) from Global Affairs Canada, and \$1,402,888 (19%) in cash and in kind through RC-AI.

On the Palestinian Land..The Israeli Occupation Uproots Olive Trees



Since 2019, 26 November was officially recognized as World Olive Day by UNESCO in its 40th session.

The Palestinian Olive Tree is Known for its Significance and Popularity. The indigenous Palestinians were the first to develop Olive Tree plantation, and discovered methods to extract its oil and invest the Olive Harvest to the most of its potentials.

An Evidence of its Historical significance to this particular spot, is that Palestine Holds on its Land in Al-Walaja – south Jerusalem the eldest Olive Tree in the World - aging more than (5500) Years, and the Palestinian Rocky Mountains are full of holes that used to be olive oil mills, then the agricultural production in Palestine also discovered plantation of Grapes. Another Evidence from Palestinian Kitchen, Olive Oil and Powdered Thyme are an important addition to every Palestinian table. The Olive tree has become an important Part of our heritage and cultural identity, this tree that have been mentioned the holy Quran, is a symbol of the land Arabism, and by standing high in the land, it provides undeniable evidence on the falseness of the Occupation's Zionist Narrative, while the olive tree branches play hymns of love and freedom.

The Israeli Occupation is pursuing its attempts to cut the ties between the Palestinian people and the Olive trees, to take away that holy bond, and facilitate confiscation of the land.

At this Occasion, We Palestinians Raise our voices to urge the world, to stop the silence and tolerance of Israeli Violations against Olive Trees – their crimes included Cutting, poisoning, Ravaging, and Uprooting the trees, which pains Palestinian People as much as their sons who fall as martyr.

During this Year, the Occupation Uprooted, torched, and soaked with waste water about 13,130 Olive tree , and since the beginning of Israeli Occupation to the Palestinian land , they destroyed about 2 million olive tree , A criminal occupation against Humanity , environment , and Environmental Justice.

We in Palestine Cultivate, blow, trim , and embrace the Olive Tree , and call for the world to protect it from the Occupation's attempts to uproot it from its homeland.

Land Research Center – Jerusalem / Palestine

Twenty Sixth/ November 2022

International Developments

CoP27: Climate Justice amid Loss and Damage



The recent CoP27 decision to establish a loss-and-damage fund is a monumental gain toward survival of the communities most-vulnerable to climate change and its effects. However, this hopeful statement comes with several caveats: Perhaps primary among them is the condition that the fund be properly funded. In addition, it must satisfy the standard evaluation criteria of having (1) relevance, (2) coherence, (3) effectiveness (including timeliness), (4) efficiency in its use of resources and (5)

sustainability of impacts (i.e., ensuring their adequate quality, and without repetition or retrogression, or creating further vulnerabilities). Furthermore, it must advance climate justice.

The climate justice objective has been the subject of much discussion and normative development. Examples include the Mary Robinson Foundation's [Principles of Climate Justice Framework](#), which provide the conditions for achieving climate justice:

- Respect, protect [and fulfill] human rights
- Supporting the right to development
- Sharing benefits and burdens equitably
- Ensuring that decisions on climate change are participatory, transparent and accountable
- Upholding gender equality and equity
- Harnessing the transformative power of education for climate stewardship
- Using effective partnerships

Comparing favorably to these criteria are the more outcome-oriented criteria set out in HIC President Adriana Allen's 2021 World Habitat Day [statement](#) "Climate Justice IS a Human Right":

- Profound economic redistribution (including democratic control of climate finance and support for social production of habitat, ending forced evictions and remedying displacement)
- Recognition of differences and invisibilities (achieving convergence of efforts, globalism and nondiscrimination)
- Gender parity in political participation
- Making a human rights habitat, not war
- Mutual care, solidarity and social responsibility

Climate discourse and action to date have focused rather on diagnostics and what climate change and its impacts to expect, prevention measures, adaptation and mitigation. The remedial measures deliberated so far have focused on global efforts and measures of success at reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GGE), in order to help cool the planet. However, the discussion of remedying consequent loss and damage has been around for no less than three decades, for at least as many years as the CoP27 itself.

However, negotiations eventually led to a breakthrough led to establishment of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change (WIM) at CoP19 held in the Polish capital. in 2013. The decision [2/CP.19](#) established a guiding Executive Committee comprised of representatives of UNFCCC party governments, including: 10 members from [Annex I parties](#) and 10 members from [non-Annex I parties](#); two members from each of the African, Asia-Pacific and Latin American and Caribbean regions; one member from small island developing states (SIDS), one member from the least-developed-country (LDC) parties, and two additional members from non-Annex I Parties (decision [2/CP.20](#)).

The WIM assumed three key functions:

1. Enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk-management approaches;
2. Strengthening dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders; and
3. Enhancing action and support to address loss and damage.

Article 8 of the [Paris Agreement](#) (2015) ensured that the WIM would maintained in the post-2020 climate regime with a focus on:

- Slow-onset events (SOE);
- Noneconomic losses (NEL);
- Comprehensive risk management approaches (CRM);
- Human mobility (HM); and
- WIM finance, action and support (FAS).

Over the years, the WIM finance, action and support have been the [weakest](#) aspects of the WIM.

A challenge remains to make both the Paris Agreement and its successor decisions human centered, principally by practically applying human rights in all aspects of climate response. This requisite applies also to any loss-and-damage mechanism, including its funding machinery.

As positive as the CoP27 decision to establish a loss-and-damage fund may be, deliberations have emphasized state-to-state “compensation,” taxing the rich industrial states to support needed remedies in the poorer and disproportionately more-affected states. This discourse carries two hazards: (1) it focuses on, and emphasizes cash transfers, mainly from the North to the South, rather than the more-comprehensive and more-relevant [reparations framework](#), especially where the gross violation of forced eviction/displacement is concerned, and (2) the state-to-state approach seems to overlook the local needs and human rights of affected communities that the human-centered approach would bring. Notably, [previous state-to-state reparation arrangements](#) [AR] have proved to be subject to politics and not to reach the human victims effectively or efficiently, and run the risk of corruption.

HIC-HLRN is seeking to contribute to the needed human-centered alternative to assessing and remedying loss and damage that is built upon the combined basis of Human Rights Treaty-based obligations, human rights related to development commitments, accountability, transparency and the victims’ rights to remedy and reparation

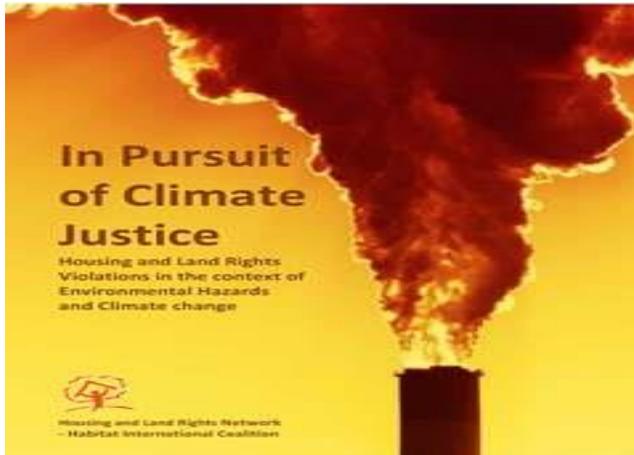
Therefore, HIC-HLRN is arguing for a human-centered approach akin to applying its Violation Impact-assessment Tool ([VIAT](#)). This applies a methodology and set of norm-based survey instruments to determine costs, losses, damage and all values at stake in the cases of forced eviction/displacement, destruction, dispossession and negative impacts of privatization. This tool has undergone some [30 applications](#) in diverse cases, ranging from individual house demolitions, slum removals, environmental disasters, displacement due to post-election violence, and even scaled up to address housing, land and property restitution in the context of transitional justice.

This proposal was the subject of HIC-HLRN’s cooperation with the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) and the Third World Network (TWN) in a [webinar](#) during CoP27 on 14 November 2022. Lessons derived from this experience reveal how community-generated data with a verifiable methodology can deliver the kind of specificity and thoroughness required in decision making to achieve not only relevance, efficiency and effectiveness, but also promote equitable distribution of benefits grounded in applicable norms, including human rights. Such approaches are indispensable for the WIM to align with climate justice.

Photo: Rescue workers help villagers escape floods in Lasbella, in Pakistan’s southwest Baluchistan province during the August 2022 floods. Source: Hamdan Khan/AP.

International Developments

New: In Pursuit of Climate Change



The latest report from HLRN's Violation Database (VDB), [*In Pursuit of Climate Justice*](#), takes a hard look at violations of adequate housing land and other habitat-related human rights in the context of environmental hazards and climate change. Based on VDB entries spanning more than a century, each instance explores the root causes and consequences of loss, cost and damage resulting from human activity.

Taking a human rights approach, this report seeks to identify the scope of impacts and the public, private and/or corporate responsibility for the remedies and reparation to which victims and affected persons are entitled. The collection of cases gives rise to a pattern of 13 causes/contexts for monitors, duty bearers and human rights defenders to consider.

1. Conflict situations
2. Cross-border effects
3. Development-induced displacement
4. Environmental racism/discrimination
5. Extractivism
6. Governance
7. Industrial pollution/contamination
8. Large-scale agriculture/livestock farming
9. Megaprojects
10. Neglect
11. Tourism
12. Urbanization
13. Other human factors

Out of these categories also emerges one overarching pattern, whereby the persons subject to these violations in the context of environmental hazard and climate change are most often the most vulnerable among us. The many lessons contained in the report on World Habitat Day give occasion also to numerous recommendations for duty holders to prevent and remedy the devastating events accompanying environmental

destruction and climate change, which promise to become even costlier and more frequent.

Download [*In Pursuit of Climate Justice: Housing and Land Rights Violations in the Context of Environmental Hazards and Climate Change*](#)

International Developments

Civil Society Vision @ HLPF 2022



Meeting at UN Headquarters in New York from 5 to 15 July 2022, the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) convened states, development agencies and stakeholders under the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” Within that framework and under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the first HLPF segment reflected on the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) selected for thematic review: SDG 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), 14 (life below water), 15 (life on land) and 17 (partnerships for the goals). . The presentation and review of country-specific Voluntary National Reviews (VNR’s) began on Monday, 11 July, and the ministerial segment shared the agenda on 13–15 July, ending with a focus on multilateralism for a resilient and inclusive recovery, and “Looking ahead: Acting today to secure a better future.

The various stakeholders also participate in the deliberations under conditions set by UN General Assembly resolution [A/RES/67/290](#) and [2030 Agenda](#) (para. 89). Since the first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, also known as the Earth Summit, UN member states recognized that achieving sustainable development would require the active participation of all sectors of society and all types of people. [Agenda 21](#) , adopted at the Earth Summit, formalized nine sectors of society as the main channels through which broad participation would be facilitated in UN activities related to sustainable development. These are officially called Major Groups and include the following sectors:

- Business and Industry
- Children and Youth
- Farmers
- Indigenous Peoples
- Local Authorities
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Women
- Workers and Trade Unions

This MGOS Coordination Mechanism organized a plenary session in collaboration with UN DESA to discuss pathways and present concrete proposals for reaching the Agenda 2030 goals in the post- COVID-19 recovery. The session, organized under the title “Vision of civil society: Leaving no one behind in recovering better,” coordinated messages to the states and UN Development System called for systemic reforms to remedy structural inequalities and contribute to building more equal, inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies.

H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the Economic and Social Council opened the session with opening remarks Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, and Ms. Mabel Bianco, President of the Fundación para Estudio y Investigación de la Mujer and Co-Chair of the MGOS Coordination Mechanism.

The following interactive discussion featured five resource persons:

- Ms. Wezzie Chimwala, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), Malawi; and
- Mr. Wali Haider, Joint Director of Roots for Equity, Focal Point for Farmers` Major Group at UNEP, and co-chair of Asia Pacific CSO Regional Engagement Mechanism (APRCM)
- Ms. Emilia Reyes, Programme Director, Policies and Budgets for Equality and Sustainable Development, Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo Familia; and
- Ms. Svetlana Slesarenok, Founder and Director, Black Sea Women’s Club, Odessa, Ukraine

These were followed by two lead Discussants:

- Mr. Saad Alfarargi, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development
- Mr. Denison Jayasooria, Head of the Secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG)

The MGOS panelists articulated their vision of recovery by identifying the major impediments to sustainable development for which states are responsible to resolve as a matter of priority:

- Wealth disparity within states and between developed and developing countries;
- Food insecurity amid the industrialization of food systems at the expense of local food sovereignty, as well as the current food and fertilizer crisis created by the war in Ukraine;
- The sovereign debt crisis in which governments accrue unmanageable levels of indebtedness that cause economic instability and often are externalized at the expense of the public;
- Climate change and the refusal of states and industries to combat it;

- Gender equality and the continuing material discrimination against women and girls, and multiple forms of gender-based violence and human rights denials;
- Inequitable distribution of land, like other forms of wealth and resources disparity, financializing land and concentrating land ownership at the expense of those who rely on land for livelihood, culture, identity and means of subsistence and survival;
- Corporate capture remains a threat to democracies in the domestic sphere, but also has severely afflicted the policy space within the UN and its implementation;
- Conflict, occupation and war are human-made disasters that not only impedes development, as noted in the 2030 Agenda (para. 35), but inflict senseless human costs, devastate natural environments, waste precious resources and reverberate with protracted conflicts and instability that divide humanity;
- Citizenship is in crisis with governments restricting freedom of expression and participation in decisions that affect them, while creating barriers of exclusion on the basis of arbitrary and often-discriminatory criteria;
- Human rights face a crisis in the UN System, with states evading their treaty obligations and diverting political attention and other resources away from the UN Human Rights System, while human rights defenders, including activists and journalists, facing persecution and murder to silence them;
- The persistent culture and ideology of the defunct single-minded notion of “growth economy” obfuscates actual economic performance and metrics of economic health by ignoring distributive criteria that actually determine equitable and sustainable development;
- COVID-19 has pushed “resilience” to the limit, while raising critical interrogation of that notion, amid uneven recovery and the exposure of structural barriers to means of survival and putting the onus of recovery on victims and the most vulnerable.

With this diagnosis of key impediments to sustainable development, the MGOS also issued some specific priority demands. That called for (1) an immediate Russia withdraw from Ukraine, (2) an end to financing coal by the end of 2022, (3) waving intellectual property rights on vaccines, (4) an end to discrimination on the basis of work and descent (explicitly mentioning slavery practiced in Mauritania); (5) appreciating that education that fosters critical thinking is key “transforming our world.”

Among the specific proposals from the panel was a call to form a study group of five states and five CSOs to assess [the role of CSOs](#) in the UN System at HLPF 2023.

This year, 44 states submitted VNRs, and 19 cities presented Voluntary Local Reviews at the HLPF. During the 2022 session, three governments fell and women’s rights experienced set back, particularly in the United States, and sobering discussions invoked the realization that many of the failures to meet the SDGs are unrelated to COVID-19, despite what HLPF participants have been telling themselves and each other over the past two years.

In its role within the NGO Major Group, HIC participated in the drafting of the NGO papers on each of the four SDGs reviewed this year, as well as a paper on interlinkages. HIC-HLRN cooperated with sister network ANND in coordinating the CSO inputs on VNRs of Arab states, including Jordan, Somalia and Sudan. HIC also was engaged in coordinating the assessments of VNRs: Djibouti, Eritrea and United Arab Emirates.

A major focus of the HLPF is the negotiated Ministerial Declaration. This time, it is comprised of 142 paragraphs, longer than the 2030 Agenda itself. Negotiating the paragraphs on gender equality were particularly challenging. The paragraph on self-determination of peoples living under foreign and colonial occupation sparked controversy, even though it only replicates paragraph 35 of the 2030 Agenda.. US, Israel and Canada opposed it, many abstained, but it was preserved in paragraph 131 the final version. In the final analysis, the Declaration reaffirmed already standing commitments obligations under environmental treaties (paras. 75 and 103). Human rights obligations were preserved in the section on SDG 5 concerning gender equality (paras. 38–50)) and SDG 15 (life on land), with reference to Indigenous Peoples (para. 69). The Declaration’s preamble asserts that it is grounded in human rights, and human rights (e.g., water and sanitation, para. 111; development, para, 131; and related to digital technology, para. 134.c) are mentioned also under “Other priority issues.”

The next HLPF will take place in July 2023, to be followed by the SDG Summit and Summit and the Future in 2023 to be convened under the auspices of the UN General Assembly, the highest level of the UN System.

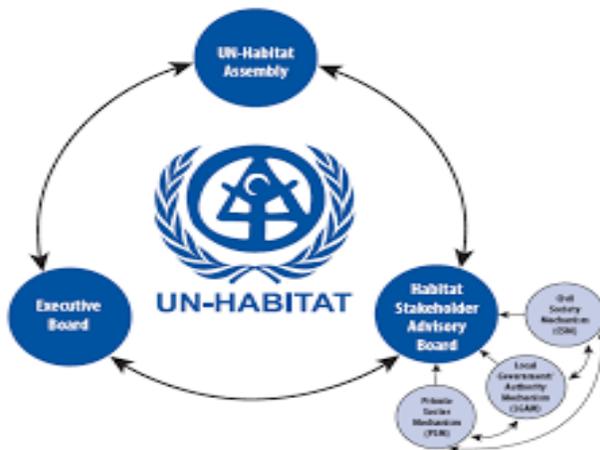
See the [statements delivered at the MGOS session](#)

Download the 2022 HLPF [Ministerial Declaration](#)
[\[AR\]](#)

Photo on front page: The Women`s Major Group takes a family photo to celebrate their 30 years of activism within the UN. Photo on this page: Green scarves hung from the podium of MGOS speakers, demonstrating solidarity with. and raising awareness about the need to protect human rights defenders. Source: IISD.

International Developments

New Stakeholder Engagement @ UN-Habitat



Since 2019, UN-Habitat's Executive Board has been considering the agency's new stakeholder-engagement policy and eventual mechanism for stakeholder participation in policy-level deliberations within its new governance structure. The following summarizes HIC's inputs to the UN Habitat Executive Board's Ad Hoc Working Group on Stakeholder Engagement for its own proposal to be approved at the UN Habitat Assembly in June 2023.

This summary of inputs to the UN Habitat Executive Board's Ad Hoc Working Group on Stakeholder Policy (AHWG) combines input from the more-comprehensive "[Proposal for a UN Habitat Stakeholder-engagement Mechanism](#)" presented by Habitat International Coalition (HIC) and related submissions and recommendations presented subsequently to the AHWG, as well as a [review](#) of 43 years of UN Habitat stakeholder engagement, the HIC-HLRN [review](#) of stakeholder engagement across the UN System, two sessions dedicated to the subject at each of World Urban Forums 10 ([2020](#)) and 11 ([2022](#)), the Partnerships and Local Governments Unit (PaLGU) "[Modalities](#)" paper and the AHWG "[proposed structure](#)" paper.

To be clear, none of the inputs from HIC represents a proposal for HIC to implement or manage the eventual stakeholder-engagement mechanism (SEM), but serve as principles and recommendations for an autonomous SEM awaiting decision of the AHWG and Executive Board (EB). Rather, these compile the lessons of long experience at engagement with UN Habitat since its origins in 1976, as well as those arising from good practices across the UN System.

HIC proposes to express the intention and purpose of the SEM and stakeholder-engagement policy (SEP) more broadly to be to:

Enrich and improve policy inputs and outcomes, as well as ensure greater buy-in/up-take and legitimacy of UN-Habitat policies implemented throughout the agency; i.e., at headquarters and through country offices with needed partners. Means toward these ends include stakeholder engagement and participation in policy processes with UN-Habitat governance processes, in line with best contemporary UN System-wide practices,

The envisioned SEM's specific objectives are summarized as:

- Learn from past and present
- Provide specificity of inputs from community of practice for policy decisions
- Improve policy relevance (not engage in projects or programs)
- Adhere to Rules of Procedure
- Ensure stakeholder diversity/plurality – 3 sub-mechanisms
- Illustrate the self-organizing principle in operation
- Create a new remit, not duplicating or supplanting other or former fixtures
- Order and channel policy inputs through democratic processes (internal and in relation to UN-Habitat governance)

For these purposes, “stakeholder” means any legal or natural person such as an employee, customer, citizen or participant who is involved with an organization, society, program or project, etc. and, therefore, has responsibilities toward it and an interest in its success. Stakeholders can affect, or be affected by the organization's society's, program's or project's actions, objectives and policies.

Not all stakeholders are equal or homogenous. They may differ in relations to the number or weight of their constituency, or investment of effort or resources and interests at stake. In a multistakeholder structure, for example, [stakeholders](#) may have private interests (e.g., private-sector representatives). Others may have [plural or public interests](#) (e.g., civil society organizations), or public duties (i.e., central and local governments, and other organs of the state). A set of SEM democratic-operation principles seek to minimize disparities and ensure evidence-informed advice.

“Engagement” can be any means or mode of interaction. The term is neutral and ambiguous and encompasses various and more-specific types of interaction. The act of exclusion could be such a mode of engagement at one end of the engagement spectrum that may culminate at the other end as ‘democratic control.’ However, this summary of principles and experience aims at [stakeholder participation](#), which is a stable and ongoing relationship in which stakeholders are able to negotiate with decision makers and have real influence on planning, policies and programs.

The term ‘governance bodies’ and ‘governance organs’ encompasses the Habitat Assembly (UNHA) and its subsidiaries, including the EB, working groups or other policy-level structures created for UN-Habitat governance.

Following an inventory of lessons and principles from experience across the UN System, the proposal that UN Habitat operationalize them as recommendations outlines to reflect the following vision:

1. The SEM would be non-legislative and serve in an advisory capacity, without voting rights, but with all other rights and responsibilities under parliamentary procedure.

2. On questions of accreditation and right to speak in governance-body sessions, the current Rules of Procedures apply.
3. The SEM would be autonomous and self-organized with internal modalities to be determined by the stakeholders.
4. The SEM and its secretariat would not be the property or project of any stakeholder organization, or other separately incorporated entity, and would not assume the name of any already-existing entity, or operate on its behalf.
5. The SEM's purpose is to operate in UN Habitat's policy sphere, rather than programme or project implementation (although some overlap of these spheres may occur in general debate or certain agenda items). Thereby, the SEM does not supplant, or compete with entities or structures engaged in project implementation or campaigns, or holding the right to speak or otherwise intervene in governance meetings.
6. It would form (three) distinct sub-mechanisms, each dedicated to channeling inputs to the UN Habitat Assembly (UNHA) and constituent bodies from the private sector (potentially including business and industry, women entrepreneurs, foundations and philanthropy, private utilities (private sector and privatized water, sanitation, transport, energy or other service providers), and professionals (private-sector planners, surveyors, legal practitioners, etc.)), local and regional governments and authorities,[i] and civil society (potentially including research and academia, civil society organizations, nongovernmental organizations, grassroots groups/organizations, women, children and youth, trade unions and workers, small-scale and family farmers, cooperatives, Indigenous People, media, persons with disability, older persons and sexual minorities).
7. Each stakeholder sub-group may establish working groups for specific purposes.
8. These sub-groups form no hierarchy; however, UN Habitat governance organs should prioritize the public interest.
9. The mechanisms functions include:
 - Establishing its internal democratic governance;
 - Managing broad and regular exchange of information, analysis and experience;
 - Developing common positions, as appropriate;
 - Communicating to the governance structures, as appropriate;
 - Convene a Global Stakeholder Forum as a preparatory event before EB sessions;
 - Constituting a combined Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Board in meetings with UN-Habitat governance bodies;
 - Conducting regular monitoring and evaluation of its internal and external performance.
1. Meeting together with the UN Habitat governing bodies, the composite of the three stakeholder sub-groups is referred to here as the Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Board (HSAB), reflecting the distinct function as proffering policy advice vis-à-vis the governing bodies.

2. Meeting together in advance of UN-Habitat governance meetings, the collective would be responsible for organizing Global Stakeholder Forum (GSF), retaining the established title.
 3. Each stakeholder, respective sub-groups and secretariat would pledge to apply the principles of the UN Charter and the New Urban Agenda as normative frameworks for their deliberations and advice to the governance bodies.
 4. Each stakeholder sub-group would determine its own internal modes of operation and code of conduct, but would uphold the principles of inclusivity, democratic processes, transparency, gender equality and equity, regional balance, efficient use of resources, and non-discrimination.
 5. The HSAB and GSF would share a secretariat operating only within, or in close proximity to UN Habitat Headquarters in Nairobi. No regional branch operations or entities are envisaged.
 6. The secretariat's roles would be to
 - Facilitate meetings,
 - Provide documentary and other information necessary to the HSAB and GSF functions,
 - Lead fundraising,
 - Manage SEM finances,
 - Advise stakeholders on procedural matters related to the UN Habitat governance bodies, as well as
 - Establish and maintain relations with other SEMs within the UN system for coordination and knowledge and experience exchange purposes.
1. Staff of the secretariat would remain neutral and not assume partisan positions, speak or otherwise issue statements on behalf of the stakeholders in governance meetings.
 2. UN Habitat would facilitate all registered and otherwise accredited stakeholders' access to UN Habitat premises for purposes of meeting as the HSAB and its stakeholder sub-groups, or as GSF.
 3. UN Habitat would facilitate written submissions to meetings of UN Habitat governance organs with the established criteria provided in Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations ECOSOC resolution 1886/31
 4. UN Habitat would facilitate the stakeholder secretariat's access to relevant information, including documents related to the work of the HSAB and its stakeholder sub-groups, or GSF.
 5. UN Habitat would facilitate the fundraising efforts for the functioning of HSAB, GSF and its stakeholder sub-groups. This may include extending UN Habitat auspices to fundraising proposals and initiatives for the purposes of stakeholder engagement.

These principles and functions are proposed here as advice and input to the AHWG are considered as a guide for decision making. They may be subject to debate, improvement and/or convergence with other proposals and recommendations. HIC has

shared all relevant inputs, but, despite several attempts, HIC has not yet discussed these proposals senior UN Habitat management.

Crucial questions remain to be worked out in greater detail, including:

- Accreditation: To be settled within the existing Rule of Procedure, meaning only already accredited representatives and those invited by the Chair of the session will have the right to speak;
- Relations with existing stakeholder structures: Each accredited or invited structure would retain its program-related functions and address the UNHA and subsidiaries under existing Rules of Procedure;
- The SEM's internal structure: While this outline proposes three sub-groups, that structure and respective internal operations would be specified through stakeholder consultation on the basis of autonomy and democratic principles outlines above; and
- Budget: While additional resources would be needed, the models considered in HIC's previous review has found that a fully functioning SEM, with ample travel provision, could range between US\$800,00 and US\$1,000,000. However, operations would be subject to whatever seed funds and in-kind contributions to be raised within the coming year to support a coordinator and administrative assistant to staff a secretariat.

For further inquiries, please contact:

Joseph Schechla

Coordinator

Housing and Land Rights Network –

Habitat International Coalition

Email: jschechla@hln.org

Tel/WhatsApp: +20 (0)122 347–5203

Image : Flyer invitation to the HIC-HLRN networking event at WUF11. Source: HLRN.

[i] Potentially including local and sub-national authorities (among them, rural, intermediate cities, megalopolis cities), public service providers (representing technocratic specializations), women in local government and parliamentarians.

International Developments

The Crime of “Domicide”



The UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing Balakrishnan Rajagopal has shone a light on how massive violations of the right to adequate housing continue in unprecedented fashion during and after violent conflict. The attacking, bombing, shelling and other forms of demolishing civilian targets and the destruction of entire cities and villages. These violations also displace millions into homelessness despite the development of modern human rights, humanitarian and criminal law.

His [most-recent report \[AR\]](#) to the UN General Assembly, “The right to adequate housing during violent conflict,” focused on this persistent targeting of homes of a persistent practice of conflict, occupation and war. It analyses the legal, political and practical challenges to preventing, ending and responding to systematic and deliberate mass destruction of homes during violent conflict. It calls for recognizing such severe violations of international law as “domicide,” a distinct crime under international criminal law. The report concludes with a set of recommendations to prevent and eliminate the practice, as well as end impunity for such severe housing rights violations.

In a 27 October 2022 side event at the 77th General Assembly session, the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights and the Center for Human Rights & Global Justice (CHRGJ) at New York University Law School co-hosted Mr. Rajagopalan and four panelists to explore the proposition. With CHRGJ Professor of International Law José Alvarez moderating, panelists included Mr. Joseph Schechla, Coordinator, Housing and Land Rights Network, Habitat International Coalition; Ms. [Bree Akesson](#), Wilfrid Laurier University, Faculty of Social Work and Social Justice & Community Engagement (SJCE); Chiara Torelli, Lead Explosive Violence Researcher at [Action on Armed Violence](#).

For the newcomer to the term “domicide,” it could seem to be a pseudo word or made-up word. The [debate](#) to recognize the term in international criminal law is inspired and informed by the etymology of “genocide, which is the intentional destruction of a people—usually defined as an ethnic, national, racial, or religious group—in whole or in part. Polish jurist Raphael Lemkin [coined the term](#) in 1944, combining the Greek word γένος (people, or “race”) with the Latin suffix *-caedo* (act of killing).

The meaning “to kill” may not lend itself to usage in connection with inanimate objects and non-living things. However, if we look deeper into the etymology of the verb, we find that it has derivatives with related meanings such as “to cut,” “to hew,” “to tear,” “to strike” or “to beat.” In the broadest sense, democide entails striking where people live.

HIC-HLRN’s coordinator supported the proposition for this neologism would take its place in international criminal because of the need for greater specificity in legal terminology. Already, “[forced evictions](#)” [AR] and “[population transfer](#)” [AR] have been legally defined. They are points on a spectrum of gross violations and the most-serious crimes. Each term is distinct in its application. The Commission on Human Rights has affirmed in [1993](#) and [2004](#) that “forced eviction” is a gross violation of the human right to housing, among other human rights. It could be practiced against a single household, or group of households. The serious crime of [population transfer](#) involves a similar practice, but usually referring to only large-scale operations, involving push and pull factors with the discriminatory purpose and effect of demographic engineering.

Most commonly, population transfer takes place when and where an illicit power seeks to implant a compliant population, in order to acquire and permanently control territory. Population transfer crimes are cross-border in nature; however, the same prohibited practice may take place within a state’s territory. In which case, it is referred to as “[demographic manipulation](#).” Population transfer crimes can be carried out by force and/or any combination of tactics and means, including coercive, incremental, incentivized and predicated on the enforcement of discriminatory law.

The destruction of homes could include lawfare, as long practiced against Palestinian Jerusalemites, for example, where violations of their housing and land rights involve [draconian restrictions](#) on their residency status in their own capital city. These old and new measures involve the separation of families, despite the International Law Commission [determination](#) that “the forcible transfer of members of a group, particularly when it involves the separation of family members, could also constitute genocide.” Short that application of the term “genocide,” this method also could be classified as a form of domicide.

However, domicide would refer to deliberate destruction of homes. In the post-WWII population transfer of Sudeten Germans, most of their homes were left standing after their inhabitants were forcible marched westward in supposed peacetime. However, in the 1947–48 ethnic cleansing of Palestine’s *Nakba*, Israeli forces demolished most of the 531 Palestinian villages, equivalent to roughly 156,000 homes, among other structures, often carpeting them over with non-indigenous forest plantings, in order to leave nothing for the refugees to return to. Those criminal actions would qualify as democide. Contrastingly, a similar ethnic-separation policy afflicts Cypriot families subject to population transfer since 1974, but, in many cases, their homes remain—often empty—across the Green Line.

Outside the context of population transfer and genocide, domicide could be the appropriate term to describe the Bharatiya Janata Party’s current [targeting of Muslim](#)

[homes](#) as a means of persecution in India, [borrowing tactics](#) applied elsewhere.. With [objectives](#) analogous to Israeli militias in the *Nakba*, the Myanmar army's burning destruction of Rohingya villages would include domicide in the repertoire of its serious crimes.

The legal terms “forced eviction” and “population transfer” are well defined in international law. However, each is also distinct from “democide,” which is the violent or other forcible attack on the home; i.e., housing unit or residence and landed area where civilians live. It is different from the other examples in which the targeted homes and households remain intact.

Most of the homes of post-war Sudeten Germans were left standing after their inhabitants were forcible marched westward in supposed peacetime, and even the 531 Palestinian villages ethnically cleansed in 1947–48 and their roughly 156,000 homes, among other structures, remained until well after their depopulation, until the State of Israel and its apartheid-chartered parastatal institutions bulldozed and carpeted them over with non-indigenous forest plantings. The same ethnic separation policy afflicts Cypriot families subject to population transfer since 1974, while, in many cases, their homes still stand—often empty—across the Green Line.

“Democide,” on the other hand, is the very specific act of attacking civilian homes, including physical structures and their surroundings, most often in the context of violent conflict, occupation and/or declared war. Such acts may be via destructive means that also result in “forced eviction” at a wide scale, but that precise legal term and classification of a gross violation might understate a case of domicide.

Moreover, apart from population transfer, domicide could take place when the tactical objective is to unlawfully punish, persecute, dispossess and/or impoverish inhabitants, even without the purpose or effect of displacing or replacing them. Rather, domicide is a felonious act in and of itself that may relate to, but conceptually falls between already defined and prohibited forced eviction and population transfer crimes.

In the Nuremberg trials of Nazi defendants Alfred Jodl and Alfred Rosenberg, the former was convicted of crimes including the burning of Norwegian villages and the destruction of Polish villages and towns. Rosenberg was infamous for looting Jewish homes. Despite their qualification as domicide, the Nuremberg prosecutors were reduced to charging them with the rather unspecific war crime of “spoliation.” In the October 2022 ruling on the mass eviction and destruction of Maasai homes and lands in Tanzania, East Africa Court judges [dismissed](#) the case for lack of evidence of harm arising from the domicide.

Conclusion

Legal practitioners need more-precise terms and better understanding of domicide as a crime in international—and domestic—law. As the Special Rapporteur has pointed out in his report, such acts are already prohibited in international human rights and humanitarian law. However, the most-explicit treatment of the proscribed act in international humanitarian law (IHL) is still left to interpretation within the general category of destruction of civilian property. Clearly, adequate housing is far more than mere property. Conceptually and legally, domicide needs to be treated on its own terms. Its legal definition must include recognition that domicide is both a gross violation of human rights and a grave breach of IHL. With the first priority going to its victims and affected persons, remedies require full implementation of [the reparation framework](#), including each entitlement of material and moral restitution, return, resettlement, rehabilitation, compensation for values not subject to restitution, guarantees of nonrepetition and victims' satisfaction.

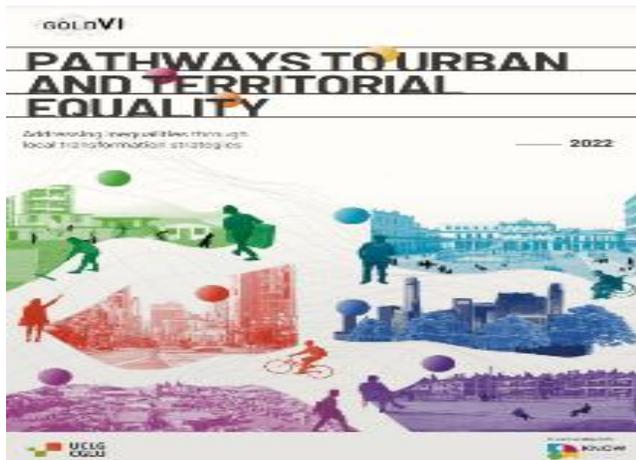
Prosecution, punishment and other forms of justice for perpetrators may be the subjects of longer-term transitional-justice processes. A slow pursuit of perpetrators and adjudication of their culpability should never be used as an excuse to delay and, hence, deny remedy and reparations for domicide victims.

Any indictable act could involve a combination of crimes or elements of crime at any time. However, greater precision in the law is still needed to identify, recognize and define the crime of domicide in the legal lexicon and applicable instruments to end, prevent and remedy its persistent practice.

Image: Graphic from "Crime of 'Domicide': The much-needed upgrade to International Criminal Law." Source: [The European Institute for International Law and International Relations](#).

International Developments

UCLG GOLD VI Report Local and regional governments hold key to tackling rising global inequalities



Launch of the UCLG GOLD VI Report proposes ways for local authorities to champion equality

Local and regional governments are taking innovative steps to tackle growing inequalities around the world, according to the findings of a new report being launched by United Cities and Local Government (UCLG), in partnership with The Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) of University College London and the International Institute for Environment

and Development (IIED). The partners launched the new report at the seventh UCLG World Summit and Congress in Daejeon, South Korea, the largest global gathering of local and regional government representatives.

The COVID-19 pandemic and climate emergency, coupled with rising food and fuel prices around the globe, is bringing inequalities into even sharper focus. While national governments may drag their feet on addressing such wide disparities, UCLG's GOLD VI report, [Pathways to Urban and Territorial Equality](#), documents hundreds of examples of cities, local and regional governments taking actions aimed at reducing inequalities in alliances with their local communities.

Examples include a micro health insurance program in Malang, Indonesia, where people can access medical services by collecting garbage from the streets and using it as a currency to pay for insurance. In Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the local government and utility company worked with an NGO and the local community to design a simplified sewage system which has reduced costs and provided funds for an additional 60 toilets. And in São Paulo, Brazil, the municipality recognized the value of cultural groups that had occupied vacant warehouses and developed a new legal framework to allow them to stay in the properties legally.

The new report is sixth in a series produced by the collaborative [Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralisation](#). The online, interactive publication also features three contributions by HIC-HLRN authors. They cover the themes

“Connecting,” “Democratizing” and “Naturing,” including practical examples from Egypt, India, Kenya, Lebanon and Thailand.

These examples are discussed as part of six pathways through which sub-national authorities can advance urban equality: “Commoning,” “Caring,” “Connecting,” “Renaturing,” “Prospering” and “Democratizing.” They are designed to tackle unequal access to housing and public services, the uneven distribution of care burdens, challenges related to sustainable transport and digital connectivity, dignified livelihood opportunities, climate change and to uneven political representation, among others.

Emilia Saiz, secretary general of UCLG, said: “The report will play a fundamental role in making actionable the commitments of The Pact for the Future of Humanity, adopted in the Congress, by promoting a radical revision of urban and territorial development strategies and policies to safeguard the future of people and the planet through better governance.”

Caren Levy, Professor at DPU said: “In the last few years, crisis after crisis has been felt around the globe, from a worldwide pandemic to rocketing food prices and the worsening climate crisis. It is the most vulnerable people, who were already facing multiple discrimination and struggling to survive, who have been hit hardest as a result.”

Alexandre Apsan Frediani, principal researcher at IIED, said: “Our report shows the important role cities, local governments and regional authorities can play in addressing growing inequalities, working together with civil society organizations and local communities, often through innovative, small but radically incremental steps.”

The recommendations of the report emerge from a three-year process of engagement and exchange, involving academics, civil society networks and local and regional government representatives in an unprecedented effort to both document and expand the central role of local and regional governments to address inequalities in alliance with their communities.

The key principles to do so identified in the report include respecting rights, managing urban space, devolving governance to the sub-national level, seeking adequate financing and, in many countries, revising current approaches to investment; and learning from the past to understand the present and plan to address inequalities in the future.

Jan van Zanen, UCLG Governing President, said: “In a world where complex emergencies and the management of overlapping crisis is part of our day to day work, tackling inequalities needs to be at the center of the renewed social contract that our Pact for the Future of Humanity is promoting, we are certain the findings of the GOLD VI Report will be a great source of inspiration.”

For more information or to request an interview, please contact:

Communication@uclg.org

Photo: The president of the Barcelona provincial council (Spain), mayors of Bogota (Colombia), Santiago (Chile), Banjul (Gambia), Chefchaouen (Morocco) and Grigny (France) taking part in a panel discussion, alongside academics and civil society networks, during the UCLG World Summit and Congress in a session dedicated to the GOLD VI report: [*Pathways to Urban and Territorial Equality: taking the commitment forward*](#), on Friday, 14 October 2022. Source: IIED,

International Developments

Stockholm+50: How Far Have We Come?



The first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment at Stockholm (1972) was of existential importance to Habitat International Coalition. HIC always harkens back to its birth in the first UN Conference on Housing and Human Settlements (Habitat I) at Vancouver (1976). However, as Habitat I was a specialized follow-up to the seminal Stockholm Conference, HIC also refers to Stockholm as its conception.

This year marks a half century since that groundbreaking 1972 conference, and its commemoration at [Stockholm+50](#) (2–3 June 2022) was both a reflection on the historical legacy of Stockholm 1972 and an ominous look into our collective future. However, Stockholm+50, co-chaired by the president of Kenya and the prime minister of Sweden, was relatively modest; it was not billed as a major summit. Officially, it was not even a “conference,” but only an international “meeting” with unwieldy theme: “A Healthy Planet for the Prosperity of All – Our Responsibility, Our Opportunity.”

Another kind of stocktaking was hosted by the pre-session [Peoples’ Forum for Environment and Global Justice](#) also at Stockholm (31 May–1 June 2022). There, civil society consulted and prepared for the official conference, featuring a range of expertise and experience, from Indigenous Peoples’ testimonies, to reflections by persistent activists who recounted their experience at the 1972 conference. Those voices reminded participants—if indeed anyone had forgotten—how slow is the process of codifying international norms and standards, and how their implementation can be slower still.

At the Peoples Forum, HIC-HLRN Coordinator Joseph Schechla participated in a core session on “Global solidarity for a fair and democratic multilateralism and resources for global needs” ([@ 2:04:15](#)). His message focused on (1) the progressive evolution human rights norms as insufficient, but nonetheless indispensable; (2) how HIC-HLRN’s human-right-to-land thesis promotes alignment with Indigenous Peoples’ symbiotic relationship with land and the environment, and (3) that extraterritorial human rights obligations and international cooperation principles make solidarity, including with future generations, a duty within the international rule-based order as developed.

Comparing Stockholm+50 to the earlier events such as the environment and sustainable development conferences of 1992, 2002 and 2012, [some characterized](#) this year's 'meeting as marking a decline of sustainability summitry and governance. Others noted also the continuity of unheeded calls by prime ministers [Olof Palme](#) (Sweden) and [Indira Gandhi](#) (India) at Stockholm 1972.

The June 2022 meeting took place amid official delegations' demonstrably declining appetite for hearing about states' standing obligations, as reflected in the current generation of conferencing in the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, High Level Political Forum, the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Summit of the Future.

Today's gravitational center of environmental-policy decision making is the United Nations Environment Assembly, which held its own special session to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme in March 2022 in Nairobi ([UNEP@50](#)).

Nonetheless, the Stockholm+50 international meeting has been seen as a springboard to accelerate the implementation of the UN Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. Stockholm+50 also reinforced the messages and the outcomes of the event to commemorate UNEP's 50th anniversary. The two-day international meeting, deliberated organizational matters, held four plenary sessions, three leadership dialogues, and [compiled](#) meeting outcomes.

Amid calls for resetting our relationship with nature and the General Assembly's [recognition](#) of a right to clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the meeting achieved agreement on numerous principles, including:

- Local communities should be partners and decision makers in all mining activities; - Global value chains should become sustainable and prioritize traditional and local producers and markets; - All trade and investment should ensure respect for human rights and fair prices for small-scale producers and local communities;
- Sustainable finance should be available for achieving sustainable development; - Full recognition is needed of the short-, medium- and long-term environmental impact of companies' operations in financial markets;
- The energy transition, including the development and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency, is needed;
- A major shift in agriculture and livestock farming practices is required, including through the promotion of agroecological farming, the use of biofertilizers and the application of alternatives to chemical pesticides, as well as the provision of financial and technical support to local farming communities and small-scale farmers;
- Environmental conservation should be encouraged through the creation of protected areas;

- The use of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches should be extended to curb land degradation and tackle climate change;
- Business-as-usual urban development models that result in urban sprawl, segregation and privatization should be replaced with models that produce compact, integrated and connected cities that minimize environmental impact and improve the health and quality of life of citizens; the “One Health” approach;
- The science-policy interface should be strengthened;
- Natural capital accounting should be expanded;
- Plastic pollution needs to be tackled, including through national measures to phase out harmful plastics and through the negotiation by 2024 of a new treaty to end plastic pollution;
- Oceans and other water resources should be protected and used sustainably;
- All countries should fully implement the “polluter pays” principle;
- Environmental education should be introduced from a young age, accompanied by training in the knowledge and skills needed to work in the green economy and digital transformation;
- A rights-based approach should be implemented, whereby individuals would enjoy an enforceable right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment;
- Participatory and inclusive decision-making processes should be adopted at every level to ensure the meaningful engagement of all rights-holders, especially youth and the vulnerable;
- A strong legal framework should be developed, under which transnational corporations would be held liable for environmental damage and those affected would have access to justice.

Stakeholders issued a further set of demands. One of the related initiatives voiced loudly at the conference was the call for a new Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty. That raised old controversies, but not about the harm from the use of fossil fuels. While that scientific fact has become a matter of consensus since 1972, a similar proposal 50 years ago invoked suspicion that the proposal concealed an attempt to formalize a double standard on the part of rich countries’ governments to prevent developing states from developing with their natural resources, while preserving impunity for historic polluters. [The current initiative](#) still remains ambiguous. Not yet offering a draft text, set of implementation principles, or other needed specificity.

Youth stakeholders critically cast Stockholm+50 as “yet another environmental conference asking to be listened to” in the face of a “lack of political will and political courage.” Youth rhetorically asked “where is leadership,” while noting that climate activists and environment defenders are being criminalized and persecuted to the favor of the fossil-fuel industry’s greed ([@ 1/14:50](#)).

The youthful message from a PUSH Sweden representative ([@2:06:00](#)) asserted that the [Global Youth Policy Paper](#) is *the* action plan coming out of Stockholm+50, He summarized by calling on states to criminalize ecocide and end tax evasion, ensuring that all must do their fair share. He concluded by saying: “We are tomorrow, but I am afraid we might not have a future. So step up, or step aside. Our lives depend on it.”

The meeting's report summarized Stockholm+50's recommendations for accelerating action toward a healthy planet for the prosperity as follows:

1. Place human well-being at the center of a healthy planet and prosperity for all, through recognizing that a healthy planet is a prerequisite for peaceful, cohesive and prosperous societies; restoring our relationship with nature by integrating ethical values; and adopting a fundamental change in attitudes, habits and behaviours to support our common prosperity.
2. Recognize and implement the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, through fulfilling the vision articulated in principle 1 of the 1972 Stockholm Declaration.
3. Adopt a system-wide change in the way our current economic system works to contribute to a healthy planet, through defining and adopting new measures of progress and human well-being, supported by economic and fiscal policies that account for the value of the environment; investing in infrastructure, developing effective policy and encouraging a global dialogue to promote sustainable consumption and production; and promoting the phasing-out of fossil fuels while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable, in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for financial and technical support towards a just transition.
4. Strengthen national implementation of existing commitments for a healthy planet, through enhancing national environmental legislation, budgets, planning processes and institutional frameworks; promoting evidence-based policymaking, including by enhanced collaboration between academic disciplines and thematic scientific panels, drawing on insights and expertise from indigenous and traditional knowledge; and scaling up capacity support and development, access to and financing for environmentally sound technologies.
5. Align public and private financial flows with environmental, climate and sustainable development commitments, through developing and implementing well-designed policies to repurpose environmentally harmful subsidies; redirecting, mobilizing and scaling up the availability of public and private financial flows to support economic diversification; and adopting recovery and stimulus measures, blended sources of capital and de-risking instruments that augment financial flows.
6. Accelerate system-wide transformations of high impact sectors, such as food, energy, water, building and construction, manufacturing and mobility, through adopting and implementing policies to promote circularity, resource efficiency, regenerative production approaches and nature-based solutions in value chains, and adopting frameworks that enhance and reinforce transparency and accountability by business; promoting just transitions through support for impacted youth, labour and local communities by strengthening capacity and skills for the creation of green jobs and for micro-, small and medium enterprises; and transforming food systems by promoting regenerative farming and fisheries approaches that provide healthy diets and minimize food waste, including investments in the ocean economy.

7. Rebuild relationships of trust for strengthened cooperation and solidarity, through recognizing the importance of developed country leadership in promoting sustainability transitions; supporting capacity-building and technology transfer for national efforts by developing countries to implement internationally agreed environmental agreements, taking into account national circumstances, including honouring the commitment to mobilize \$100 billion every year for climate finance for developing countries; and enabling all relevant stakeholders, including youth, women, rural communities, indigenous peoples, interfaith groups and local communities, to participate meaningfully in policy formulation and implementation at both the national and international levels.
8. Reinforce and reinvigorate the multilateral system, through ensuring an effective rules-based multilateral system that supports countries in delivering on their national and global commitments, to ensure fair and effective multilateralism; strengthening the environmental rule of law, including by promoting convergence and synergies within the United Nations system and between multilateral environmental agreements; and strengthening the United Nations Environment Programme, in line with the UNEP@50 political declaration.
9. Recognize intergenerational responsibility as a cornerstone of sound policymaking, through engaging with the Stockholm+50 Global Youth Task Force and its policy paper; highlighting the important need to build the capacity of young people to engage with financial institutions; recognizing the critical role of young people in environmental action, highlighting the fact that progress has been made in fostering the meaningful engagement of youth, and calling upon multilateral environmental funds to include youth-inclusive parameters in their funding schemes and take further steps to ensure ease of access to funds for environmental action by youth-led organizations.

10. Take the Stockholm+50 outcomes forward through reinforcing and reenergizing the ongoing international processes, including a global framework for biodiversity, an implementing agreement for the protection of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction and the development of a new plastics convention; and engaging with relevant conferences, such as the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference, the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the twenty-seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Summit of the Future.

Attending the conference, Mr. Schechla reflected that: “The Stockholm+50 meeting has shown us that 50 years has not been enough to avoid rapidly oncoming human-made environmental and climate disaster. Rather, it had reminded us how far we have yet to go to save each other and ourselves.”

Download the complete official [report](#)

Image on the front page: Stockholm+50 meeting logo. Source: UN. Photo on this page: Peoples Forum panel on international solidarity, 1 June 2022. Source: HLRN file photo.

International Developments

HIC @ World Urban Forum 11

Organized by Habitat International Coalition and UN Habitat stakeholders

Join the brainstorm on the New UN Habitat's Stakeholder Engagement Policy and Mechanism

@ World Urban Forum 11
Networking Event N 46
12:30-14:00, Tuesday, 28 June 2022

WORLD URBAN FORUM

Katowice, Poland, 26-30 June 2022

Find background on the proposals for a Stakeholder-engagement Mechanism [here](#).



From 25 to 30 June, Habitat International Coalition and several Members attended the 11th World Urban Forum (WUF) in Katowice, Poland. Held in a hybrid format, this biennial WUF gathered 10,799 in-person participants from 155 countries.” In her opening address, UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif reminded that “We only have 2,743 days left to implement the New Urban Agenda and

achieve the Sustainable Development Goals’s.” That motto hovered over the week-long proceedings.

Organized every two years by UN-Habitat, WUF issues no decisions or binding commitments, but is an important gathering of practitioners and organizations related to cities and human settlement development globally. Over the five days, 17,003 people from 155 countries attended the Forum, a testament to the diversity in participation, reflected also in the official and parallel program. As in previous sessions, WUF11 was a marketplace of diverse and, at times, conflicting visions and approaches to urban development.

As usual, HIC carried out activities both inside and outside the main Forum, with a focus on learning, networking and coalition-building. Among the main activities carried out were the **HIC General Assembly** (25 June), a series of **side events** organized by HIC structures and Members, as well as parallel activities in the **collective “Habitat Village”** in the WUF exhibition hall, shared with the [Cohabitat Network](#) and [World Habitat](#).

Beyond the usual review of activities and updates from Reference Centers and Board Members, this year’s GA celebrated HIC’s 45 (+1)-year anniversary in the first combined in-person gathering since COVID, with Members joining also online. Looking to HIC’s future, the Assembly features strategic small-group discussions on the four areas of HIC Member competence: Gender, Environment, Production and Human

Rights, This year, the GA also focused on housing and land issues related to ongoing conflict, occupation and war.

As a networking event inside WUF, HIC-HLRN hosted a brainstorming session on UN-Habitat stakeholder engagement and the prospective self-organized Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM). With HIC Secretary-General Yolande Hendler's welcome and moderation, the panel of Lucia Kiwale (Partnership and Local Government Unit, UN Habitat), Siraj Sait (Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise) and Joseph Schechla (HIC-HLRN) updated participants on the process toward developing a self-organized SEM. This new relationship for policy deliberation was promised for new UN-Habitat with its revised governance structure since 2019. The networking event also provided an opportunity to review the rich history and evolution of UN Habitat stakeholder engagement since 1976.

With HIC as an original volunteer in the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism Working Group to proffer advice and proposals to UN-Habitat's governance bodies, the session served as [one more channel](#) of [recommendations](#) for UN Habitat's Executive Board, in anticipation of its policy decision on the subject at the June 2023 UN Habitat Assembly.

Another cause for celebration at WUF11 was the presentation of World Habitat's [annual award](#) for innovation presented to a project of Beirut's Public Works Studio. The [Housing Monitor](#) is a housing rights project that maintains a safe and secure database for people to report housing violations, and responds to individuals' housing needs with access to legal and social services. The Housing Monitor builds awareness among vulnerable groups, particularly refugees and migrant domestic workers, who have limited legal representation and/or knowledge of their housing rights.

In Lebanon, housing policy provides little protection to tenants, meaning more than half the population of Beirut lacks housing security. Lebanon's economic collapse and the 2021 Beirut port explosion have exacerbated the housing crisis and left low-income renters open to poor living conditions, rent hikes and illegal evictions.

In this context, the project has received 603 reports of housing injustices, to which it has responded to 472 cases with targeted interventions. So far, Housing Monitor has prevented the eviction of 92 households and negotiated better housing security for hundreds of people. Housing Monitor also mobilizes local advocacy to demand housing policy reform. As the first project of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa region, Housing Monitor is giving vulnerable communities a voice to demand their basic housing rights and campaign for a more equitable society.

Photo on front page: HIC Members and officers at the General Assembly, Katowice, 25 June 2022. Source: HIC-GS. Image on this page: Flyer and invitation to the HIC-HLRN-organized networking event on the UN-Habitat SEM, 29 June 2022. Source: HIC-HLRN.

International Developments

CFS50: High Hopes for Ending Hunger Hindered by Geopolitical Polarization



This year's fiftieth session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS50) started on a hopeful note. It was the first "in person" meeting since the COVID outbreak, with a new chair, Gabriel Ferrero, in charge and 124 member states registered to attend.

Most of the various stakeholders were represented. The Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism for relations with CFS (CSIPM) put a lot of importance on the plenary sessions, and

so did many other participants. More than 100 CSIPM members traveled to take part in the event.

The CSIPM had prepared a document to present its standpoint on the food crisis. It stressed the need to understand the crisis in a comprehensive, systemic way to enable CFS to address it correctly and help overcome it. The current crisis is framed as one of "cost of living," due to high energy and food prices caused by the disruption of global trade due to the war in Ukraine. However, that is only a very partial picture of a much deeper, multilayered and multifaceted failure of food systems. Rather, our societies have become extremely vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity due to the agro-industrial production model, over-dependence on global value chains and fossil fuel-based production inputs, corporate concentration in almost all aspects of food systems, and a stubborn adherence to an economic logic that lacks market regulation and unjust trade rules.

Thus, the CSIPM urgently demanded the CFS take action to reverse this situation and assume a leadership and convening role in resolving the food crises, as it is the only inclusive, multilateral forum to discuss multiple dimensions of crisis from a Human rights perspective with support of the Committee's High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN).

To create objective information to compel action, CSIPM carried out popular consultations by means of an online questionnaire and 20 hours of regional webinars in seven languages, resulting in 539 contributions from 63 countries across the globe. The

results are consolidated in the report [*Voices from the ground 2: Transformative solutions to the global systemic food crises*](#). It tells the story of those most affected by this multifaceted crisis, the actions they have taken to provide practical and strategic responses, and conveys their specific demands and proposals to overcome the food crisis.

The evidence from the ground shows worrisome trends over the past two years:

- Sharp increases in already-entrenched inequalities of all kinds, in all regions, especially affecting women, youth, small-scale producers, agricultural workers, Indigenous Peoples.
- Climate chaos continues, with most impact on those who contribute the least to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Conflicts, wars and state violence have persisted, where food is being used as a geopolitical weapon.
- Participation of right holders in democratic processes has shrunk, amid a growing disregard for human rights and their defenders.
- Corporations have profited from government bailouts and support programmes, and financial speculation has increased.

The results of these trends also clearly illustrate the fragility of the global food supply system. A good number of low-income countries rely on just a handful of large commodity-producing countries and import most of the grains that feed their people, in a global system monopolized by [*four mega grain traders*](#): Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Bunge, Cargill, and Louis Dreyfus. The global food system's focus on only a few commodities has tragically diverted attention from native staple crops, which underpin the food systems across the Global South.

Also, people on the ground judge government measures to be generally absent, or, at best, inadequate, weak and fragmented. Across all regions, the gap left by governments has been bridged by the solidarity action and innovations of communities, social movements, nonprofit and people's organizations. For enabling governments to take appropriate action, changes are needed in the global governance of food systems to address obstacles encountered at national level.

The demands that emerged from the consultation are both short and long term: The short-term measures include the provision of humanitarian aid, while strengthening sustainable local food systems; supporting existing community and solidarity initiatives. National governments must regulate corporate distribution of ultra-processed foods to ensure small-scale food producers' access to sufficient and affordable inputs for production, privileging domestically available inputs over imported ones; halting food speculation; restructuring and canceling private and public debts; introducing a moratorium on the use and processing of agricultural commodities for non-food purposes, and taxing excess profits and extreme wealth. The long-term action areas include the following: Breaking food import dependency and supporting domestic food

provisioning, transforming food systems through agroecology and territorial markets, implementing food sovereignty, limiting corporate power, reforming trade rules and ensuring human rights and democratic multilateralism.

The combined long- and short-term demands reflect no less than the integrated approach that CFS already adopted in its 2015 Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises ([FFA](#)). That policy instrument explicitly called for the integral application of the immediate and short-term actions of humanitarian assistance in support of the longer-term and institution-building development approach within the overarching respect, protection and fulfillment of codified human rights (paras. 15–16).

Based on these findings and analyses, CSIPM prepared to demand during the plenary that CFS take action to effectively perform its role as the foremost inclusive intergovernmental forum promoting global coordination on issues affecting food security and the right to food.

The CFS50 Plenary

The first day opening went well. The chair pinpointed several points of utmost significance: the urgency of focusing on women and children as they are the most affected by food crises. Mr. Ferrero also noted the needed urgent actions, as well as the long-term solutions. To complete the picture with a call for carbon-neutral food production to reduce the effects of climate change.

It seemed that he genuinely believed that the CFS is a beacon of hope and that as he mentioned, the world can count on the CFS, reformed to be inclusive and hailed the need for everyone's actions and leadership.

During the plenary, the CSIPM was active in all sessions. The working groups presented valuable interventions on the various topics.

As a member of the following workgroups (WGs): Global Food Governance (co facilitator), Women and Gender-diverse WG and Data WG, HIC representative Hala Barakat was able to take part in the plenary, or watched it on Zoom from the adjacent "Room".

The following is a detailed report on the activities undertaken during CFS50 and CSIPM interventions and some attachments:

1. CSIPM intervened at the Ministerial Segment: Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis - The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022

In spite of the fact that the discussion of Item 2(c) extended over three days and led to the suspension of the plenary with no agreement on articles related to the effect of the

Ukraine war on food security, as well as the mention of sanctions as negatively affecting food accessibility, CSIPM was able to put forward a proposal for coordinated global response to the food crisis, which is the core of the segment.

CSIPM proposal was delivered by HIC representative André Luzzi.

The CSIPM calls for leveraging the convening power of the CFS strengthening coordinated global policy responses to the multiple dimensions of the global food crisis, including through, but not limited to:

- Regular substantive items on the global food security crisis in the agendas of Bureau and Advisory Group meetings,
 - Starting an inclusive member state-led process to propose to CFS51 an approach for providing globally coordinated policy guidance, as well as
 - The engagement of the CFS Chairperson, HLPE-FSN, Secretariat and autonomous mechanisms of CFS within the UN Secretary General's Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance.
1. The session discussing the theme "Empowering Women and Girls and Promoting Gender Equality. Update and Discussion on the Preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women' and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition"

The session provided an opportunity to discuss the status of preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition. The guidelines were still under discussion since the negotiations in July failed to come to closure and consensus on the document.

CSIPM's Women and Gender-diversity WG intervention focused on its commitment to achieving the guidelines, while considering all the significant issues that are essential for the guidelines to be transformative and progressive toward gender equality. (See [full WG document](#).)

1. CSIPM intervened during the CFS Strategic Direction toward 2030 session on The Critical, Emerging and Enduring Issues for Food Security and Nutrition

CSIPM's Global Food Governance Working Group intervention was as follows:

The CSIPM expresses its continued deep appreciation of the work of the HLPE as the CFS's mechanism for providing an evidence basis for the Committee's policy discussions, unique because of its multi-sectoral scope, its balanced composition, its interactive approach to developing its reports, and the fact that it recognizes the validity of traditional, Indigenous and practitioner knowledge.

In developing our proposals for the coming MYPOW, 2024-2027, the CSIPM will be drawing on the outcomes of our popular consultation, which we reported on yesterday and which has gathered over 550 responses from 77 countries. Some important themes that we have heard from the different regions are already mentioned in the HLPE proposed themes such as climate change, food workers' rights, conflicts and the fragility of food systems. Others have not yet touched on, such as the importance of social and solidarity economies and popular agrarian reform. We are the popular CFS and we want to contribute the voices from the ground to framing priorities for the CFS' coming work."

1. On the HLPE-FSN Report 2024, the suggested theme is "Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation."

CSIPM's Global Food Governance Working Group intervention by Hala Barakat:

The proposed theme on topic 2: "Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems in the context of urbanization and rural transformation" is certainly of great interest to our constituencies. The collaboration between urban and rural communities has been fundamental in the response to the COVID crisis.

The following points should be considered in the draft request to the HLPE for the report in 2024:

The previous CFS process on urbanization and rural transformation should be referenced in the request to the HLPE;

We support that the proposed objective clearly indicates that this HLPE report will be followed by a policy convergence process leading to a set of policy recommendations to be approved by the CFS Plenary. A major shortcoming of the last workstream on urbanization and rural transformation was that it ended without a relevant policy result.

A specific reference to the relevance of this HLPE report on youth should be included, particularly in the context of migration.

A specific emphasis should be included on social protection, as a crosscutting element for the urban-, peri-urban and rural domains.

The proposed objective should not only focus on strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems but also strengthening rural- urban linkages.

Two remarks on the use of "climate-smart agriculture" to be replaced by "climate-resilient agriculture," a term that is more encompassing of ecologically based practices; and the use of the term: "top-down and bottom-up" approaches, but rather suggest the "complementarity of different approaches that lead to the inclusive, transparent, participatory processes for urban and rural transformations."

1. During the session on Data Collection and Analysis Tools, the HLPE-FSN Report on Data Collection and Analysis Tools was presented followed by CFS stakeholders providing feedback and inputs on the content of the report.

CSIPM's Working Group on Data (WGD) Patty Taylor intervened with an analysis of the document and placing importance on how, why and who collects data, Indigenous People involvement and their knowledge protection, as well as who benefits from the data collected.

1. Finally, the CSIPM participated in the session on Empowering Youth in Inclusive and Sustainable Food Systems: Endorsement and Uptake of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition

The final version of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement was presented for consideration and endorsement by CFS Plenary.

CSIPM's intervention (by Tyler Short) endorsed the guidelines with reservations. The reservations were presented and CSIPM demanded their inclusion in the document. It is still hoped that they would at least be included as an annex.

CSIPM WGD and Youth WGs also organized two side events:

- [Intersectionality, Gender Equality and the Right to Food](#) (11 October), and
- [Our rights, our bodies, our futures: Youth voices on the future of food systems and the CFS youth policy recommendations](#) (12 October).

The CFS50 plenary ended in the evening of 13 October without concluding. Hours and hours of intergovernmental negotiation were invested, trying to find a compromise on a battle of words between two geopolitical blocs. Hours that were lost for finding a solution to the growing systemic food crisis, while people are dying from hunger, climate change is unfolding and inequalities between people and countries rising. The official statement by CFS chair declared that the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) adjourned its 50th Plenary Session (CFS 50) on October 13th, to reconvene as soon as possible and conclude deliberations on coordinating policy responses to the global food crisis informed by the [2022 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report \(SoFI\)](#).

The CSIPM considers that the CFS50 has been captured by geopolitical side discussions and was not able to deliver what was promised by the chair.

International Developments

Housing Rights amid Climate Change



In response to a call from the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, HIC-HLRN submitted inputs to inform the Rapporteur's report to the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council, in collaboration with HIC members in Spain (Observatori DESC) and India (Sathi All for Partnerships India).

In the submission, HIC-HLRN highlighted the cases of HIC Members in India and Spain. India is experiencing migration and population shrinkage due to

droughts and increasing temperatures, directly affecting crops, in communities in Jharkhand. In Spain, homes have been lost due to sea-level rise (homes on the waterfront or in flood zones), and one million residents living in areas at risk of flooding. Heat and cold waves accompanied by a high number of tropical nights, together with the ravages of widespread energy poverty in Spain create inadequate housing conditions, leading to deaths from heat, and from winter cold. Poor insulation also leads to an increase in the consumption of electricity and gas, with the expense that this entails, which often leads to energy poverty. Spain has also experienced an increase in storms, causing leaks in homes, losses and damage due to wind, rain and hail, as well as the heat-island effect (in cities).

HIC-HLRN elaborated on the different ways that the climate crisis affects the right to adequate housing differently in urban and rural areas. Effects differ mostly in the degree to which urban settings involve (1) greater density of consequences (numbers and values at stake) and (2) victims/affected people generally having more resettlement and livelihood options in urban areas.

Also, relief agencies and civil defense services operate either less, or with less rapidity in rural and remote areas. This remains a factor in the availability of both remedies for those affected and information (numbers and other details) about the victims/affected persons and the consequences they endure, including their whereabouts and conditions (e.g., adequacy of housing and costs incurred) in their eventual displacement.

Moreover, rural areas tend to have less public money dedicated to climate change adaptation (such as climate shelters), and less is invested in all types of services. Public transportation in rural areas is underfunded and functions poorly. The discourse of

territorial balance and less travel in private vehicles to mitigate climate change is contrasted with the reality of centralization of public services in large cities, neglecting small towns and rural areas, which have their population needing to travel to go to the doctor or access other basic services.

The particular impacts on refugees and IDPs are also cited as a critical issue, particularly the question of how to ensure their right to voluntarily return. Important factors to consider are the availability of resources and capacities of domestic or international public agencies and nongovernmental service providers. Governance and political will are key, including nondiscrimination in that context. Human needs and, hence, (accessory) human rights to public participation, information and administrative justice, etc. come into high relief in cases of their denial.

Conversely, the impacts of housing on climate change are also necessary to consider. Urbanization has a causal effect on the greenhouse gas emissions (GGE) and temperature change in the long run, and carbon-dioxide emission in the short run. Cities use a large proportion of the world's energy supply and are responsible for around 70% of global energy-related GGE, which trap heat and result in the warming of Earth.

The joint submission also highlighted several efforts from the MENA region in support of a just transition to a rights-compliant, climate-resilient and carbon-neutral housing for all, without discrimination. Egypt has cited efforts to improve energy efficiency and reducing emissions from lead foundries, recycling straw from the rice harvest, reducing effects of, and relocating popular settlements away from polluting industries.

Jordan's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) under the Paris Agreement commits to "requiring the implementation of green building codes by setting clear standards for construction, materials and land based on best practices; and requiring all new buildings in the public sector to comply with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design [LEED] criteria.

In Lebanon, the National Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Action (NEEREA) is a national platform launched on 25 November 2010, based on the Circular 236 of the Central Bank of Lebanon, which, in collaboration with the European Union, lists the terms and conditions to obtain subsidized green loans. Saudi Arabia expresses an interest in improving public-private partnerships with an aim to ensure integration toward a sustainable environment and a green economy. The emirate of Abu Dhabi introduced Estidama, a sustainable building framework in 2010, including the Pearl Rating System for the design, construction and operation of buildings, dwellings and communities, whereby all new buildings are required to obtain at least a one-pearl rating out of five, and all government buildings and dwellings must obtain a minimum of a two-pearl rating.

The impacts of climate on the right to adequate housing is currently a central issue in HIC. In November 2021, HIC held the event [*Climate Justice as a Habitat-related Human Right: Takeaways from CoP26 for advancing people's led climate action*](#) with the goal of

discussing the outcomes of the Glasgow climate negotiations in the frame of climate justice and human rights, while highlighting some of the key pathways for building climate justice from a territorial perspective, anchored on human rights related to habitat. The event gathered a diverse group of speakers, in order to engage both with the discussions that were held during CoP26 (2021) and the numerous voices and approaches from the climate justice movement.

Photo: Informal settlements are often the most vulnerable to damage and destruction due to climate change. Source: [OHCHR](#).

International Developments

HIC Learning-based Advocacy Building Social Force through Learning, Asserting It through Advocacy.



"We do not learn from experience...

we learn from reflecting on experience."

John Dewey

Habitat International Coalition (HIC) has positioned itself as a global leader in civil networking, learning and policy advocacy. Through HIC's Co-learning and Advocacy Project, the Coalition has emerged from a long history of connecting diverse-but-complementary civil society actors through joint learning

and advocacy.

The project has supported so-called "co-learning spaces" as cross-regional, multi-session and multi-lingual online encounters co-designed and co-facilitated by and for HIC Members, Friends and allies. These have emphasized HIC strengths as a collective learning platform for policy impact through norm-based, knowledge-building and evidence-informed advocacy. These forums foster exchange of skills and experience for advocacy action across the three regions of Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. The spaces develop and nurture critical pedagogies inspired by such pedagogical luminaries as Socrates, John Dewey, Rosa Luxemburg, Ivan Illich and Paolo Freire. In this way, learning as a HIC practice informs innovation and problem solving for political change.

Through the Co-learning Spaces, HIC Members, Friends have co-facilitated diagnostic processes that critically assess their respective—and often similar—realities along thematic focus areas. The 2021–22 program prioritized feminist approaches and human rights approaches to land, as well as multi-sphere advocacy action tutorials. These prepared participants to then contribute to "transforming our world" through prioritizing, strategizing, learning and advocating policy alternatives together in both human-rights and sustainable-development forums. The sessions have embodied the collaborative and social nature of learning and enhanced communication across HIC. They have also encouraged critical consciousness of collective ways of thinking and acting globally

along the HIC Members' pillars of competence: gender, environment, social production of habitat and human rights.

The first phase of the Co-learning and Advocacy Project, formally referred to as, "Connecting across Human Rights Related to Habitat: Civil Society Action for Gender and Land Policy Impact 2021–2022" emerged with support from the Catalan development agency (ACCD) as a response to HIC Member legacy of human rights-based advocacy spanning the continuum of (urban and rural) human-settlement development. The process was facilitated by the HIC General Secretariat jointly with HIC-HLRN, HIC-MENA, and HIC-AL as implementing agencies, with input from an academic collective known as Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality (KNOW).

This first phase attracted the participation of over 300 HIC Members, Friends and allies from the three target regions and beyond. All shared the common objective influencing needed reform of habitat-related policies and policy outcomes, in order to contribute to improving the living conditions and habitats of impoverished urban and rural communities.

Among the outcomes of the first phase of the HIC Co-learning and Advocacy Project was recognition of the need for continuous engagement and further inter-regional collaboration to work collectively on the identified common issues and strategies, while ensuring that feminist and human-rights approaches remain both cross cutting and mutually complementary. The co-learning space curriculum exposed participants to arguments for recognition and implementation of the "human right to land," the social function of land (to which states committed to pursue in the New Urban Agenda), alternatives to financialization, the common effects of patriarchy across regions, and inclusive notions of gender justice.

This has informed HIC action toward the formation of two cross-regional working groups that will build on the learning and knowledge of the previous co-learning spaces guided by a strategic work plan that will feed HIC's advocacy, mobilization and dissemination strategy at a global level and, in some cases, regionally. These cross-regional working groups are set to be established in January 2023.

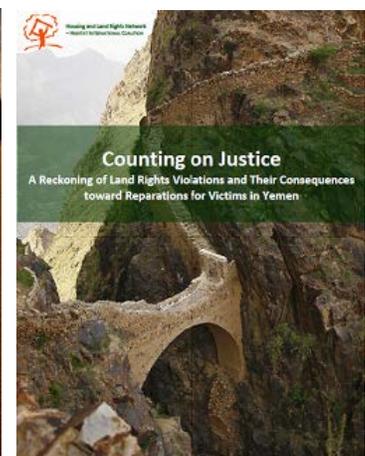
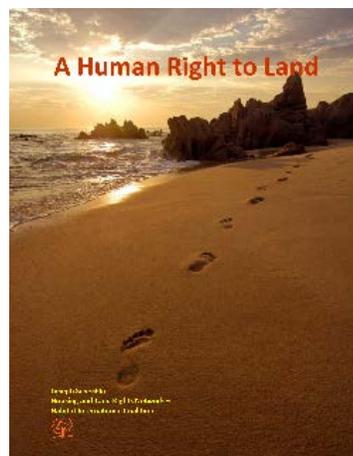
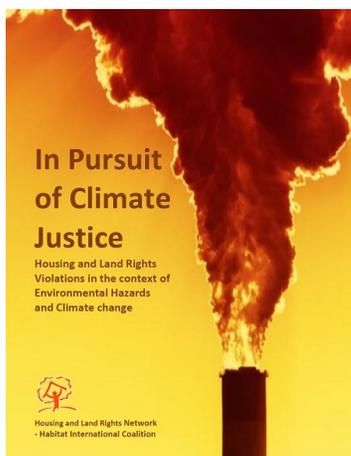
In the upcoming period of 2023–2024, HIC intends to launch a second phase of the Co-learning and Advocacy Project that, in addition to deepening coordination of mobilization and advocacy actions identified, will strengthen social force in two key thematic areas: climate justice and social production of habitat. Given the cumulative approach to HIC learning, Members participating in the next phase will build on previous learning to explore feminist solutions to the man-made climate crisis, and how the combined human-right-to-land and social-production approaches inform climate aligns with adaptation, mitigation and reparation measures, and how these hybrid strategies meet the challenges of the combined climate and housing crises. Key to this convergence also is understanding and promoting social production of habitat practice as it relates to states' obligation to *fulfill* the human right to adequate housing, while

applying, low-carbon, green-building alternatives to the dominant, highly consumptive urbanization models.

HIC Members will share concepts of autonomous habitat production and management, related policy-analysis and advocacy techniques, and develop a common understanding of climate justice, strengthened solidarity, shared intervention strategies and joint actions to operationalize climate justice for communities vulnerable to, and affected by environmental hazards and disasters associated with climate change.

Ancillary to HIC's second-phase Co-learning and Advocacy Project will see HIC assuming a catalytic role in bringing about greater convergence among social movements through dialogue to build mutual understanding that integrates feminist approaches and solidarity across urban, rural and indigenous social movements.

Image: Graphic used in an introductory session of the Co-learning and Advocacy Project. Artist: Pilar Emitxin.



Terminology Corner

Customary tenure

In general, customary tenure is a pattern of land access, occupation, use and/or control that operates parallel to statutory tenure. It can refer to the relationship between people, as individuals or groups, with a specific land area and its natural resources. In its [technical guide on governance of tenure](#), FAO, defines customary tenure, as the local rules, institutions and practices governing land, fisheries and forests that are [not often written down](#), but that, over time and use, have gained social legitimacy and become embedded in the fabric of a society. Customary tenure is based on local practices and norms, and is flexible, negotiable and location specific.

Customary tenure systems are continually evolving as a result of interrelated and diverse factors such as cultural interactions, socio economic change and political processes. According to the definition of [GLTN](#), the governance and rules in a customary tenure system consist of laws and norms regulating land and natural-resource rights that could emerge from long-held customs associated with common kinship, ancestry, religion and heritage.

Another term related to customary land tenure is “[indigenous tenure](#).” This term is more contested in Africa because, although most Africans, distinct from, their colonizers, are indigenous to the continent. The African Union’s Commission on Human and People’s Rights [refers to](#) indigenous peoples by themes and has settled for a socio-psychological description, as mainly hunter-gatherers and pastoralists whose cultural, economic and land-tenure systems are often subordinate to a dominate group or groups within a country or across state borders.

Domicide

[Some scholars](#), have defined domicide to mean the massive and deliberate destruction of homes, in order to cause human suffering. UN Special Rapporteur Balakrishnan Rajagopal offers a more expansive view of that concept. Etymologically rooted in the Latin terms *domus* (home) and *caedo* (to strike, or to kill), domicide thus refers not only to the deliberate destruction of the physical structures of homes, but also to the [systematic violation of housing rights in violation of international law](#).

Terminology Corner

Ecocide

In early December 1961, immediately after President John F. Kennedy authorized herbicide operations, the US military retrofitted C-123 transport aircraft with fixed-wing spray mechanisms at U.S. Air Force bases. Although the term “chemical warfare” became a contentious issue in the latter part of the decade, when antiwar and environmental protestors merged to denounce the “ecocide” of Vietnam and the dubious legality of [Operation Ranch Hand](#) in light of the Geneva Protocol of 1925.

Speaking at a Washington conference in February 1970, Yale University plant biologist [Arthur Galston offered](#) the word “ecocide” to describe the environmental harm that defoliating US aerial bombings inflicted upon South Vietnam, in particular, using Agent Orange, an herbicide produced by [nine US chemical companies](#) since the 1940s. Ecocide has since become known, most generally, as destruction of the natural environment by deliberate or negligent human action.

For the purpose of a proposed amendment to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, “ecocide” means unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that those acts could cause substantial harm to likelihood or severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment.

The proposed amendment to the Rome Statute includes a legal definition of ecocide and would add ecocide as a new crime to the Rome Statute, the Independent Expert Panel for the

Legal Definition of Ecocide recommends addition of a preambular paragraph 2 bis with the following amendments:

“Concerned that the environment is daily threatened by severe destruction and deterioration, gravely endangering natural and human systems worldwide,”

Addition to Article 5(1) (e):

The crime of ecocide.

Addition of Article 8 ter Article 8 ter:

[Ecocide](#)

1. For the purpose of this Statute, “ecocide” means unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts.

2. For the purpose of paragraph 1:

- a. “Wanton” means with reckless disregard for damage {that} would be clearly excessive in relation to the social and economic benefits anticipated;
- b. “Severe” means damage which involves very serious adverse changes, disruption or harm to any element of the environment, including grave impacts on human life or natural, cultural or economic resources;
- c. “Widespread” means damage [that] extends beyond a limited geographic area, crosses state boundaries, or is suffered by an entire ecosystem or species or a large number of human beings;
- d. “Long-term” means damage [that] is irreversible or [that] cannot be redressed through natural recovery within a reasonable period of time;
- e. “Environment” means the earth, its biosphere, cryosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere, as well as outer space.[1]

[1] Independent Expert Panel for the Legal Definition of Ecocide, “Commentary and Core Text,” June 2021, p. 4, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ca2608ab914493c64ef1f6d/t/>

Human-Made Disaster

A human-made disaster is a specific event, whereby an anthropogenic hazard (i.e., a threat or risk of, or propensity to disaster) has become a reality. Such human-made disasters are crime, arson, civil disorder, terrorism, war, biological/chemical threat, cyber-attacks, etc.[1]

[1] For a comprehensive list of causes and contexts of disaster, see “Category: Man-made Disaster,” *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Man-made_disasters.

Terminology Corner

Human-Made Hazard

a human-made (or anthropogenic) hazard is the risk, threat or propensity to disaster caused by human action or inaction. They are distinct to natural hazards, caused by forces beyond human control, cause or influence. Human-made hazards may adversely affect, or be lethal to humans, other organisms, biomes, the built environment and/or ecosystems. The frequency and severity of hazards are key elements in some risk analysis methodologies. Hazards may also be described in relation to the impact that they have. A hazard only exists in the case of a pathway to, or risk of exposure.

Anthropogenic hazards can be grouped into societal hazards (criminality, civil disorder, terrorism, war, industrial hazards, engineering hazards, power outage, human-caused fire), and hazards caused by transportation and environmental hazards

Stakeholder

1. A person or other entity with an interest, concern or values at stake in something, especially a business; 2. (in gambling) an independent party with whom each of those who make a wager deposits the money or counters wagered. Stakeholders can affect or be affected by the organization's actions, objectives and policies. Some examples of key stakeholders are creditors, directors, employees, government (and its agencies), owners (shareholders), suppliers, unions, and the community from which the business draws its resources.

[Not all stakeholders are equal](#). A company's customers are entitled to fair-trading practices but they are not entitled to the same consideration as the company's employees. In a multistakeholder structure, for example, stakeholders may have private interests (e.g., private-sector representatives, while others may have plural or public interests (e.g., civil society organizations), or public duties (i.e., central and local governments, and other organs of the state).

For more detail, see [McGrath and Whitty](#).

Stakeholder participation

A relationship in which stakeholders are able to negotiate with decision makers and have real influence on planning, policies and programs.[1]

[1] Arnstein, *op. cit.*

Contributors to this Land Times

Yasser Abdelkader



Yasser Abdelkader

is Systems Manager at Housing and Land Rights Network of Habitat International Coalition, Cairo, Egypt.

Heather Elaydi



Heather Elaydi is a Program Consultant with the Housing and Land Rights Network of Habitat International Coalition in Cairo, Egypt.

Ahmed Mansour Ismail



Ahmed Mansour Ismail

is legal researcher with the Housing and Land Rights Network of Habitat International Coalition.

Joseph Schechla



Joseph Schechla

is Coordinator of Housing and Land Rights Network of Habitat International Coalition, Cairo, Egypt.

