



InstitutoPólis



For our right to the city

The Global Platform for the Inclusion of the Right to the City in the New Habitat Agenda

The Habitat International Coalition and Instituto PÓLIS (Brazil) have initiated a platform of civil society, local authorities and other habitat actors to promote inclusion of the “right to the city” concept in the New Habitat Agenda, which will be adopted at Habitat III (2016). The purpose of this platform is to build on the achievements of the Habitat II Agenda and to facilitate participation of the various stakeholders in habitat policy development at national, regional and international levels in formulating the new Habitat Agenda. The Global Platform on the Right to the City consists of an inclusive, open forum to different stakeholders working on the Right to the City (R2C) issues, as to ensure: (1) general and regular exchange of information, analysis and experiences; (2) capacity building of relevant actors; (3) development of common positions to influence policies and governments at different levels; and (4) organization of related national, regional and international networking and advocacy events.

Building the Global Platform on the Right to the City

The activities envisioned in building the Right to the City Platform will involve:

1. **Mapping** existing networks, organizations, social movements, public institutions and multilateral agencies working on/potentially interested in the R2C: The mapping process will be made available at the Platform’s blog (to be created, with links to HIC and PÓLIS institutional websites, as well as those of other Platform participants). PÓLIS and HIC already have identified a group of participants and potential partners. A first draft of the mapping will be presented at the International Meeting on the Right to the City (São Paulo, November 2014) for revision and adjustments. An updated and more complete version will be post on the blog before the end of the first semester of 2015.

2. **Supporting two working groups** established at the Mexico City workshop on the Right to the City, held in October 2013, aiming to: (a) review and update the contents of the World Charter on the Right to the City and other relevant R2C documents, (b) develop key advocacy strategies before national and local governments and multilateral organizations seeking to advance R2C legal frameworks and policies.

These working groups, open to the participation of any interested organization/network currently working R2C issues, currently comprise the following organizations: Centre on Legal and Social Studies (Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), Buenos Aires; Habitar Argentina; HIC-Housing and Land Rights Network (HIC-HLRN); School of Planning & Geography, Cardiff University, Wales; WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment, Globalizing and Organizing); Takween Integrated Community Development, Cairo, Egypt; Centro Operacional de Vivienda y Poblamiento (COPEVI), Mexico; Centre of Economic and Social Rights, Nairobi; Mexican Urban Popular Movement (MUP); Wellesley Institute, Toronto, Canada; International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net); Socio-Economic Rights Institute (SERI), Johannesburg, South Africa; Leaders and Organizers of Community Organizations in Asia (LOCOA); and the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR). These partners are expected to work through regular e-mail communication and physical meetings as to provide advice and contribute in the preparation of substantive documents for the activities foreseen in the Habitat III process. Both working groups will appoint a coordination team from among its members and define their work plans. PÓLIS and HIC will take part in both working groups and support their activities. Other specific working groups might be created during the development of the Platform and the implementation of this project.

3. Establishing a Coordination Committee of the R2C Platform that will be responsible for guaranteeing the functioning of the Platform and its working groups as effectively as possible, according to a set of organizing principles and the general objectives and content of the present project. The Coordinating Committee's composition, responsibilities and working methodology are to be defined at the international meeting on the R2C to be held in São Paulo (November 2014). PÓLIS and HIC have proposed to include one or two representatives per region from participating networks/organizations to meet at least once a year in person and every other month by teleconference.

4. Organizing consultation meetings, in person or on-line, between the Coordination Committee, platform members, working groups and other relevant actors during relevant international, regional and national events (at least 2 regional and 2 national events to be held during the World Social Forum in Tunisia, March 2015; the UN Habitat Governing Council, Nairobi, April 2014; the UN Human Rights Council 2015 sessions, etc. These meetings are intended to serve multiple specific objectives simultaneously (e.g., training, exchange of experiences, networking, advocacy, planning & monitoring, production).

5. Developing and drafting conceptual materials that reflect common understandings and provide user-friendly information on the Right to the City's normative values and arguments, providing practical meaning and operational components. These materials will support advocacy, training and communication activities foreseen in this project through 2014–2016.