Habitat International Coalition

Human Rights Habitat Observatory

HIC**HRHO**

The Habitat International Coalition (HIC) is the global network promoting and defending human rights related to habitat. Through solidarity, networking and support for social movements and civil organizations, HIC struggles for social justice, gender equality and environmental sustainability to provide solutions that realize the human rights to adequate housing and land in both rural and urban areas.

What Is HIC's Human Rights Habitat Observatory?

HIC HRHO is a new collective initiative established by HIC, its Housing and Land Rights Network (HIC-HLRN) and Members to pose solutions and influence national and international debates and efforts to implement, monitor and evaluate the new global agendas, including the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on climate change and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) with the framework of states' human rights obligations.

HIC HRHO integrates and reflects the historic and current composition of HIC since 1976, convening community-based organizations, large and small nongovernmental organizations, academic and research centers, professional associations, social movements and concerned individuals for over 40 years. Through HIC, these diverse and complementary partners share their expertise, competence and struggles as assets that form the basis of the HRHO.

HIC HRHO seeks to ensure that any new iteration of global policy and implementation does not regress in states' prior policy commitments or their obligations under international law, in particular human rights treaties.

How Does the Human Rights Habitat Observatory Work?

HIC HRHO coordinates efforts of HIC's Members through its regional and thematic Structures, pooling and sharing knowledge, while raising the capacity and competence of HIC to monitor, uphold and develop the Sustainable Development System on its promised human rights basis.

It informs and strengthens capacity of HIC Members by optimizing training, tools and solidarity to analyze policy and advocate local and global policy coherence to harmonize short-term humanitarian interventions with longer-term institution-building development approaches inside the overarching framework of human rights with their intended preventive and remedial effects.

The HRHO seeks further convergence of HIC Members' and allies' efforts to restore the "habitat" approach, as promised in the Habitat Agenda, that treats villages and cities as points on a human settlements continuum within a common ecosystem. This "habitat" approach promises to foster greater cooperation and convergence among urban, rural and indigenous social movements to sustain the planet through practical solidarity.

Who Can Be Part of the Human Rights Habitat Observatory?

HIC HRHO functions entail collaboration with and among HIC Members and allies working in the field of Human Rights Habitat and related fields (e.g., climate change, gender issues, land defense).

HIC HRHO embraces the efforts of partners working in both rural and urban areas, in local and global spheres who fight for remedy and accountability for violations of habitat rights wherever they are found.

As always, HIC prioritizes its advocacy, knowledge creation and other services and functions to benefit social groups subject to discrimination, marginalization and impoverishment.

The HRHO offers a chance also for HIC Members and allies in academic and technical fields to seize the historic moment by channeling meaningful contributions to rethinking sustainable development within the framework and methods of human rights.

Habitat International Coalition's Human Rights Habitat Observatory: Main Features, Actions, Resources and Outputs

Habitat Library

HIC HRHO hosts vast documentary resources through an integrated system accessible from HIC's portal and websites (links below).

The Habitat Library is a digital documentation center designed to aid researchers and the general public to find specialized resources and analysis. HIC offices continuously update contents and can assist users upon request.

The books, documents and articles and other items in the **Habitat Library** are searchable by **Habitat Themes** related to (1) specific Communities, (2) Issues and (3) Action Areas of **HIC Members**. Users can search also by specific country or territory, and by scope of the issues (local to international).

To clarify habitat-related terms, you can consult also the online **HICtionary**.

Policy Analysis and Advocacy

HIC HRHO develops analytical methods with Members and allies to monitor and evaluate implementation of current global development policy agendas within the relevant international law, in particular human rights treaties and related state obligations.

HRHO's tools and methods are Member inspired to serve their national policy analysis efforts.

The resulting policy analysis methods consolidate the core principles and functions of HIC-HLRN developed, consistent with the international law norms developed over decades.

HRHO helps channel HIC Member submissions to global forums include reports to UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies, Human Rights Council, its UPR (Universal Periodic Review) and Special Procedures.

These efforts optimize advocacy opportunities maintained on an updated **HRHO Calendar**, encouraging civil society input, convergence and collaboration.

Tools and Techniques Online and in the Field: Case Studies

HIC HRHO applies the solutions and tools developed by HIC-HLRN including the **Urgent Action** system, **HLRN Toolkit**, **Violation Database**, as well as and the **Eviction Impact Assessment** (EvIA) and **Loss Matrix** quantification tools. HIC HRHO also will develop and launch new tools and techniques developed with HIC Members and allies, as always, in response to HIC Member needs and demands. These assets are available to all through HIC websites and upon request.

HIC's HRHO supports the production of exemplary case studies as vehicles for public information, creation and exchange of knowledge and expertise. These will apply the human rights norms applicable to each case, plus analyze their relevance to the current global policy instruments. Case Studies will reflect HIC Member local, country-level and regional assessments.

Training and Capacity Development

HIC HRHO provides an opportunity to operationalize and develop the **HICademy** as an online resource of training materials, resources and learning opportunities to support further capacity development and knowledge sharing.

HIC HRHO also provides stand-up training, as well as curriculum development and production of related pedagogical aids and materials. Through training events, HIC HRHO and HLRN will applying these assets in the support of HIC Members and other civil society actors to develop and apply human rights norms and instruments related to a Human Rights Habitat that is consistent with multilateral commitments and state obligations.

Solidarity Actions and Campaigns

HIC HRHO will launch solidarity campaigns that accompany and support community processes in developing habitat policy and problem-solving alternatives toward the achievement of well-being (*buen vivir*) with dignity for all people through the competences of HIC Members, including **Gender Equality**, the **Social Production of Habitat**, defending the human right to a **Safe and Healthy Environment**, and fighting against violations of the **Human Rights to Housing and Land,** applying the **Right to the City** within a Human Rights Habitat.

These actions and campaigns mobilize HIC Members in mutual support of their communities' individual and collective struggles to achieve the common objective of a Human Rights Habitat.

Housing & Land Rights Network
Habitat International Coalition