



Global Platform for the Right to the City **Plataforma Global por el Derecho a la Ciudad** **Plataforma Global pelo Direito à Cidade**

UN receives online suggestions for Habitat III until Friday (31)

All members of the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) can give proposals and suggestions to the construction of Habitat III, within the virtual space Urban Dialogues, until July 31. It is necessary to access the website of the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and insert the person's name and the organization to which it belongs.

The next step is to choose one of the six themes of the New Urban Agenda: 1. Social Cohesion and Equity - Livable Cities; 2. Urban Frameworks; 3. Development of Space; 4. Urban Economics; 5. Urban Ecology and Environment; 6. Housing and Urban Basic Services.

The chosen guidelines are connected to the 22 issue papers prepared by various agencies of the UN and consultants, whose initial review began in June - with the open call for nomination of experts for the 10 Policy Units. According to UN Habitat, the Policy Units will be composed of 20 experts, including representatives of academia, governments, civil society and other regional and international organizations, representing different constituencies and stakeholders, with selection guided by geographic and gender balance criteria, according to the guidelines - for more details about this process check [here](#).

In parallel, it has been occurring the Urban Thinkers Campus, another virtual appliance to the construction of the "New Urban Agenda" . This project is self-organized activities by academics and some civil society organizations, and it will be held in various regions all over the world for the next twelve months. The information on this site and schedule of approved events are available at the links below:

<http://unhabitat.org/urbanthinkers>

http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Urban-Thinkers-Campus_Events_2.pdf

GPR2C activities

The GPR2C has been working steadily with its member organizations to promote debates regarding the Right to the City and the process towards Habitat III, the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to be held in Quito, Ecuador from 17 to 20 October 2016.

As a relevant conclusion of the first semester of the year, some of the Global Platform members participated at the UCLG Executive Bureau meeting held in Porto Alegre, Brazil from 10 to 12 June. In the framework of a joint session with civil society and social movements representatives, there was a debate on strategies and contents to influence the Habitat III and the "New Urban Agenda". During the next day, the Platform's members held an internal coordination meeting to share relevant information and agree on collective actions for the upcoming months, including the organization of regional forums in África, Asia and Europe.

In Asia, Gwangju (Republic of Korea) received the ***World Human Rights Cities Forum 2015 - Towards a Global Alliance of Human Rights Cities for All II*** of 15-18 May, organized by Gwandju Metropolitan City and Gwandju International Centre with the support of the UCLG on 15-18 May.

The event had over 800 participants took part in discussions on human rights and human rights cities. Among the participants were human rights activists, local parliamentarians, academics, UN human rights experts and other stakeholders. **Read [here](#)** the statement about the event.

The Global Platform agreed to **sent letters to the Habitat III** Secretariat Coordinator, Ana Moreno, in May and June, suggesting a list of experts (from different countries/regions, professional and activist backgrounds) for the Policy Units. In those letters, the Platform also supported Habitat for Humanity and

ActionAid candidacies to be co-leaders of the Housing Policies and the Right to the City Policy Units, respectively.

Besides those international events, the Global Platform also participated in another important regional meeting in Mexico: *The 2nd Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Adequate Housing*, in Monterrey (6-8 May).

At the Forum, where Housing and Urban Development Ministers and local authorities from different countries were present, as well as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, Leilani Farha, UN-Habitat and Interamerican Development Bank representatives, the Platform strengthened the challenges and proposals for "Building Inclusive, Democratic and Sustainable Cities" from a Right to the City approach. Topics such as security of tenure, housing affordability, access to urban land, and safe and resilient communities were assessed, among many others. As a result of the debates and exchange of information and experiences, the participants prepared a document with key recommendations for the Habitat III process and the "New Urban Agenda" contents, including guiding principles and main actions for national and local policy.

The Platform was present at the World Social Forum in Tunis (Tunisia) last March, participating in a broad range of debates, exchanges and training activities, covering issues related to land grabbing and privatization of water, city region food systems and food sovereignty, social production of habitat, and housing rights and forced displacements, with an specific focus on Palestine and the Middle East. The WSF also analyzed and discussed advances and challenges at the 10th anniversary of the World Charter for the Right to the City, built collectively in WSF Porto Alegre's edition in 2005.

Also In Tunis, some of its members promoted workshops and seminars about the civil society proposals and expectations towards Habitat III, the contents and process of the national reports, experiences on social production of habitat and struggles for the Right to the City from all over the world. Several of them also took part of the World Assembly of Inhabitants, where a decision was taken to organize a Urban Social Forum in Quito in October 2016 (see the full Declaration at <https://fsm2015.org/en/article/2015/06/02/declaration-world-assembly-inhabitants>).

April was also intense for the international community and networks working on the Right to the City. One of the most more expected official events of the New Urban Agenda, the PrepCom 2 (Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III) was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 14 to 16 April.

In Mexico City, from 19-22 April, the Global Platform participated at the *International Seminar on the Right to the City*. At the meeting, Enrique Ortiz, from HIC (Habitat International Coalition), highlighted the relevance of public space. "In the Mexico City Charter, there is an important chapter about the use of public space. Our pre-Hispanic culture is a culture of open space, shared. For us, among the six strategic principles of this Charter, the enjoyment of the city is the most important one. The development of the society only happens through exchange of experiences in the public space." The final Declaration of that event, organized by the Mexico City government and the Commission on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) includes strong contents about the Right to the City and explicit mention to the Global Platform (more information and documents available at <http://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/assessment-and-final-declaration-mexico's-international-seminar-local-governments>).

What is the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C)?

The GPR2C is an initiative of several organizations working on the Right to the City theme around the world. It aims to be a space for elaborating a shared agenda, content production and for communication and dissemination of good practices, both in the study and research on the Right to the City as well as in the implementation of policies that promote this right.

Among the organizations that are part of the Global Platform Right to the City we can highlight the Habitat International Coalition (HIC), ActionAid, Cities Alliance , International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI), Commission on Human Rights and Equal Social UCLG, National Urban Reform Forum (FNUR), Shack / Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), Ford Foundation – Habitat for Humanity, Global Fund for the Development of Cities (FMDV) and Streetnet.

Global Platform for the Right to The City

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