

Sixth Session of the World Urban Forum – Naples

All Events Reporting Format

1. Event number: ---
2. Date: Tuesday, 4 September 2012
3. Time: From 4:30pm to 7pm
4. Venue: Room Eolie Stromboli, Palacongressi, Mostra d'Oltremare
5. Title of the event: WUF 6 CSO Roundtable "Land Right and the Right to the City"
6. Name of the Organizing Institution: Habitat International Coalition (HIC)
7. Countries where the Organizing Institution(s) are based: 123 countries of Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, and North America
8. Speakers/presenters details:
 - Chair: Ms. Lorena Zárate, Argentina, President Habitat International Coalition
 - Ms. Maggie Cazal, France, President USF
 - Mr. Joseph Schechla, USA, Coordinator HIC-Housing and Land Rights Network
 - Mr. Gustavo Gonzalez, Uruguay, Coordinator Swedish Cooperative Center Latin America
 - Mr. Cesare Ottolini, Italy, Coordinator International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI)
 - Ms. Mirjiam van Donk, South Africa, Isandia Institute
 - Ms. Lajana Lumanti, Nepal, Asian Coalition of Housing Right (ACHR)
 - Mr. Nelson Saule, Brazil, Foro Nacional de Reforma Urbana (FNRU)
 - Ms. Raquel Rolnik, Special Rapporteur for the Right to Adequate Housing, HRC
 - Ms. Miriam Yunusa, Coordinator, Partners and Inter Agency Coordination Branch, UN-Habitat
 - Rapporteur: Ms. Ana Sugranyes, Chile, and Ms. Charlotte Mathivet, France, HIC General Secretariat.
9. Participants:
 - In the room there were 75 representatives of civil society organizations
 - One of the World Bank
 - Three of UN-Habitat
 - One of the media
 - Eight interpreters covering of UN-Habitat: EN-ES-FR-IT

Summary Report (299 words of 300 maximum allowed):

This CSO Roundtable is a follow up of WUF5, in a global strategy coordinated by HIC, FNRU, IAI and No-Vox.

One of the most important assets that shape any individual's or community's quality of life in the city is land. Human Right to Adequate Housing (HRAH) demands land. Secure land tenure is a subject of social equity, to ensure also the rights of women and children. It is not only an urban issue, it is related to the

rights of small farmers, migrants, indigenous peoples, victims of wars/occupations and corruption, and a matter of public policy and social equity for all.

Participants pointed out that the causes and social effects of the current global crisis are not reflected in the WUF6 debates. During the last decade, the market appears as the sole city producer. The main UN-Habitat contents are defined in a commoditization bias. A key recommendation emerging from the roundtable is the need of formulating a common statement in the HRAH spirit.

Land issues go far beyond the access to credit and subsidies for the ownership of a small house in a no-city environment. The redistribution of land is the core issue of the right to a place where to live in peace and dignity in the cities and in all the territories. Land issues cannot be solved on the sole base of financial resources, because as commonly known subsidies on land access do increase its value.

The greatest challenge is to stop the land and housing policies based on financial assets and individual aspiration to individual ownership. Another paradigm has to be built to reach secure land ownership and the social function of land. There is need to strengthen partnerships and open dialogue among CSOs towards a stronger advocacy with local and national governments, and international bodies such as UN-Habitat to recognize the right to land.

Naples, 4 September 2012, HIC, Ana Sugranyes, Charlotte Mathivet and Lucia Kiwala