

HOUSING

in The City We Need

Barcelona Urban Thinkers Campus, a World Urban Campaign Event

November 16 to 18, 2015

Venue: Metropolitan Area of Barcelona Headquarters



**URBAN
THINKERS
CAMPUS**
THE CITY WE NEED



INTRODUCTION

The Urban Thinkers Campus is an initiative of the World Urban Campaign – UN-Habitat sponsored by the Area Metropolitana de Barcelona.

The Campus is being built in the preparation process of Habitat III, the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, to be held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 – 20 October, 2016.

Focused on the theme **Housing in The City We Need**, the Campus aims to gather housing experts, local authorities –city leaders and decision makers– and other major groups representatives –academics and students, workers and trade unions, human rights defenders, dwellers and neighborhoods’ organizations, urban planners, women, journalists and writers– and all those interested in adequate housing, in cities, which are socially inclusive, well planned, economically inclusive, affordable and equitable.

During the last few years, the World Urban Campaign partners have debated and questioned, the direction global urban development would take in the up coming 20 years, and what (features or issues or characteristics) would guide governments, partners and the international community to prepare for the urban future.

Housing in The City We Need is a key urban and rural issue, and is recognized as part of the right to an adequate standard of living, in international instruments, including the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Adequate housing must provide more than four walls and a roof. As stated by the Habitat III Issue Paper 20-Housing, a number of conditions must be met before particular forms of shelter can be considered to constitute “adequate housing.”

These elements are:

- **Security of tenure:** housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have a degree of tenure security which guarantees legal protection against forced evictions, harassment and other threats.
- **Availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure:** housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, energy for cooking, heating, lighting, food storage and refuse disposal.
- **Affordability:** housing is not adequate if its cost threatens or compromises the occupants' enjoyment of other human rights.
- **Habitability:** housing is not adequate if it does not guarantee physical safety or provide adequate space, as well as protection against the cold, damp, heat, rain, wind or other threats to health and structural hazards.
- **Accessibility:** housing is not adequate if the specific needs of disadvantaged and marginalized groups are not taken into account.
- **Location:** housing is not adequate if it is cut off from employment opportunities, health-care services, schools, childcare centers and other social facilities, or if located in polluted or dangerous areas.
- **Cultural adequacy:** housing is not adequate if it does not respect and take into account the expression of cultural identity.

In Barcelona, the Urban Thinkers Campus offers an opportunity for partners groups and constituencies to debate and clarify their proposals through detailed positions and solutions on **Housing in The City We Need**.

During two days, participants will be working in groups on **six core topics**: (1) Housing is a human right; (2) Access to housing; (3) Security of tenure avoiding forced evictions; (4) Land and location; (5) Residential districts; and (6) Slums.

The first two days of workshops, on 16 and 17 November, will be held at the AMB premises. The presentation of the conclusions of the UTC on 18 November will be open to the public during the Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC) that will take place in Barcelona during the same dates.

The Barcelona UTC provides a participation of about 100 experts, by invitation only. The UTC language will be English, with simultaneous translation into Spanish.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE URBAN THINKERS SESSIONS

The methodology is based on four sessions, based on an active dialogue to reach the formulation of proposals and solutions: Presentation, Debate, Building Consensus, Drafting and Core topics 1-3 are to be developed on Monday. The other 4-6, on Tuesday. Wednesday the UTC conclusions on **Housing in The City We Need**, will be presented.

Core Topics Presentations. During the first session for each core topic, a keynote would be introduced by an expert triggering for further debates.

Debate Sessions. The second session, facilitated by the moderator would open an in-depth debate.

Drafting Sessions. should allow groups to prepare substantive written inputs to help deliver the outcomes.

Building Consensus Sessions. In joined plenary sessions participants should be able to negotiate a common position producing a set of proposals on **Housing in The City We Need**.

Final Debate. Closing Session. UTC conclusions on **Housing in the City We Need** will be presented in open session to the public and the media. The Urban Thinkers Campus of Barcelona will be officially closed.



SIX CORE TOPICS ON HOUSING IN THE CITY WE NEED

International human rights laws recognize everyone's right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing. Despite the central place of this right within the global legal system, well over a billion people are not adequately housed. Millions around the world live in life threatening or health threatening conditions, in overcrowded slums and informal settlements, or in other conditions which do not uphold their human rights and their dignity. Further millions are forcibly evicted, or threatened with forced eviction, from their homes every year.

The **Housing in The City We Need** core topics 1-3 will focus on the relationship between three basic concepts: subjectivity and objectivity of the State on the right to housing; conditions for the accessibility to housing; and security of tenure and evictions. The second day's core topics centre on the potential of the location: Land, location and the undesirable effects of exclusion, segregation and inequality.

1st HOUSING IN THE CITY WE NEED CORE TOPIC: Housing is a Human Right

All human rights are inter-dependent and indivisible, both civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR), because they are based on human dignity. Even if the ESCR are recognized in most of the constitutions and international covenants of human rights, the guarantees deserved to protect them are often weak. The right to housing belongs to the ESCR, which can make it difficult to claim its violation. The right to housing has to be considered together with the right to the city and the right to the habitat.

What mechanisms can we use to accomplish this right? Would the configuration of the right to housing as a fundamental right change the governments' consideration and its obligations? Is it a feasible demand?

2nd HOUSING IN THE CITY WE NEED CORE TOPIC: Access to Housing

One of the crucial problems for tenure security and access to housing is the challenging situation in which low income citizens are. The high prices of housing, unemployment and the increasing job precariousness complicate the access and security of tenure.

The future of the housing policy is strongly conditioned to the worldwide and local strategies of the financial system. The regular availability of credit at reasonable cost is essential. But how can we anticipate and avoid the future financial and real estate bubbles whose perverse results are eviction, impoverishment and social exclusion? How to create and manage a stock of social and public housing?

3rd HOUSING IN THE CITY WE NEED CORE TOPIC: Security of Tenure and Avoiding Forced Evictions

Every citizen should have security of tenure against eviction, harassment and other threats, such as security against the impossibility to pay rent or the mortgage, gentrification, speculation, mobbing, mafias, military occupations and climate disasters.

Which ones are adequate policies for intervention, assistance, reallocation, legalisation of human settlements, diversification of tenancy through planning mechanisms?

It is focused on the existing urban settlements, which are home of half the humanity with a strong tendency to grow. These settlements feature serious deficiencies that directly affect the quality of life of the resident population.

4th HOUSING IN THE CITY WE NEED CORE TOPIC: Land and Location

The land is the base of housing. There is no house without land. The extension of cities on undeveloped land, its location in relation to the existing city, its level of urbanization and quality of the urban fabric are features that condition and have a strong influence on the right to a decent house.

Most of the land in cities is privately owned. Creating planning mechanisms to obtain land and to control its price to produce affordable housing constitutes a main global challenge. The States must work for the compliance of the social function of private property, limiting its rights while promoting social interests and general welfare, particularly the right to an adequate house for the poorest.



5th HOUSING IN THE CITY WE NEED CORE TOPIC: Residential Districts

Housing is the main urban use. However, the organization and typologies of the residential districts are diverse, showing different levels of quality and efficiency. There are three main dominant typologies:

1. The central historic city, previous to the car, it is centred on the street, civic space. The medieval city and the XVIII and XIX century developments. A compact, complex and sustainable city, but also with degradation and gentrification- eviction problems.
2. Residential districts of detached blocks. This typology has recently extended around the world. It first appeared in Europe when the reconstruction after the Second World War. They include dormitory towns distant and segregated from the goods and services offered by the city.
3. Large residential suburbs (garden cities). They are, without any doubt, one of the main problems that cities have inherited from last century. They occupy vast areas in low density settlements, the sprawl, deeply inefficient from the energetic point of view, unsustainable and ineffective from the services perspective. They have a 100% car dependency. Deep inequalities can be seen in dwellings, since usually the man has the control of the car and the rest of the family, women, sons and elderly people find themselves isolated and dependant on the driver.

6th HOUSING IN THE CITY WE NEED CORE TOPIC: The Slums

Over 1000 million people live in the world under extreme city and housing degradation conditions, lacking some or all conditions of a decent housing: water and energy supply, sewage, structural uncertainties, tenure insecurity, overcrowding, lack of access to jobs, education, health, culture... Over the last few years, there have been significant improvements (not always satisfactory though) to reduce this problem, however, the biggest problem is that the amount of slums keep increasing every day. Cities increase their inhabitants by a million people every week, mostly in slums settlements.

According to the UN, this is one of the main challenges of the society of this century. There are many experiences on interventions on informal settlements. The workshop will assess experiences, some disastrous and develop guidelines and criteria for the future.

SCHEDULE OF URBAN THINKERS SESSIONS

DAY 1: HOUSING A HUMAN RIGHT, SECURITY AND HABITABILITY

16-11-2015. Venue: Metropolitan Area of Barcelona Headquarters

Pick up BUS from Hotel NH Sants at 8:00; at the end of the session, bus drop back people to the hotel

9:00 – 9:30			Opening Session		
1st Urban Thinkers Session		2nd Urban Thinkers Session		3rd Urban Thinkers Session	
HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT		ACCESS TO HOUSING		SECURITY OF TENURE	
9:30 – 10:00 Core Topics Presentations		9:30 – 10:00 Core Topics Presentations		9:30 – 10:00 Core Topics Presentations	
Keynote Rachelle Alterman		Keynote José García Montalvo		Keynote Joseph Schechla	
10:00 – 13:00 Debates Sessions		10:00 – 13:00 Debates Sessions		10:00 – 13:00 Debates Sessions	
Moderator Pablo Molina (Includes Coffee Break)		Moderator Javier Burón (Includes Coffee Break)		Moderator Anna Sugranyes (Includes Coffee Break)	
Lunch Break 13:00 – 14:00					
14:00 – 15:30 Drafting Sessions		14:00 – 15:30 Drafting Sessions		14:00 – 15:30 Drafting Sessions	
Rapporteur Irene Escorihuela		Rapporteur Pau Pérez de Acha		Rapporteur Sonia Kirby	
Coffee Break 15:30 – 16:00					
16:00 – 17:30			Building Consensus Session. Plenary Session. Day Conclusions		

DAY 2: LOCATION, HOUSING NEIGHBOURHOODS AND SLUMS

17-11-2015 Venue: Metropolitan Area of Barcelona Headquarters

Pick up BUS from Hotel NH Sants at 8:30; at the end of the session, bus drop back people to the hotel

4th Urban Thinkers Session	5th Urban Thinkers Session	6th Urban Thinkers Session
THE LAND	RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	THE SLUMS
9:00 – 9:30 Core Topics Presentations Keynote Paulo Henrique Ribeiro	9:00 – 9:30 Core Topics Presentations Keynote David Bravo	9:00 – 9:30 Core Topics Presentations Keynote Julian Salas
9:30 – 12:30 Debates Sessions Moderator Amadeu Iglesias (Includes Coffee Break)	9:30 – 12:30 Debates Sessions Moderator Amador Ferrer (Includes Coffee Break)	9:30 – 12:30 Debates Sessions Moderator Antonio Azuela (Includes Coffee Break)

Lunch Break 12:30 – 13:30

13:30 – 15:00 Drafting Sessions Rapporteur Lorena Zárate	13:30 – 15:00 Drafting Sessions Rapporteur Joris Scheers	13:30 – 15:00 Drafting Sessions Rapporteur Joan Mac Donald
---	---	---

Coffee Break 15:00 – 15:30

15:30 – 16:30 **Building Consensus Session. Plenary Session. Day Conclusions**

Coffee Break 16:30 – 17:00

17:00 – 18:00 **Building Consensus Session. Plenary Session. UTC Conclusions**

DAY 3

18-11-2015 Venue: At Smart City Expo World Congress

9:30 – 11:00 **Open presentation of conclusions UTCs**

For More Information on the Barcelona Urban Thinkers Campus:

Barcelona's UTC Technical Secretariat: urbanthinkers@amb.cat; contact: 00 34 93 5069367

Federación Iberoamericana de Urbanistas, FIU, secretariat: secretaria@fiurb.org

Asociación Española de Técnicos Urbanistas, AETU, secretariat: aetu@aetu.es

Links to Relevant Information

- <http://unhabitat.org/urbanthinkers>
- <http://www.habitat3.org>
- <http://unhabitat.org/urban-thinkers-the-city-we-need>
- <http://unhabitat.org/the-future-we-want-the-city-we-need>
- <http://www.worldurbancampaign.org>
- <http://mirror.unhabitat.org/content.asp?typeid=19&catid=594&cid=6886>
- www.fiurb.org
- www.ectp-ceu.eu
- <http://aetu.es>

URBAN THINKERS SESSIONS ORGANISATION



Rachelle Alterman, Professor of the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology is the Founding President of the International Academic Association on Planning, Law, and Property Rights and an Honorary Member of the Association of European Schools of Planning (the 5th person thus honored and the only non-European). With degrees in planning and in law from Canadian and Israeli universities, Dr. Alterman specialized in cross-national comparative analysis of the relationship between planning law, land use regulations, property rights and planning practice. She has published 8 international books, over 100 academic papers, and has been invited to speak at conferences and seminars in over 30 countries. Alterman is a member of the editorial boards of leading international academic journals and has been a visiting professor at major American and Dutch universities and a Research Fellow in Japan. She has shared her knowledge with UN-Habitat, the OECD, the World Bank, the Israeli Parliament and many other public bodies, and Chinese governmental and research bodies.



Antonio Azuela, FIU's vicepresident, is a member of the Social Research Institute at UNAM (Mexico's National University), holds a law degree from the Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico), an LL.M. from Warwick University (G.B.), and a Ph.D. in sociology from UNAM. Since the late seventies he has conducted research on urban and environmental law from a socio legal perspective. From 1994 to 2000 he acted as the General Attorney for the Environment in the Mexican Government. He is co-founder of IRGLUS (International Research Group on Law and Urban Space) within the International Sociological Association. He has recently published two edited books: *Eminent Domain and Social Conflict in Five Latin American Metropolitan Areas* (Lincoln Institute of Land Policy); and *Jueces y conflictos urbanos en América Latina* (Paot/IRGLUS)



David Bravo, (Barcelona, 1975) Architect. Since 2003, he has collaborated with the CCCB in the development of the European Prize for Urban Public Space (www.publicspace.org). He is responsible for its contents and was the secretary of its Jury in the 2010, 2012 and 2014 edition. He has also lectured in the course of Architecture and Public Space in the Escola Superior de Disseny ELISAVA and in the Master of Architecture and Urban Culture Metropolis. Moreover, he has written articles on architecture and public space in various publications and is a regular contributor to the Diagonal magazine.



Javier Burón Javier Burón is the Barcelona City Council Housing Manager. He has previously been member of Urbania ZH Management and Sumae Coop. Lawyer-economist. Expert in public policy and market housing, as well as in administration reform and new forms of public-private management. He worked as lawyer in Cuatrecasas Gonçalves Pereira in the area of public law. He was Deputy Minister for Housing and Planning Director of the Basque Government. He has also been legal and economic advisor to parliamentary group in the lower house of the Spanish Parliament and in the Basque Parliament.



Irene Escorihuela, holds a BA in Political Science and Administration from Pompeu Fabra University and one in Law from the University of Barcelona, where she also completed a Master of Law. Specialized in human rights and right to housing, she has academic and work experience in Latin America, especially in Peru and Ecuador. Currently she combines the criminal litigation with the management of the Observatory DESC (Economic, Social and Cultural rights), an organization of human rights in Barcelona. The Observatory defends social rights through advocacy, training and strategic litigation, interacting with the Administration but also working together with the social movements in a human rights perspective.



Amador Ferrer. Architect PhD, UPC, Barcelona, 1982. National Award on Urbanism, Madrid 1983. Professor of Urbanism, UPC, Barcelona, 1971-1985, and URL, Barcelona, since 2000. Director of Building, City of Barcelona, 1988-1992. Director of Urbanism, City of Badalona, 2000-2003. Coordinator of Urbanism, Barcelona Metropolitan Area, 2004-2011. Visiting professor, Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, USA), 1987. Senior Fellow and member of the Board, International Urban Fellows Association (IUFA). Main publications: Els polígons de Barcelona (UPC, Barcelona, 1996); Transformig Barcelona, Routledge. London and New York, 2004; Barcelone. Portrait de ville, Paris, 2013.



José García Montalvo, is Professor of Economics at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF). He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the Univesitat de València. He won the National Prize of Bachelor Studies in Economics (Spanish highest national GPA, 1988). He received his MA and PhD in Economics from Harvard University. He has worked as a consultant for the OECD, the European Union, the Inter American Development Bank and the World Bank among many other institutions. He has served as Chairman of the Economics and Business Department and Vice Chancellor of Science Policy at the UPF. He has also served as member of the Board of Directors and the Boards of Trustees of several firms and research centers. He has published 12 books and more than 100 articles in journals such as American Economic Review, Economic Journal, the Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Business and Economic Statistics, European Economic Review, Journal of Development Economics, Applied Psychology, International Journal of Industrial Organization and the Journal of Economic Growth among others.



Amadeu Iglesias, In 1981/86, Technical Director of development and renewal housing programs at P.M.H.(Barcelona Municipality Public Housing Institute) managing news aspects of urban settlements with first democratic Municipality. 1986/88 implementation and foundation of Metropolitan Company for Urban planning, Housing and Renewal. 1988/92 Urban Plan Director at Hospitalet de Llobregat, 257.055 inhabitants and Technical Director of Baseball Olympic 1992 with Olympic Committee. Invited expert of Metropolis association with lectures at: Istanbul, La Habana, Barcelona. As AMB's expert lectures at: Rosario, Argentina and in collaboration with Barcelona Architectural High School: Hanoi and Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam. Articles and books: Rehabilitant Ciutat Vella BCN, in first number of Barcelona Metropolis Mediterranea, urban planner's magazine. Books: AMB Public Housing projects 2003, and Habitatge Metropolità 2014.



Sonia Kirby, is an environmental planner with a passion to make the world a better place. As a principle, she has over 10 years experience in strategic planning around Australia and internationally. Sonia has worked with Brisbane City Council's Biodiversity planning unit, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on State of the Environment Reporting, and in Victoria's Wyndham City Council as a Strategic Planner for one of the State's fastest growing LGA's. She is one of the first Honours graduates from Griffith University's Environmental Planning degree, and also completed a Masters in International Urban and Environmental Management from RMIT. For the past 5 years, she has worked on a range of projects for the public and private sector alike. Her current interests include structure planning and community visioning, with a particular bias for environmentally respectful development. She is also involved in the PIA International Division, and her most recent efforts have seen a number of Pacific Island planners establish the Pacific Islands Planning Association".



Joan Mac Donald, is a Chilean architect specialized in urban development, housing policies and urban upgrading projects. She lectures at postgraduate level both in national and international Universities. From 2000 to 2014 she acted as Executive Director of SELAVIP- Latin American, African and Asian Social Housing Service- in charge of implementing approx. 500 projects that improved slums and provided affordable housing to poor urban communities in 60 developing countries. She has been consultant on issues of her expertise in several countries and regions, and published more than 30 papers and books.



Pablo Molina, is the current President of the Spanish Association of Planners (AETU) and a partner at J&A Garrigues, S.L.P. He obtained a degree in Law, at the Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, and a Master's Degree in European Law by The Université de Liège (Belgium), he also has a Master's Degree in Urban Planning by the Catalan Public Administration School (Escola d'Administració Pública de Catalunya). He has been keynote speaker on several conferences on planning (national and international) and teaches planning Law at several universities. His main areas of interest are planning, coasts, ports, expropriation and, in general, all matters related to the interferences between general interest and property rights. Pablo is passionate about the cities and part of the cities that seem to work seamlessly thanks to the frequentation of the sidewalks. He is fluent in Spanish, Catalan, English and French. He and can also speak some German. Pablo lives currently in Barcelona with his wife and 4 wonderful children. He loves the sea and water sports and trekking on the mountains.



Pau Pérez de Acha, Pau Pérez de Acha is a lawyer specialised in social housing management and in developing innovative services to approach the important problem of access to housing for people in risk of social exclusion, for those who have lost their homes because of foreclosure. Services that adds housing access to a wide social program for users, a similar model to the one that develops the Housing Association in the rest of Europe. Currently he is the CEO at Solvia Social Housing Management of Banc Sabadell Group Company which manages in Spain a stock of 5.000 social rent houses. Previously, he was for three years the Managing Director at Foundation Foment Habitatge Social of Caritas Diocesana Barcelona. Since 2008 he works as a consultant in city development strategies and economic promotion, specialised in social economic companies like cooperatives, foundations, and public administrations. He participates in several organisations, such as ULI Barcelona, the executive Committee of Barcelona's Social Housing as well as in the Housing workgroup of the Social Third Sector Catalonia's Table, acting as responsible of the group which has to develop innovative, social and economic proposals in the area of social housing in Catalonia.



Paulo Enrique Ribeiro, Graduated in Economics: São Paulo University in 1964. Master in Economics, Catholic University of S.Paulo Economics and Business Administration School in 1982. Was Chief of Staff in Planning Secretary in São Paulo Municipality (City Hall) (1989-90) coordinating 22 Interlinked Operations and between 1989 and 1990 coordinated the urban operations: Anhangabaú-Centro and Água Branca. Was president (CEO) of CMTC (Companhia Municipal de Transportes Coletivos) between 1990 and 1992. He coordinated the plan of municipalization of public transportation of São Paulo and the construction of BRT corridors in the city. In 1993 was Vice-Minister of Administration in the Federal Government. Books: "Novo Dicionário de Economia"(New Economics Dictionary) (1994 and Jabuti Prize 1995 best book of the year in Economics) , " Novissimo Dicionario de Economia (1999 , Jabuti Prize 2000 Best book in economics).



Julián Salas, Possesses a Doctorate in Industrial Engineering (Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña, 1983) and a degree in Industrialized Construction at the CSTB,(Paris (1984). He is currently a researcher for CSIC at the 'Instituto Eduardo Torroja' (CSIC), Madrid (España). From 1987 to 1994, he created and coordinated the Program CYTED 'Technologies for social housing in Latin America' in which 112 groups from 17 countries participated. This was considered by CEPAL, to be "...the greatest research-action ever undertaken in the area of low-income housing in Latin America and the Caribbean". Julián Salas is the author of six books, including 'Against a Hunger for Housing' and 'Improvement of Slams in Latin America' his name was presented by the Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España for the 'Habitat Roll of Honours: 2005 United Nations' for "...his constant dedication to the promotion of human settlements in the Third World, both in African as well as in Latin American countries".



Joseph Schechla, has focused most of his research and field experience on popular movements and legal defense of economic, social and cultural rights within the UN Human Rights System. His articles and books have dealt with the human right to adequate housing and land, related forms of institutionalized discrimination, population transfer, and rights-based remedies for indigenous peoples and peoples under occupation. Having previously served as program coordinator with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Gaza, Palestine) and director of democratic development programs (AMIDEAST, Washington DC), since 2000, Joseph Schechla has been Cairo-based coordinator of the Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) of the Habitat International Coalition (HIC), an umbrella organization linking some 450 member organisations in 80 countries promoting the human right to adequate housing



Joris SCHEERS, is a spatial planner and sociologist (PhD, MSc). He promoted on the theme of exponentially growing cities in Latin America at the KULeuven university (Belgium), where he is currently part-time visiting professor. As the former deputy Government Architect and manager Creative and sustainable cities he is involved in various urban and spatial policy issues within the Flanders Government of Belgium. He has performed over the past decades as an international consultant for spatial policy projects and programs in Latin-America, Africa and Asia. He has been nominated as UN-Habitat expert for the elaboration of International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning and is currently president of the European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP-CEU).



Ana Sugranyes, PhD., is an architect and a Catalan, Chilean and global citizen. From 2003 to 2013, she was the General Secretary of the Habitat International Coalition (HIC), the global network for habitat rights and social justice composed of 350 organization members among 120 countries. Since the first Habitat Conference in Vancouver 1976, she has specialized in international development cooperation, team and project management, supporting urban social movements, local development, and social housing policy and programs. Other experience includes: working for the Dutch agency Cordaid; head of the urban department of IDESAC in Guatemala; main adviser of the German GIZ program in the Ministry of Housing in Chile; and working as a consultant for different international agencies.



Lorena Zárate, is currently President of Habitat International Coalition (HIC). Over more than a decade, she has been in close collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing for the elaboration of thematic reports and recommendations for national and local governments on how to improve security of tenure, land and housing rights and the right to the city worldwide. She has been involved in the elaboration and dissemination of the World Charter on the Right to the City (2002-2005) and the Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City (2008-2010). In 2013, she was awarded with the John Bousfield Distinguished Visitorship from the Geography and Urban Planning Program at the University of Toronto.



Promoted by:



Sponsored by:



With the participation of:

