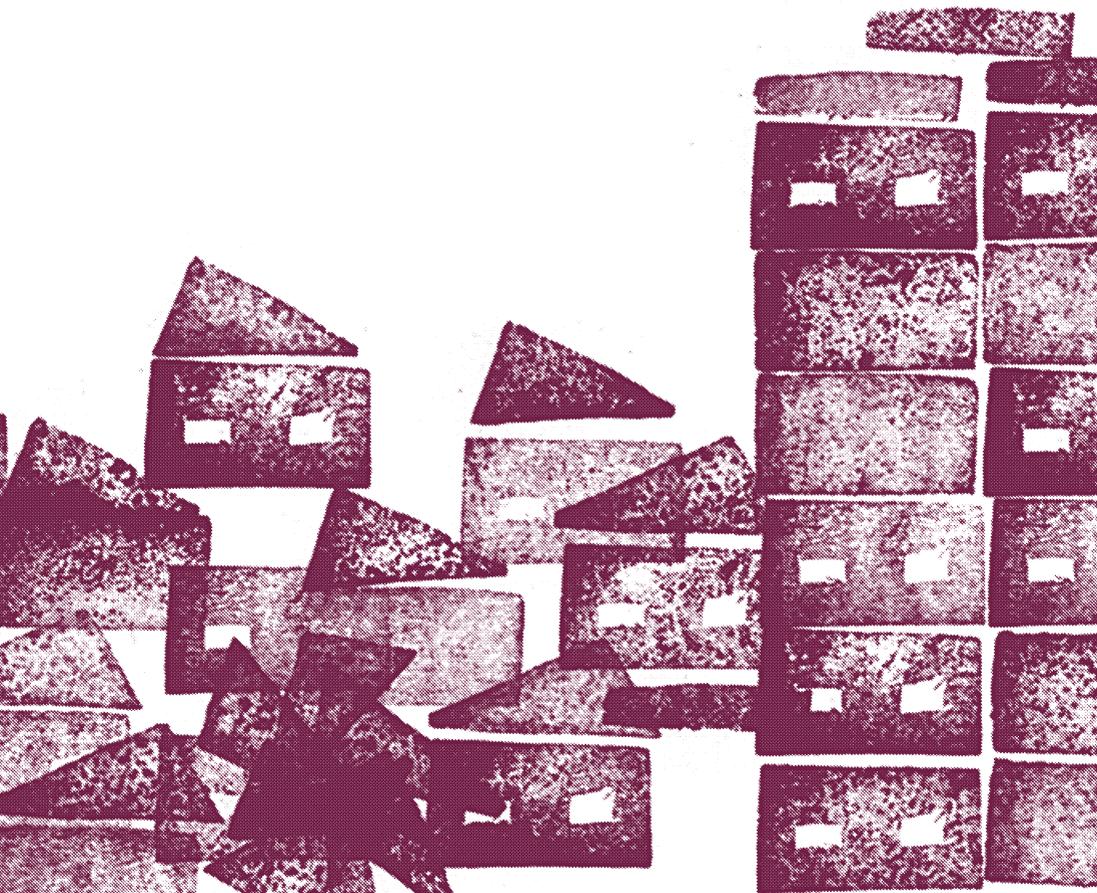




global platform for the right to the city



About us

The Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) emerged from the initiative of several organizations working on the theme around the world and from the need to promote and mobilize national and local governments, international and regional organizations towards a new paradigm for development, more inclusive and democratic. The platform aims to be a space for articulation, 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 the right to the city.

How do we work

The GPR2C promotes dialogue, cooperation and coordination among organizations working in the defense and implementation of the right to the city. It is internally organized in four Working Groups: Forms of incidence; Research, Training and Capacity building on the Right to the City; Communication, Raise-awareness and Cultural dimension; and Articulation and Alliances.

These four Working Groups initiative is oriented by the GPR2C Action Plan, which resulted from the International Meeting on the Right to the City held in São Paulo, in November of 2014. They are coordinated and assisted by a support team based in HIC and Polis Institute, with the financial support of Ford Foundation. There is also a communication team responsible for the dissemination of this initiative and of all the content produced by the Platform and its members, which includes statements, analysis documents, training materials and, specially, the research "Moving towards the implementation of the Right to City", conducted by the GPR2C in different countries and cities situated in Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

The next two years will be key to strengthen the Global Platform and for its goals, since it is under discussion a New Urban Agenda, which

will result from the definition of Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 and from the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016.

Therefore, in 2015, the GPR2C is going to promote three Regional Meetings, aiming to: present the Global Platform and disseminate its principles, goals and actions, strengthening regional alliances and inviting new organizations to join it; discuss the meaning of the Right to the City in different world regions and conduct capacity-building activities, promoting an exchange of experiences on policies, projects and actions that implement this right; review the GPR2C's Action Plan in order to localize, interpret and complement it consistent with the regional participants' priorities and other regional specificity; and share information and analyze setbacks, challenges and/or particular regional developments in the Habitat III process.

Regional Meetings - 2015

Africa

Johannesburg, South Africa.
november 28

Europa

La Bergerie de Villarceaux, France.
early december

Asia

Surabaya, Indonesia.
mid december

If you want more information about the Global Platform's Regional Meetings, please access: www.right2city.org or send us a message: contact@right2city.org

Expectations and Proposals for Habitat III

The GPR2C recalls the importance to recognize the Right to the City in the New Urban Agenda, as an individual and collective right for all inhabitants. The respect, protection, promotion and implementation of the Right to the City are crucial to promote a shift in the current urban development paradigm. Therefore, it demands actions in four thematic axes:

Human Rights in the Cities: the Right to the City is interdependent of all internationally recognized and integrally conceived human rights, and therefore includes all the existing civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights, highlighting the need to ensure: non-discrimination and protection of vulnerable groups; access to public services and public works; promotion of safe cities; access to justice and legal remedies, among others.

Democratic and Participatory Governance in the Cities: states the need for local governments and local authorities to develop and implement different tools to integrate citizen participation in decision-making processes.

Urbanization, Sustainable Use of the Territory and Social Inclusion: urges cities to solidify a new paradigm of integrated planning and management of urban development that fosters the promotion of diversified uses in the same territory.

Economic Development and Social Inclusion in Cities: focus on the challenges and perspectives of the so called informal economy in the cities, since a significant part of the population involved in these activities still has no rights and remain somehow invisible for governments and public policies.

Furthermore it is important to emphasize that the construction of the New Urban Agenda should have a human rights based

approach, as well as a faithful evaluation of the implementation of the commitments made at Habitat II. It is important to continue the construction of a Habitat Agenda, not just an urban one, having in mind that it must take into account the articulation between rural and urban space, welfare and the rights of nature. It is also essential to assure in the Habitat III processes the participation of civil society organizations and local authorities in decision-making arenas at all levels (local, national and global).

What is the Right to the City

The Right to the City movement has been growing worldwide throughout the past decades, involving many different actors and achieving a longestablished discussion and mobilization process on the right to the city in different spaces at local, regional and international levels. Among others, the World Charter for the the Right to the City - constructed within the World Social Forum (2001) - is an important result of this process and inspired many other documents, policies and legislation around the world.

The World Charter for the Right to the City defines the right to the city as the equitable use of cities according to the principles of sustainability, democracy, equity and social justice. It is a collective right of the inhabitants of the cities, especially for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, who gain legitimacy of action and organization based on their use and customs with the objective of achieving, in practice, the right to free self-determination and an adequate level of life.

The right to the city is interdependent on all human rights that are internationally recognized and conceived in an integral manner and include all of the civil, political,

economic, social, cultural and environmental rights that are regulated in the international human right treaties. This assumes the guarantee of the right to work in equitable and satisfactory conditions, to create and affiliate with labor unions; social security; public health; potable water; electricity; public transportation and other social services; food; adequate clothing and housing; quality public education and culture; information; political participation; living in peace with access to justice; and the right to organize, meet and protest. It also includes respect for minorities and ethnic, racial, sexual and cultural pluralism with respect for migrants and gender equity.

For more information, please access:
www.right2city.org

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Initiative

The Global Platform for the Right to the City results from the initiative of the organizations that promoted the International Meeting on Right to the City, held in São Paulo, Brazil in November 2014, which include among others:

ActionAid, Brazilian National Urban Reform Forum, Cities Alliance, Fundación Avina, Global Fund for the Cities Development, Habitat International Coalition (HIC), Habitat for Humanity, Huairou Commission, Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS), International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI), Polis Institute, Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI), UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO).

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