



Right to the City and the International Agendas: African realities and perspectives

Open Session, November 22nd 2018

Recommendations from Civil Society representatives

1. Recognise **land and tenure rights** for the poor and vulnerable populations.

The poor often occupy valuable inner-city urban real estate. Assets of the poor are tied up in their land and housing, and expropriation deepens poverty. Providing the poor and vulnerable populations with security of tenure reduces poverty and allows for the creation of wealth.

2. Proactively decrease **spatial segregation and exclusion**.

Introduce flexibility in regulations and by-laws that are preventing the working class to access business and residential space in central areas, and leading to gentrification. Promote mixed zoning, inclusionary housing programs and welfare policies to decrease income inequalities.

3. Create instances within local government structures for the **co-production and co-decision of policies** with the civil society.

As included in international agendas such as the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. Enable genuine **public discussions between government and civil society**

Gather the opinions and suggestions of civil society organizations periodically in order to create a sense of belonging and co-responsibility over the city's future. Local governments can develop schedules to ensure predictability in public engagement and produce resources and materials that are understandable and adapted to different publics.



5. Promote **access to urban space and finance for informal workers**.

Many people, mainly women, depend on informal market commerce to sustain their families. Facilitating access to credit and savings to build micro enterprises and create employment can improve their life conditions.

6. Put **inclusive economic activities and employment** at the centre of the access to the Right to the City.

Promote inclusive economic development and employment opportunities as a means to fulfilling the Right to the City.

7. Enhance urban agriculture and its marketing chain to ensure **urban food sovereignty**.

This is positive in terms of supply of fresh healthy food and employment for the urban poor.