

EVICCTIONS AND THE RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO URBAN DEVELOPMENT



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EVICTIIONS

AND THE RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO URBAN DEVELOPMENT

International Expert Group Meeting

Held at UN-Habitat's Global Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya from 20–23 September 2011





LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ACHR	Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
AGFE	Advisory Group on Forced Evictions
BMA	Bangkok Metropolitan Administration
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CERD	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
COHRE	Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
EGM	Expert Group Meeting
EvIA	Eviction Impact Assessment
ESCR	Economic, Social, Cultural Rights
ECSR	European Committee of Social Rights
HIC	Habitat International Coalition
IHS	Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies
HR	Human Rights
HRC	Human Rights Council
HRC	Human Rights Committee
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
HLRN	Housing and Land Rights Network
IAP	International Accountability Project
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons/People
IRR	Impoverishment Risks and Reconstruction Model
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
SERAC	Social and Economic Rights Action Centre
SPARC	Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres
SDI	Slum Dwellers International
TOR	Terms of Reference
TMB	Treaty Monitoring Bodies
UN	United Nations
UNHRP	United Nations Housing Rights Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
WUF	World Urban Forum



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- List of Acronyms..... vi**
- Executive Summary.....ix**
- 1. Introduction 1**
- 2. Keynote Addresses 5**
 - 2.1 Keynote address by Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat6
 - 2.2 Keynote address Raquel Rolnik, UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing7
 - 2.3 The human rights based approach (Urban Johnsson)8
 - 2.4 United Nations Housing Rights Programme/OHCHR (Bahram Ghazi)..... 10
 - 2.5 Advisory Group on Forced Evictions (Leticia Osorio)..... 12
 - 2.6 Forced Evictions: Global Crisis, Global Solutions (Leilani Farha) 14
 - 2.7 Review of existing eviction impact assessment methodologies (Jean du Plessis) 16
 - 2.8 Global Eviction Monitoring (Leticia Osorio)..... 18
 - 2.9 Videos on forced evictions (Ryan Schlieff)..... 19
 - 2.10 Guidelines and Practices on Evictions, Acquisition, Expropriation and Compensation (Maartje Van Eerd).....21
 - 2.11 Housing rights in an international perspective (role and responsibilities of relevant actors) (Esther Kodhek).....23
 - 2.12 Promoting standards to counter forced evictions: The role of UN-Habitat (Miloon Kothari).....24
 - 2.13 Keynote address by Claudio Acioly Jr., UN-Habitat Housing Policy Section26
- 3. Roundtable on Housing Rights Networks and UN-Habitat 27**
- 4. Workshop presentations 31**
 - 4.1 Prevention and alternatives to forced eviction: Cambodia (David Pred)32
 - 4.2 Normative Tool development: Enumeration in Port Harcourt (Victoria Ohaeri)34
 - 4.3 Normative tool development: HIC-HRLN Toolkit (Joseph Schlechla)36
 - 4.4 Strategic human rights support for organizations challenging development-induced displacement: the role of networks and partnerships (Thea Gelbspan)38
 - 4.5 Kenya Housing Coalition (Justus Nyang'aya).....40
 - 4.6 Asian Coalition of Housing Rights (Arif Hasan).....42



5. Annexes	43
Annex A: Agenda.....	44
Annex B: Concept Note: International Expert Group Meeting	48
Annex C: Formal and Consensus-based Observations and Recommendations to UN-Habitat	51
Annex D: List of Participants	57
Annex E: Participant Profiles.....	59
Annex F: Guidance Note: The UN and Housing Rights – The Way Forward	113
Annex G: Guidance Note: Strategic Priorities for Action	123
Annex H: Guidance Note: Housing Rights Networks and UN-Habitat	130
Background Notes: Survey Analysis	141
Housing Rights Networks and UN-Habitat	144
Annex I: Participant Evaluation.....	162



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UN-Habitat hosted an EGM on Forced Evictions from 20-23 September 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya. With 50 experts in attendance from 40 different countries, participants exchanged views and contributed knowledge and ideas to discussions on the ways that UN-Habitat and other relevant actors can prevent, monitor, and assess the impact of forced evictions across the globe. The EGM was organized in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva and was intended to build momentum and elaborate on the strategies for shaping and strengthening the future role of UN-Habitat in the area of forced evictions and housing rights.

Through keynote presentations, plenary discussions and workshops, the experts agreed unanimously that the increase in the intensity and scale of forced evictions across the world is a trend that has to be reversed and a human rights based approach (HRBA) is key in this regard. This was particularly emphasized in plenary keynote addresses throughout the EGM.

The Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Dr. Joan Clos, in his webcast keynote address expressed his full commitment to the United Nations (UN) overarching goals and principles. to the

at addressing forced evictions have not yielded maximum impact because human rights standards and systems have not been fully integrated into institutional architecture at the national level for realizing the right to housing and shelter. National, regional and territorial housing and shelter strategies generally do not incorporate human rights principles and norms.

Urban Jonsson, an independent expert, provided an overview of key elements to a HRBA to housing and the value-added of such an approach should UN-Habitat embrace it.

UN-Habitat's re-structuring and the incorporation of a HRBA to its work, particularly in the areas of housing and forced evictions, was a major theme of discussion. In particular, many discussions centered on the value-added and capacity of UN-Habitat to mainstream human rights into its programming to achieve sustainable human development globally. Recognizing that it is impossible for UN-Habitat to be engaged in evictions happening around the world, participants stressed the importance and urgency for the agency to recognize that people living in poverty and other vulnerable and marginalized groups are their core constituency and as such, its programs and projects must retain a

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