

## **HIC HABITAT II EVALUATION**

### **Brainstorming Session Report: Mexico, October 24, 1996**

This brief report is based on a two hour brainstorm session held in Mexico with 15-20 HIC members from different regions. Many were involved in the HIC Habitat II Committee. It is not comprehensive, but does raise some very interesting points. The evaluation was followed by discussion of possible activities to follow up Habitat II. Rooftops Canada prepared this report.

#### **Part 1: Evaluation of HIC and its members relation to official/governmental processes**

##### **1.1 Positive Aspects/Official Processes:**

- NGO's access and HIC's role in securing greater access - "deeper" space achieved through NGOs in official delegations, they became and worked with actors inside the process
- HIC leadership on rights issues
- HIC work at P/C 3: especially wording on housing rights; Peoples/ social production of housing introduced through Mexican delegation at P/C 3
- HIC members in official delegations - NGOs very visible, especially on housing rights P/C 3
- HIC participation in the one day Dialogues during Habitat II: community finance (W. Bank), UNDP session on finance, session on human rights (UN Commission on Human Rights)
- Latin American contacts with IADB: potential resources for the future and introducing new ideas, opening dialogue
- Many new related opportunities for dialogue in government delegations, governments consulted HIC on issues, teaching governments about rights
- HIC members did present to Committee 2 (if not HIC)
- African NGO inputs to African Housing Ministers meeting (JHB - Oct. 1995) - more recognition of African NGOs; lots of HIC members involved, new contacts
- Meetings with official delegations, heads of regional government groups eg. Africa, Latin America
- Good collaboration with UNCHS women's program
- Senegal (national scale): NGOs involved in plan and follow up
- HIC/ members did a lot with limited resources
- Took proper position on Turkey
- HIC Istanbul Secretariat/ preparations
- HIC members/ NGOs saved the Habitat agenda
- WAS (Women and Shelter) brought WEDO into process; WAS made many inputs to process, linked WSSD, Beijing and Habitat II
- HIC members brought in UNICEF, UN Commission on Human Rights

##### **1.2 Negative Aspects/Official Processes:**

- Poor result on forced evictions - ran out of time and energy; also, fewer NGOs on delegations and in small working groups in Istanbul (compared to PrepCom 3)
- NGOs future role in relation to UNCHS not really defined
- HIC's presence/ mixed results at P/Com 3 (especially visibility)
- HIC failure at Committee 2 (but doubts in any case about value of Committee 2)
- Failure of HIC to bring stronger focus to rural settlements
- Not enough thought about follow-up prior to/at Istanbul
- Not enough coordination of HIC effort in negotiations
- Mixed results of HIC's Habitat II Committee - strong in initial phase, less effective as a working group in later phase

- Poor relations with UNCHS - ignored HIC requests for expert meeting on Peoples Process and Partners Committee at PrepCom 3. NGOs seen as the “ordinary” partners, no real concern by UNCHS for grassroots. UNCHS attempt (N’Dow, Jorge) to marginalise HIC by bringing in other NGOs - USA network, ELCI
- Not able to fully follow up on Turkey, rights issues, problems with FFM reports

## **Part 2: Evaluation of HIC and its members relation to NGO processes**

### **2.1 Positive Aspects/NGO Processes**

- Strong HIC role in IFG contributed to “success” of forum, NGO process
- “People Towards Habitat II” - brought many NGOs into process, HIC recognition
- Work with Super-Coalition
- National level successes: Mexico, India etc.
- New contacts, better understanding of global NGO process, networks
- HIC leadership on rights accepted/ recognized by NGO community
- HESC workshops in Istanbul - HIC people from all regions, good collaboration, interesting issues, advanced the thinking
- “People’s Voices” workshop/ process
- Latin America program: presented as part of HIC program, important step in advancing regional process, developed common ideas and networks
- Impact of “Peoples Posters”
- Housing rights petition - HIC presence
- good links between GONGO project and Habitat II
- Anglo/ Francophone Africa: Habitat II contributed to HIC profile in regions, HIC Anglo Africa booth important
- Regions of HIC effectively managed their own affairs
- Kenya: new working relations between HIC members and other Kenyan NGOs
- Other good HIC workshops at Habitat II: GONGO global session, children and housing rights, women’s inheritance of land - lots of planned follow-up
- Regional processes strengthened HIC - more visible
- HIC tried to establish links with other partners - Local Authorities etc.
- Mexico: some success with media strategy
- Super Coalition: lots of media coverage
- Media: many HIC members in special Istanbul newsletter and public media

### **2.1 Negative Aspects/NGO Processes:**

- HIC’s policy position not widely put forward
- Too much work on process at expense of content
- Wasted time with IFG “Core Program” at Forum - lots of HIC people on panels but small audiences
- Not tactical enough with respect to HIC visibility and empowerment
- HIC Gen. Assembly at Istanbul: confusion, not well prepared, lost opportunity
- HIC not always working as a whole/ global coalition - hard to balance regional/ thematic focus with global action - important for follow up
- Problems with media strategy and media relations; plan to have media liaison not realised.
- Rural workshop was cancelled
- HIC did not fully leverage opportunity for *global* coalition building
- Division of the different partner groups