#### WORKING GROUPS

#### AGENDA AND ACTION PLAN PROPOSAL – ORGANIZATION AND MOBILIZATION\*

\*Material developed by the organizations

representatives responsible for the working groups

at the International Meeting on the Right to the City,

with the facilitation of the Polis Institute, that took place

in São Paulo, on 12, 13 and 14th November, 2014.

Under the scope of the "International Meeting on the Right to the City" will be organized meetings of the Working Groups on (1) Forms of Incidence, (2) Research, Training and Capacity Building on the Right to the City, (3) Communication, Raise-Awareness and Cultural Dimension and (4) Articulation and Alliances of the Global Platform on the Right to the City seeking to draft a shared action plan to advance the promotion, protection and implementation of the right to the city.

The dynamic and content to be used during the working groups meeting were prepared by institutions co-organizing the International Meeting taking as its starting point the outcome of the international workshop *“Moving towards implementation of the Right to the City in Latin America and at the international level*", held in Mexico City, in October 2013. It was expected that all individuals and institutions interested on the subject or participating in the working groups would collaborate to stimulate and support the strengthening of the international debate on this theme through participation in the debate, design and implementation of the action plans and through the organization and/or participation in national, regional and international events.

During the event, the working groups discussed the issues, actors, forums and strategic moments to disseminate and strengthen the international movement for the right to the city, as well as contribute to the recognition of this right by the United Nations bodies and local and national governments.

The search to create an international action plan and clearly define the concepts used in the movement for the right to the city, this labor must be accompanied by an ongoing effort to adapt to local realities, allowing for the emergence of campaigns with specific content regarding concepts, regions, themes and audiences. After all, the subject of right to the city and the responsibility for its dissemination is shared among multiple actors. On one side there is the civil society, such as social movements, universities, NGOs and citizens in general, demanding proper implementation of this right and, on another side, there are actors with political power – therefore we believe to be necessary to have a relationship with governments at all levels (local, national, regional and international), as well as seek to be present in regional associations working on specific aspects of the right to the city and at the UN system (such as rapporteurs on Human Rights, UN-Habitat, specific programs and regional and local offices).

Based on the concepts of inclusion, participation, collaboration and representation, alliances development, with the goal to identify key moments, raise awareness to key actors at different levels of activity and regions, and based on a general understanding about the Platform´s activities and actions, it was drafted an action plan that will guide the work and performance of activities defined as strategic for the Global Platform on the Right to the City in the 2015-2017 period.

It is noteworthy that the occasion for the creation of this group is extremely timely: within the next two years there will be very important events to help strengthen the international movement for the right to the city, as well as opportunities to participate and influence on the content of Habitat III, Special Summit on the Millennium Development Goals – September, 2015 and promote a strong presence at the World Social Forum and the World Social Urban Forum, as well as at national and local processes related to defining and implementing policies and urban agendas focusing on developing more just, inclusive and democratic cities.

**AGENDA AND ACTION PLAN OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM RIGHT TO THE CITY**

These reflections regarding the Global Platform on the Right to the City were in no way exhaustive, rather, they are intended to provoke strategic thinking amongst the participants of this conference to support the movement towards further definitions with regards to the action plan and coordinated strategies.

1. **FORMS OF INCIDENCE OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM RIGHT TO THE CITY**

**1.1 ACTION PLAN**

Below are the main points agreed on ways to promote impact that will be developed by the Platform and its partner organizations involved:

1. Advocate for changes at the international level (global agenda) but also promote a positive impact at local and national levels, identifying relevant spaces and moments (see mapping attached), establishing key messages for the various actors and incidence goals for the short, medium and long term;
2. Act as a collaborative, operative and representative network to strengthen a process of articulation and mobilization around the right to the city;
3. Monitor local and national achievements and support /share good practices as well as supporting urban struggles;
4. Communicate to the public, grassroots organizations and governments (etc.) in practical terms of what consists the collective right to the city and why it should be a priority.
5. Strengthen the institutional articulation and coordination and diversify spaces for dialogue: Human Rights Cities Forum, World Social Forum, World Urban Social Forum and etc.
6. Identify and stimulate participation at and organization of local, national and regional events related to the right to the city among peers;
7. Create open and inclusive channels that promote exchanges between participants from different environments and develop strategies that can be adapted to local specificities.

In the events matrix (attached), developed jointly by the institutions co-organizing the International Meeting, were identified the main events to be held in the coming years and where the Platform is planning to promote advocacy strategies.

**2. RESEARCH, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING ON THE RIGHT TO THE CITY**

**2.1 ACTION PLAN**

**ACTIONS AND THEMES**

1. **TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING**
2. Map existing educational materials and register training experiences on the right to the city that have been developed by non-governmental organizations, educational and research institutions as well as by national and local government agencies to build a reference collection related to the right to the city for training purposes, dissemination and raising awareness on issues and matters related to the right to the city;
3. Carry out training activities on the right to the city at events defined as strategic at the International Meeting on the Right to the City for the development, discussion and dissemination of the Global Platform Right to the City for the period of 2015 – 2017, as well as in national events that are tied to the strengthening of the Platform. Therefore, it is recommended that international and national funding announcements to be considered as a source of financing for such training activities;
4. Develop a guide for the organization of international specialization and graduate courses on the right to the city;
5. Stimulate the creation of UNESCO Chairs on the right to the city at universities. Encourage educational institutions to adopt at its graduate and under-graduate programs a module on the right to the city, such as human and urban rights, urban planning, urban management and planning, geography, international relations and others. Promote experience exchanges in this area;
6. Constitute a Training and Capacity Building Group of the Global Platform on the Right to the City formed by organizations that have in their mission to promote education and training activities in issues related to the right to the city and that can act as focal points in the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania regions.

**B. RESEARCH**

1. Organize an international observatory on the right to the city as a means of monitoring compliance of public agendas and policies and local, national and international initiatives that relates to the Global Platform of the Right to the City at the post-2015 Millennium Agenda - the Sustainable Development Goals, sustainable cities and human settlements and the Global Urban Agenda to be adopted at Habitat-III in 2016. The observatory will also act as a focal point to share knowledge and connect researchers;
2. Identify networks that already develop research on the Right to the City aiming at a permanent exchange of content/information that are been investigated and relate to the subject of right to the city;
3. Constitute a working group that can consolidate the concept of "right to the city" to Habitat III and the Millennium Agenda, considering the diversity of meanings adopted in different regions and countries of the world to this same concept;
4. Define strategic research topics that can help advance the movement for the right to the city, considering the advances of previous studies, the themes identified in this meeting and the identification of differences;
5. Develop a roadmap to guide researchers/organizations analysis of their countries national reports for Habitat III. Define strategy for socialization and systematization of countries analysis to consolidate a Platform defending the right to the city in Habitat III.

**C. PROPOSED TOPICS FOR RESEARCH**

1. Identify the major debates and demands that exist regarding right to the city issues in countries being developed by NGOs, social movements, networks and civil society organizations, detecting the processes that are under development, theories that have been created or even existing claims over this topic.
2. Identify different meanings and concepts applied to right to the city in different countries that use the concept officially or unofficially.
3. Map the existence of organizations and academic, research, and advocacy institutions that work with the right to the city in countries and cities to be analyzed.
4. Map limits and obstacles to the implementation of the right to the city as well as practices and forms of struggle developed by grassroots movements and civil society organizations to its implementation.
5. Elements that can be investigated:
6. Definition and characterization of the right to the city
7. Guiding principles and values
8. Fundaments and normative content (with emphasis on collective aspects and related to economic, social, cultural and environmental development of the city)
9. State/municipality obligations (respect, protect, guarantee)
10. Non-state actors obligations
11. Beneficiaries of the right (right-holders)
12. Mechanisms for implementation and enforcement of this right
13. Violations
14. Implementation indicators
15. Administrative and legal remedies

**3. COMMUNICATION, RAISE-AWARENESS AND CULTURAL DIMENSION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM ON THE RIGHT TO THE CITY**

**3.1 ACTION PLAN**

**A. Internal Communication**

1. Form an internal and open coordination group.
2. Create a mailing list of all members of the Platform.
3. Create an open blog with content provided by the members.
4. Coordinate actions with other working groups.

**B. External Communication**

1. Explore communication channels, such as blogs, Tumblr, website...
2. Use social networks: Facebook, Twitter...
3. Consider taking on specific campaigns on the right to the city: the day to day issues of the Platform´s members.
4. Do periodic, thematic and local campaigns: group experiences from different actors, regions...
5. General mobilization campaigns built from the bottom up.
6. General advocacy campaigns (as per the mapping of events, attached).
7. Use the current logo, easily recognized.

**C. Dissemination and raise-awareness**

1. Have essential materials in multiple languages (at least in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Arabic).
2. Have reduced versions of the materials to increase the dissemination and use it to publicize.
3. Build a base of culturally adapted documents, taking into consideration other realities and concepts.
4. Guarantee access to contact information from organizations and members of the Platform.
5. Share contacts from other networks and key people within them to increase the range of outreach campaigns.
6. Materials for lectures, trainings, etc.

**REQUIREMENTS AND STRATEGIC ASPECTS**

1. **Coordinate internal communications of the Global Platform**
2. Identify organizations responsible for the coordination of the collective communication activities. Dedicate resources and have a specific team for this task. Designate specific contact people by regions or cultural areas (ex. Caribbean, North Africa, Europe...) to improve the focus of the Platform.
3. At the same time decentralize communication management so all the Platform´s members can participate. Importance of contribution from the collective.
4. **Promote the Right to the City and activities of the Global Platform**
5. Disseminate knowledge to and raise-awareness of the general public about principles and strategic themes of the right to the city through the promotion of interaction and mobilization activities using materials adapted to different contexts.
6. Strong coordination of activities with other working groups: i) Incidence, ii) Articulation and alliance and iii) Research and Training.
7. Expand the dialogue with key actors that can help advance the Platform’s goals.
8. Produce and disseminate knowledge on good practices and organize campaigns exposing bad practices.
9. Encourage citizen participation (Occupy the city with activities to engage the population; Understand the right to the city from everyday situations – to provoke a change through individual and collective efforts focusing on issues close to the population, such as access to parks/plazas, schools, kindergartens, decent housing, etc.; Involve people, particularly women, children, youth, local communities and indigenous populations; Using cultural venues, urban collectives and alternative forms of communication, such as theater, children's stories).

**4. GROUP  4 – ARTICULATION AND ALLIANCES OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM ON THE RIGHT TO THE CITY**

**4.1 ACTION PLAN**

1. Establish a coordination group or secretariat;
2. Establish a horizontal structure for the Platform;
3. Define national focal points for organizations at the regional or international level;
4. Organize committees or thematic working groups;
5. Build a broad and diverse base of supporters;
6. Institute roles that the organizations will play at certain moments;
7. Establish a schedule and distribute functions for each action (making official the steps and actions already taken);
8. Create a communication center that will be guided by the working group to assist in the production and dissemination of materials and activities (language translation, social networks etc.);
9. Consider promoting an initial awareness campaign.

**4.2 ACTORS AND STRATEGIES**

The main actors with whom the Global Platform on the Right to the City will interact:

1. **UNITED NATIONS**
2. Identify agencies, programs, sectors, rapporteurs or officials supportive (or potentially supportive) of the right to the city.
3. Participation in the Post-2015 and HABITAT III processes for the recognition of the right to the city in resolutions adopted at these summits.
4. Political pressure to define the necessary commitments at the international level that will prompt national governments to incorporate the right to the city as part of their urban policy.
5. Monitoring of the work initiated by the UN’s Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the role of local governments in the field of human rights. Insert the right to the city in discussions, reports and recommendations.
6. **NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS**
   1. Identify national governments committed to the right to the city, or some of its key elements (Brazil, Colombia, etc.), to play a mediating role between the Platform and other national governments and that may also contribute to advancing the right to the city content on the international agenda.
   2. Organize an international meeting of national governments for the right to the city to allow (i) to exchange experiences and (ii) expand the range national governments committed to this issue.
   3. Forge an advocacy strategy at the United Nations to advance the right to the city recognition on the international scene.
   4. Develop a guide with policies, tools and indicators necessary for the implementation of the right to the city at the national level.
7. **LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**
   1. Identify local governments and local governments networks committed to the right to the city (government of Mexico City, Gwangju, São Paulo, Vienna, CGLU, FALP, etc.).
   2. Organize regional meetings for the right to the city to allow (i) exchange of experiences; (ii) expand the range of local governments / network of cities committed; (iii) deepen the dialogue with civil society organizations and (iv) agree on joint actions.
   3. Launch a campaign to publicize the existing human rights charters / right to the city to add more local governments to the right to the city cause.
   4. Development of a guide with policies, tools and indicators necessary for the implementation of the right to the city locally.
   5. Identify the responsibilities of the different government actors (local, state, national).
   6. Identify actors and representations of judicial and legislative powers with whom the platform might interact.

1. **CIVIL SOCIETY**
   1. SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
      1. Mobilize local, national, and transnational groups of citizens.
      2. Launch dissemination / incidence campaigns for the right to the city.
      3. Organize local / regional / international seminars or meetings aimed at exploring possibilities of bringing together sector movements under the banner of the right to the city.
      4. Collaborate with the academia to carry out a global mapping of policies, experiences, and relevant actors from the perspective of the right to the city or some of its elements.
      5. Identification and promotion of partnerships with national and regional forums and alliances, workers representations, etc.
   2. PROFESSIONALS
2. Raise-awareness of their respective corporate groups regarding the right to the city.
3. Identification of businessmen open and willing to support the movement.
4. Professional intervention in the event of legal, urban (or otherwise) cases infringing the right to the city (legal advice, filing lawsuits, challenging urban planning e etc.).
   1. ACADEMIA
      1. Global mapping and documentation of policies, experiences, and relevant actors from the perspective of the right to the city or some of its elements.
      2. Implementation of training programs on the right to the city aimed at the academic community and civil society in general, as well as elected officials and officials from local, regional and national administrations.
      3. Development of lines of research on the right to the city.
      4. Organize conferences and call for papers on the subject.