Global Platform for the Right to the City
Plataforma Global por el Derecho a la Ciudad
Plataforma Global pelo Direito à Cidade

guiding document

organization and mobilization of the global platform for the right to the city

action plan and thematic axes

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About us

The Global Platform for the Right to the City 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. Therefore, the Platform works with four thematic axis: Human Rights in the Cities; Democratic and Participatory Governance in the Cities; Urbanization, Sustainable Use of the Territory and Social Inclusion; and Economic Development and Social Inclusion in Cities.

How do we work

The Global Platform for the Right to the City focuses in activities aiming the recognition and adoption of the Right to the City in the implementation of public policies, exploring forms of incidence on the local, national and international level; disseminating content, information and examples of best practices; and encouraging/conducting research activities and exchange of experiences regionally and internationally.

The platform 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.

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.

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:

ActionAid; Avina; Brazilian Association of Municipalities; Brazilian Institute of Urban Law (IBDU); Cities Alliance; Global Fund for the Cities Development (FMDV); Ford Foundation; Fórum Nacional de Reforma Urbana (Brazilian National Urban Reform Forum); Habitat for Humanity; Habitat International Coalition (HIC); International Alliance of Inhabitants; National Front of Mayors; Pólis Institute; Shack Slum Dwellers International (SDI); Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (UCGLU); WIEGO – Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing.

What is the Right to the City

The right to the city was first written about by Henry Lefebvre during the 1960s. Since then networks, civil society organizations, multilateral organizations and United Nations agencies have returned to the concept to generate different initiatives together, with a highlight being the creation and dissemination of the World Charter for the Right to the City. This document 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.

Cities and their surrounding areas are territories to exercise and fulfill collective rights as a form of guaranteeing the distribution and use of the resources, wealth, services goods and opportunities that exist in the cities in a universal, just, democratic and sustainable manner. For this reason the right to the city also includes the right to development, to a clean environment, to enjoy the preservation of natural resources and to participate in urban planning and management and in the city's historical and cultural legacy.

Reference Documents

The World Charter for the Right to the City (2005), the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City (Saint Denis, 2000), the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City (UCLG, 2009), the Brazilian national law City Statute (2001), Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City (2009), and the Rio de Janeiro Charter on the Right to the City (World Urban Forum, 2010) are the main documents to understand the concept and scope of the Right to the City.

For more information, please access:
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Facebook: Global-Platform-for-the-Right-to-the-City
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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, 12–14 November 2014.

Introduction

Under the scope of the "International Meeting on the Right to the City" The Global Platform for the Right to the City (the Platform) organized meetings of the Working Groups on (1) Forms of Incidence, (2) Research, Training and Capacity Building, (3) Communication, Awareness Raising and Cultural Dimension and (4) Networking and Alliances seeking to draft a shared action plan to advance the respect, protection, promotion and fulfillment 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 toward 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 participation in the international debate on the Right to the City through exchange, design and implementation of the action plans and through the organization of, and/or engagement in national, regional and international forums on the subject.

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 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 must be accompanied by an ongoing effort to adapt to local realities, allowing for the emergence of campaigns specifically relating to local concepts, regions, themes and audiences. After all, the subject of Right to the City and the responsibility for its dissemination are shared among multiple actors. On one side is the civil society, such as social movements, universities, NGOs and citizens, in general, demanding proper implementation of this right. Also, for their part, actors with political power are indispensable to developing and disseminating the concept. Therefore, we believe that it is 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 Special Rapporteurs on Human Rights, UN-Habitat, UN Charter-based specialized organizations, specific programs and regional and country offices).

Based on the concepts of inclusion, participation, collaboration, effective representation, developing alliances through key opportunities, awareness raising of key actors at different levels of activity and regions, and promoting general understanding about its activities and actions, the Platform participants have drafted an Action Plan to guide the strategic activities of the Platform in 2015–2017.

The creation of this group is extremely timely, coinciding with very important events and processes over the next two years to build the international movement for the Right to the City, as well as opportunities for the movement to participate in, and influence the content of the Habitat III Agenda (October 2016), Special Summit on the Sustainable

Development Goals (September 2015) and ensure its effective presence at the World Social Forum (2015, 2017) and the World Social Urban Forum (2016), as well as at national and local processes related to defining, reforming and implementing policies and development agendas toward building more just, inclusive and democratic cities.

These reflections regarding the Global Platform for 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 for the 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:

a. Advocate changes at the international level (global agenda), but also promote a positive impact at local and national levels, identifying relevant spaces and moments (avalable at www.righttothecityglobalplatform.org.br), establishing key messages for the various actors and incidence goals for the short, medium and long term;

b. Act as a collaborative, operative and representative network to strengthen a process of networking, organization and mobilization around the Right to the City;

c. Monitor local and national achievements and support/share good practices, as well as supporting urban human rights and social-justice struggles;

d. Communicate to the public, grassroots organizations and governments, etc. in practical terms of what constitutes the collective Right to the City and why it is a priority.

e. Strengthen the institutional organization and coordination, and diversify spaces for dialogue: Human Rights Cities Forum, World Social Forum and World Urban Social Forum, Habitat III processes, etc.

f. Identify and stimulate participation at, and organization of local, national and regional events related to the Right to the City among peers;

g. Create open and inclusive channels that promote exchanges between participants from different environments and develop strategies that can be adapted to local specificities.

Identified in the events matrix (avalable at www.righttothecityglobalplatform.org.br), developed jointly by the institutions co-organizing the International Meeting, are the main events to be held in the coming years in which the Platform plans to implement its advocacy program.

2. Research, Training and Capacity Building on the Right to the City

2.1. Action Plan
Actions and Themes

Training and Capacity Building

a. Map existing educational materials and register training experiences on the Right to the City that have been developed by nongovernmental organizations, educational and research institutions, as well as by national and local government agencies. This will result in a reference collection related to the Right to the City for the purposes of training, dissemination and raising awareness on issues and matters related to the Right to the City;

b. 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 for the 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 the Platform and its participant organizations identify and respond to national, regional and international funding announcements to finance the development and conduct of such training activities;

c. Develop a model curriculum for graduate-level courses and an international specialization in the Right to the City;

d. Advocate 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, including, for example, human rights to habitat, urban planning for the Right to the City, democratic urban management and planning, the political geography of the Right to the City, the Right to the City in international relations, and promote related academic experience exchanges;

e. Constitute a Training and Capacity-building Group of the Global Platform for the Right to the City formed by organizations that have education and training activities on issues related to the Right to the City in their missions, and that can act as regional focal points in the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania.

Research

a. Organize an international observatory on the Right to the City as a means of monitoring compliance with current public agendas, policies, commitments and local, national and international initiatives as they relate to the Right to the City in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, human rights treaty obligations and the New Habitat Agenda to be adopted at Habitat III (2016). The observatory also will act as a focal point to share knowledge and connect researchers to apply the Right to the City in their monitoring and investigative methodologies;

b. Identify networks that already develop and apply research on the Right to the City aiming at a permanent exchange of methods/content/analysis related to the subject of Right to the City;

c. Constitute a working group that can consolidate the concept of the Right to the City within the Habitat III and post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals processes, considering the diversity of meanings adopted in different regions and countries;

d. 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;

e. Develop a roadmap to guide researchers' and organizations' analysis of their countries national reports for Habitat III. Define a strategy for socialization and systematization of country assessment methodologies toward consolidating a Platform defending the Right to the City in Habitat III.

Proposed Topics for Research

a. Identify the major Right to the City debates and demands being developed globally by NGOs, social movements, networks and civil society organizations, inventorying the relevant processes, theories and demands under development.

b. Identify the various meanings and concepts related to the Right to the

City applied officially or unofficially in different countries.

c. Map the organizations and academic, research, and advocacy institutions that work with the Right to the City in countries and cities to be analyzed by the Platform participants.

d. 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.

e. Elements that can be investigated:
- Definitions, characterizations and iterations of the Right to the City
- Guiding principles and values
- Fundaments and normative content (with emphasis on collective aspects and related to economic, social, cultural and environmental development of the city)
- State/municipality obligations (respect, protect, promote, fulfill)
- Nonstate actors obligations
- Beneficiaries of the right (right holders)
- Mechanisms for implementation and enforcement of this right
- Violations
- Implementation indicators
- Administrative and legal remedies

3. Communication, Awareness Raising and Cultural Dimension of the Global Platform for the Right to the City

3.1. Action Plan

Internal Communication
a. Form an internal and open coordination group.

b. Create a mailing list of all members of the Platform.

c. Create an open blog with content provided by the members.

d. Coordinate actions with other working groups.

External Communication
a. Explore communication channels, such as blogs, Tumblr, websites, etc.

b. Use social networks: Facebook, Twitter, etc.

c. Consider taking on specific campaigns on the Right to the City: the day to day issues of the Platform´s members.

d. Mount periodic, thematic and local campaigns: group experiences from different actors, regions, etc.

e. General mobilization campaigns built from the bottom up.

f. General advocacy campaigns (as per the mapping of events attached).

g. Use the current logo, easily recognized.

Dissemination and Awareness Raising
a. Have essential materials in multiple languages (at least in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Arabic).

b. Have reduced versions of the materials to increase the dissemination and use it to publicize.

c. Build a base of culturally adapted documents, taking into consideration diverse realities and concepts.

d. Guarantee access to contact information from organizations and members of the Platform.

e. Share contacts from other networks and key people within them to increase the range of outreach campaigns.

f. Materials for lectures, training events, etc.

3.2. Requirements and Strategic Aspects

Coordinate Internal Communications of the Global Platform

a. Identify organizations responsible for the coordination of the collective communication activities. Dedicate resources and have a specific team for this task. Designate specific contact persons by regions or cultural areas (e.g., Caribbean, North Africa, Europe) to improve the focus of the Platform.

b. At the same time, decentralize communication management so that all of the Platform´s members can participate, ensuring the collective nature of the contributions.

Promote the Right to the City and Activities of the Global Platform

a. 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 diverse contexts.

b. Strong coordination of activities with other working groups: (1) incidence, (2) research, training and capacity building, and (4) networking and alliances.

c. Expand the dialogue with key actors that can help advance the Platform's goals.

d. Produce and disseminate knowledge on good practices and organize campaigns exposing bad practices.

Encourage citizen participation: Occupy the city with activities to engage the population; Understand the Right to the City from everyday situations, 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. Networking and Alliances of the Global Platform for the Right to the City

4.1. Action Plan

a. Establish a coordination group or secretariat;

b. Establish a horizontal structure for the Platform;

c. Define national focal points for organizations at the regional or international level;

d. Organize committees or thematic working groups;

e. Build a broad and diverse base of supporters;

f. Institute roles that the organizations will play at certain moments;

g. Establish a schedule and distribute functions for each action (making official the steps and actions already taken);

h. 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.);

i. Consider promoting an initial awareness campaign.

4.2. Actors and Strategies

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

United Nations

a. Identify agencies, programs, sectors, rapporteurs or officials supportive (or potentially supportive) of the Right to the City.

b. Participation in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goal and

Habitat III processes for the recognition of the Right to the City in resolutions and commitments adopted at these summits.

c. 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.

d. Monitoring of, and contribution to the work initiated by the UN Human Rights Council's 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.

e. Forge an advocacy strategy at the United Nations to advance the Right to the City recognition on the international scene.

National Governments

a. 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.

b. 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.

c. Develop a guide with policies, tools and indicators necessary for the implementation of the Right to the City at the national level.

Local Governments

a. Identify local governments and local governments networks committed to the Right to the City (Mexico City, Gwangju, São Paulo, Vienna, CGLU, FALP, etc.).

b. 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.

c. 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.

d. Development of a guide with policies, tools and indicators necessary for the implementation of the Right to the City locally.

e. Identify the responsibilities of the various government actors (local, state, national).

f. Identify actors and representations of judicial and legislative powers with whom the platform might interact.

Civil Society

a. Social Movements

- Mobilize local, national, and transnational groups of citizens.

- Launch campaigns of dissemination/events for the Right to the City.

- 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.

- 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.

- Identification and promotion of partnerships with national and regional forums and alliances, workers representations, etc.

b. Professionals

- Awareness raising of their respective associations about the Right to the City.
- Identification of businessmen open and willing to support the movement.
- Professional intervention in the event of legal, urban (or otherwise) cases infringing the Right to the City (legal advice, litigation, challenging urban planning etc.).
- Develop and deliver professional training events on the Right to the City for architects, planners, engineers and public servants.

c. Academia

- Global mapping and documentation of policies, experiences, and relevant actors from the perspective of the Right to the City or some of its elements.
- 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.
- Development of lines of research on the Right to the City.
- Organize academic conferences and issue calls for papers on the subject.

Thematic Axes

Proposal discussed in the workshops at the International Meeting on the Right to the City, at São Paulo, Brazil, 12–14 November 2015.

Introduction

The Right to the City is opposed to the current model of urban development, in which prevails a neoliberal logic that benefits the economic interests of the elites. This logic allows the commercialization of the urban land, the gentrification of traditional and popular neighborhoods, the privatization of collective spaces and the use of public funds to promote major infrastructure, with the consequent marginalization, criminalization and expulsion of large sectors of the population. All of this undermining the development of decentralized, inclusive and sustainable cities that ensure job opportunities, health, education, leisure and culture in its different neighborhoods. Meaning, cities that ensure "living well" (well-being) at the local level.

To do so, the struggles for the Right to the City and for the urban reform defend: the social function of land and property; democratic management of the territory; the right to produce the habitat and economy for life (not for accumulation, speculation and profit); responsible and sustainable management of common (natural, energy, historic and cultural) assets; and equal enjoyment of public spaces and community facilities.

On the other hand, the Right to the City also includes the need of a framework for the decentralization of public administration (office, technical ability, resources) and an active role of local authorities, ensuring democratic and participatory mechanisms in decision-making processes.

The next two years will be crucial to discuss the New Habitat Agenda, due to ongoing processes to define the new Sustainable Development Goals in 2015

and the Habitat III in 2016 (United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development). The topics here presented were discussed during the workshops of the **International Meeting on the Right to the City,** which contributed to the process of building a Global Platform to promote an international mobilization, networking and organization that advance the respect, protection, promotion and fulfillment of this new collective right.

Axis 1: Human Rights in the City

1.1. Nature and content of the Right to the City and its interface with human rights

The World Charter on the Right to the City (2005), the European Charter of Human rights in the Cities (Saint Denis, 2000) World Charter of the Rights and Responsibilities of Montreal (2004), the Human Rights in the Cities Global Agenda (UCLG, 2009), the national law "City Statute" in Brazil (2001), Mexico City Charter on the Right to the City (2009), and the Rio de Janeiro Charter on the Right to the City (World Urban Forum 2010) are reference documents for understanding the nature and content of the Right to the City.

One of the premises to understand the nature and contents of the Right to the City is that all people have the right to a city built as local political community that assures proper life conditions to all and good coexistence among all its inhabitants and public authorities.

Another important premise is to understand the city as a cultural diverse and rich collective space that belongs to all its inhabitants, and understood as the city, town, suburb, municipality or village institutionally organized as a local government unit (Municipal or Metropolitan), and that includes the urban, rural or semirural areas of its territory.

• To understand the nature and contents

of the Right to the City on the basis of the reference documents mentioned above, the principles and foundations of this right are:

• To fully exercise human rights and citizenship in the city

• The social function of the city and of the property.

• Democratic management of the city

• The democratic production of the city and the social production of the habitat.

• Sustainable and responsible management of common assets: natural resources, energy and property of the city and its surroundings.

• Economic, Social and Cultural equity in the enjoyment of resources, wealth, services, common assets, public goods, public spaces and opportunities in the cities.

• Social responsibility of the private sector

The compliance with the principles of the social functions of the city and the property assumes a city where its inhabitants participate in order to ensure an equitable use of goods, services and opportunities offered by the city in the distribution of its territory. A city that prioritizes the public interest collectively defined, ensuring a socially just and environmentally balanced use of urban and rural territory.

The Right to the City based on the reference documents mentioned above has been understood as the equitable usufruct of cities within the principles of sustainability, democracy, equity, and social justice; is a right that confers legitimacy upon people's action and organization, based on their uses and customs, with the objective to achieve full exercise of the right to an adequate standard of living. Like all human rights, the Right to the City is interdependent of all internationally recognized and integrally conceived human rights. That is why it has interfaced with

civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights, bringing the territorial dimension to urban life.

The Right to the City as a collective right is not restricted to the respect, protection and to ensure individual human rights at the local level. As a new collective right, it reflects a territorial, integral and complex human rights concept already legislated (and corresponding to obligations of the authorities in their different government levels). On the other hand, it offers an "umbrella" to integrate new rights not yet recognized, that is to say, "emerging collective rights" (water, land, energy, transport, public space, memory and cultural and ethnic identity etc.).

It is important to also consider as a strategic component of the Right to the City the strengthening of local authorities through the political and financial decentralization. The city as a local government unit must have the institutional capacity to decide and choose their own authorities, access to public resources, decentralization of power, autonomy and self-management programmes and public projects named as the city rights.

1.2. Nondiscrimination and protection of vulnerable groups

The Right to the City is for all persons living permanently or temporarily in the cities and it aims to ensure a life in the city without any discrimination regarding age, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, opinion, ethnic or racial origin, social, level of income, citizenship or migratory situation. And also a city that has as its pillars gender equality, nondiscrimination, nonprejudice, differences recognition, social inclusion and justice. To implement them is essential to take policy actions addressed to different individuals and underrepresented, marginalized and groups in vulnerable situation; such as: women, children, people with a disability, HIV-positive, homeless, the collective LGTBQ, groups in poverty situation and in environmental risk or victims of violence, meaning every group that, according to the reality of each city, is

at a disadvantage regarding the remaining inhabitants.

These policies should be multisectoral and address problems that arise in different spheres of life (political, social, economic and cultural). It also must consider several types of measures: of recognition, integration, distribution of resources, access to basic services and non-discrimination. The effectiveness of these policies will depend on the budgetary resources provided by governments, as well as the existence of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that include the effective participation of these individuals and groups. Still, it is essential to ensure the effective representation and incidence of these individuals and groups in all institutional spaces for social political participation created by governments.

1.3. Accessible public works and services

The effectiveness of the Right to the City depends of guaranteeing access to public services with quality. The improvement in living conditions of cities residents is closely connected to the effectiveness of the Right to the City. The implementation of urban policies must ensure permanent access to public services and a good quality of transportation, health, education, drinking water, sanitation, garbage system, street lighting, energy sources and communication.

However, the precarious scenario in the urban public services offer has made the life of the urban population, especially poor women, a huge challenge. The lack of engagement against the real estate markets speculation that advances over use and occupation of urban land, the predominance of the private model of public transportation and the difficulties in the administrations of basic public services has transformed the cities into a true "business desk" in which the interest of the inhabitants are always left aside, especially those living in the peripheral urban areas or under precarious conditions. In this context, the city presents a great stage

of dispute between those who now see it as a space to extract profit and those fighting for better living conditions and existence of the most groups in vulnerable situation.

In order to change this situation, one of the ways to increase the effectiveness of the Right to the City is to ensure that urban public services depend on the administrative level closer to the population. Also it must include the participation of residents in its management and supervision, which must be treated by a legal regime for democratic administration the public good and prevent its privatization.

For cities to have accessible and quality urban public services, it is essential to have meaningful resident participation in urban policy decision-making processes. It is very important for the realization of the Right to the City the democratic management of cities component. This includes groups in vulnerable situations, such as women and youth of the outskirts, in institutional spaces of dialogue with public authorities. Cities must establish systems for social control of the services quality and prices, either of public or private companies.

1.4. Cities that educate

The cities should have numerous opportunities for human rights education and citizenship, including not only the formal and regulated educational process, but also– and especially–the educational process from the practices, experiences and learnings in the spaces of labor, social, cultural and political participation throughout the life of its inhabitants. The educator cities put special attention on training, promotion and development of all its residents as political stakeholders able to define, affirm and implement actions and public policies necessary for the development of democratic, just and inclusive cities. Also, they emphasize the importance of education to create a fraternal, caring, cooperative, pluralist and without prejudices society, based on the values of human rights and social justice and

on the practices of democratic citizenship, the dialogue between generations, the respect and recognition of diversity, and on the appreciation of customs, origins and historical memory.

Cities that educate also recognize and promote the relationship between leisure, sports, culture and personal development. To conduct a project that educates in human rights and citizenship, local governments need to imbue the city with spaces, public works and public services suitable for all its residents, with special attention for children, youth and the elderly. Still, they should organize the physical urban space according to the needs of accessibility, gathering, relationships, games and leisure, as well as spaces to connect with nature. Finally, a key element is the promotion of the association as a form of participation and civic responsibility, as well as citizen participation in social activities.

1.5. The role of art and culture in the construction of urban utopias

The Right to the City constitutes a new paradigm that seeks to transform the current model of neoliberal urbanization. To shift the current paradigm, we focus on several levels: political, social and cultural. Starting with the political, it is possible to change the legal system and the institution and it is essential to mobilize the society, articulating social struggles and pushing governments. However, in order to do this, it is necessary that society itself respond to the hegemonic paradigm based on other principles and values.

For this transformation of the collective conscious, it is essential to pay attention to its cultural dimension. That is, we must stay away of the prevailing rationale and deepen the creativity to envision other possibilities for social emancipation. In this process, urban art and cultural diversity play a vital role, both by creating a new collective imagination, and by forming new communities of emotion and action.

1.6. Safe Cities – Urban Violence and Public Safety

The Right to the City as a collective duty means understanding that the residents of the cities are the subjects and recipients of public security services as an integral democratic body. Competent institutions for this sector have to work in order to establish peaceful coexistence and relations among inhabitants, respecting differences of gender, class, age, thought, beliefs and ethnicity, and adopting measures to protect the rights of those who are "different."

The city planning and sectorial projects and programs should include public safety as an attribute of urban public space. The cities must adopt also a citizen-safety model aiming at peacebuilding, which should be translated into partnerships between law enforcement agencies and communities in planning and controlling public interventions, assigning also a key role to the human rights and citizenship in the functioning and control of public security forces.

Security forces in the cities have among their main missions the respect and protection of the rights of residents. Public institutions and security forces shall exercise the use of force strictly in accordance with legal provisions and with democratic control through participation of residents in the control and evaluation of its forms of action and intervention.

It is important to note that today public space does not consider the needs and desires of women. The cities are planned based on socially established roles: for women, the domestic and reproductive; for men, the public, and the productive. Women are unable to live fully in their own cities, often due to insecurity, fear of harassment or violence. This is situation is aggravated when it comes to women and girls living in poverty and in outlying areas or if they belong to a minority group. Insufficient and inadequate basic public services such as education, transportation, security, lighting and health increase women vulnerability. In addition, there is the difficulty to access inclusive gender policies and effective programs to combat violence against women in public spaces.

To promote safe cities for women, it is important to have a broader perspective about violence against women in the city. The problem is to look beyond the public safety issue, relating it to the poor quality of public services, which derogate the Right to the City. Therefore, to have safe cities for women, we need to promote improvements in public services such as transportation and lighting, and preventing forms of harassment and sexism against women, which contribute to an unsafe city. Safe cities for women are safe cities for everyone.

1.7. Access to justice and legal remedies

Access to justice is a human right, which effectively ensures the safeguarding of individual, collective and diffuse rights, and, therefore, strengthens democracy. The democratization of access to justice in the cities cannot be understood as mere inclusion on the judicial process. We must ensure conditions for the population to be aware and entitled of their individual, collective and diffuse fundamental rights. Besides the knowledge of the existence of international human rights instruments and related constitutional provisions protecting inhabitants and guaranteeing the intervention of the competent authorities, it is important to stop illegalities or abuses of power at the expense of social and cultural interests of the cities' residents. Measures and mechanisms are also needed to ensure adequate reparations, including compensation, for violations of the Right to the City.

The promotion of access to justice through the application of international, regional and national human rights protections and constitutional remedies are fundamental to the realization of the Right to the City, since the administration of social

justice is a guiding principle of the equitable usufruct of cities. Therefore, it is up to the cities to take actions to improve the access of all persons to law and justice; ensure the access by establishing special policies in support of vulnerable groups and strengthen the systems of free public defense. Also, they should foster conflict resolution through the implementation of public mechanisms of conciliation and mediation.

Axis 2: Democratic and Participatory Governance in the Cities

2.1. Tools developed by local authorities to integrate citizen participation in decision-making processes

Local governments' role is to ensure all citizens the Right to the City. Public policies must correspond the population's needs and aspirations. It is essential that local public authorities assure institutionalized spaces that facilitate citizens' participation in public administration. This participation should be wide, direct, equitable and democratic.

Citizens should be included and consulted in all stages of the decision-making process: planning, preparation, approval, investment decisions, project management and implementation, and evaluation. Governments must also ensure transparency and access to information to the population in order to facilitate monitoring and accountability.

It is necessary to analyze the main citizen participation models developed for local governments around the world (for example: collegiate bodies, hearings, conferences, consultations and public debates, participatory budgeting, open data, among others). As well as the way in which local authorities use new technologies to strengthen its bond with citizens.

2.2. Civil society participation models—formal or informal—in territory management

It is important to include citizens in the process of public policies definition and decision-making process. This inclusion assures efficient cities administration, with sustainable local economic and urban development. Innovative and efficient cities administration models, with citizen participation, are used nowadays.

In addition to institutionalized forms of participation, where local governments integrate citizens in decision making and public management process, there are "bottom-up" participation models initiated by civil society. Civil society, social movement and popular participation in public governance is essential to define a comprehensive and integrated analysis of public policies for the territory. Besides representing the interests of the population before public authorities, these participation models may also play a management role of public services along with the government.

Once the main existing models of civil society participation in territory management are identified (e.g., popular initiative bills and urban development plans, citizen mobilization platforms, etc.), it is possible to assess civil society interaction with local authorities and how its actions will complement the institutional mechanisms developed by the government. It is important to identify and remove the main obstacles for civil society participation in public management to better understand how to overcome them.

On the other hand, also in connection with civil society, we must recognize the difficulties of translating the demands and propositions into policy design. Also, it is important to properly use the instruments of participation, which requires training and greater dialogue ability, in order to conciliate all interests with a view to the common good.

This requires advancing on access to strategic information in order to have a responsible and consistent decision-making

process. Investment in capacity building of social actors and the creation of dialogue opportunities are equally important.

2.3. Integrating economic agents in territory management

The Right to the City is also ensured by good cities governance, which brings together all local territory management stakeholders. In this sense, public authorities must cooperate with economic agents and especially with companies that can contribute to define the vision and development of the territory. The role of local companies can be particularly important in financing and managing public services.

It is necessary to identify the main forms of cooperation of local governments with local economic agents, to understand how they reconcile the interests of economic actors and civil society. And, also, to overcome the dichotomy between corporate interests and the public interest in decision making and policy management.

2.4. Intermunicipal cooperation models for territory management

The accelerated urban growth in the past decades reduced distances between cities and has created conurbations of millions of inhabitants. The population growth and urban sprawl lead to many problems and difficulties in securing access to all the basic services such as transportation, housing, sanitation, among others. To address common problems and ensure the Right to the City to the population, bordering municipalities must work together to seek solutions.

It is necessary to identify all the different kinds of institutional arrangements to facilitate a joint management of common problems (municipal consortia, metropolitan areas), as well as the differences among countries in matters of intermunicipal cooperation. To point out the main difficulties for intermunicipal cooperation would also

help to identify the best ways to overcome them and encourage this cooperation.

2.5 Forms of cooperation between different levels of government (municipal, state and national government)

This subject is fundamental for the Global Platform for the Right to the City and should be considered as a principle of the New Habitat Agenda (Habitat III) and the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

The dialectic between different levels of government is essential to the proper functioning of public services. In this sense, the participation of local governments in defining state and national public policies is very important to ensure that it complies with local interests. Moreover, a good coordination between the different scales facilitates the funds transfer to sub-national units to meet the demands of its population.

Having identified the main tools that channel the participation of local actors (governments and civil society) in national public management, actions can be defined in order to strengthen the relationship between the various government levels.

Axis 3: Urbanization, Sustainable Use of the Territory and Social Inclusion

3.1. Planning, management and sustainable social use of urban and rural territory in the cities

Cities need to solidify a new paradigm of integrated planning and management of urban development that fosters the promotion of diversified uses in the same territory and strengthening new centers. One must go beyond the inclusionary zoning and offer a wide inclusive plan for cities, definitely incorporating informal dynamics

of both land use and economic activities in the city planning process; for both, it is essential to combine "official" data mapping and participatory diagnosis of the territory. There is still a need to break the classical process of planning more inclusive and sustainable services, such as urban mobility. It cannot be based only on past dynamics, but it should be based on visions of a future from a social, environmental, economic and urban design perspectives. Therefore, planning and management of the territory must incorporate a holistic view, taking into account economic, social and environmental factors from (i) the already existing and concrete city, even with its imperfections; and (ii) the potential of urban expansion, result of new productive and housing projects.

To become increasingly inclusive, secure, resilient and sustainable, cities should regulate urban development through territorial policies that ensure the fulfillment of the social function of public and private property in compliance with the social, cultural and environmental collective interests over individual interests. The social function is intrinsic to the property and not external; therefore collective rights must prevail over the individual. Some examples of mechanisms:

- Instruments for land value recapture (in front of the land speculation);
- Create "land banks" – through expropriation or maintaining land value at social cost;
- Progressive taxation – exists in some countries and requires proper implementation.

Additionally, the expansion of cities should occur in a comprehensive and sustainable manner, and not from housing enterprises or economic developments isolated. There is a need to maximize the potential of the real city, which should be reinvented and rethought based on its cultural and environmental heritage and according with new economic opportunities and social demands, which should guide mobility and services network planning. Thus, the Right to the City will be effective through strategic and more efficient public investments, compensating its impacts on taxation with the social, economic and environmental return to society.

It must be ensured the right of all individuals and social groups to all services and urban public goods that the city can offer. Cities' planning and administration must ensure equal rights for all and access to basic and social services, adequate housing, public spaces, green spaces and the preservation and sustainable enjoyment of natural and cultural heritage. It should also ensure compensation for traditionally marginalized groups.

The Right to the City will be effective through public investment mainly in three dimensions: I. Normative (there are advances); II. Financial (very limited at local government level); III. Technical (staff usually very weak in local government).

3.2. Planning, management and use of social goods and public spaces in the cities

The traditional way of conceiving urban planning intends to provide goods and public spaces (such as parks and public gardens) for all social segments. However, often these spaces are exclusive and inaccessible to the poor and informal areas residents.

These spaces and goods are important to: (i) create inclusive cities, (ii) strengthen collective interests at the expense of individual ones; and (iii) respond to some of the challenges created by rapid urbanization seen in many contemporary cities. They are also places of social gathering, of income generation and employment for informal workers. Therefore, planning and management of urban policies should be oriented to ensure the creation and existence of public goods and spaces throughout the city, both in the formal and in informal city and also managed by government and/or by the community itself.

Housing projects must produce qualified and equipped public spaces, not just housing units. As well as public spaces must be designed with participation and collectively managed by the community. Public spaces, besides ensuring ethnical and cultural diverse uses, shall provide economic uses that strengthen its collective dimension and its safety for users, especially for women. Public facilities and public spaces must be accessible to all, digitally inclusive and they should structure cities' development, not be mere results of this development. Government should use instruments available to recapture public investment in order to promote new public spaces.

3.3. Protection and use of environmental and cultural assets - historic, artistic and cultural heritage (tangible and intangible)

The cultural and environmental heritage of the cities portrays their historical trajectory and contributes to construct the population identity. Planning and land management should, therefore, enhance the urban, natural and built environment in relation to cultural heritage and landscape and government should promote urban cultural projects. Strategies for protection and safeguarding of cultural and environmental assets should be oriented to improve access for all and to humanize natural and built heritage in the cities.

The effort to provide adequate housing, sanitation and urban mobility must be complemented with greater access to culture and natural environment, such as monuments and public spaces equipment – theaters, libraries, museums and urban parks.

Urban planning and development should maximize the potential of the real city, rethinking it based on their cultural and environmental heritage and responding to new economic opportunities and social demands, in order to minimize problems such as empty and underutilized properties, population decrease, loss of economic dynamism and urban environment degradation. They should also produce more democratic cities by preserving memory and promoting social, economic and cultural inclusion of the whole population, avoiding segregationist and elitist uses of cultural and environmental assets and the expulsion of the poor areas submitted to processes of redevelopment and urban renewal. Cultural goods should be protected before infrastructure projects.

3.4 Urban infrastructure, equipment and services - urban mobility and environmental sanitation

Cities must guide their planning of urban services based on future concepts. This consists of: more inclusive, sustainable and compact cities from a social, environmental, economic and urban design perspective. They must also promote and provide new centralities and foster mixed uses of the territory to minimize people's need of daily commute. Urban mobility network must be planned and expanded according to use and occupation of the territory, seeking to connect social demands with economic opportunities to minimize the investment taxation impact and to ensure return to society. This can also accelerate both economic and social development dynamics, expanding the right to the city with more strategic and effective investments. Cities' public transportation and mobility systems must incorporate and facilitate the participation of different alternative modalities, prioritizing collective public trasportation and shared alternatives (for example: shared bikes and cars or public rental services).

Planning and administration of infrastructures and services in the territory should be oriented: (i) to expand of safe and efficient public transport and of non-motorized transport, prioritizing pedestrian mobility over private vehicles; (ii) to ensure universal, affordable and safe access to potable water and adequate sanitation; (iii) to increase the coverage of drainage and rainwater management systems, with

environmental responsibility and seeking treatment and reuse; and (iv) to universalize the right to access to connectivity and communications services.

They must also be integrated with planning and use/occupation of the territory; social demands (housing, education, health, recreation, etc.) should be connected with economic, employment and income generation opportunities. These infrastructures must not create physical barriers or discontinuities in the social and urban fabric. However, if it is necessary, additional measures must be taken to mitigate these impacts, allowing the communities to maintain conected. For example: bridges with parks or community gardens built over these infrastructures.

Cities should promote a responsible and sustainable production and consumption of public services. It also needs to foster intermediate and small-scale production models that facilitate the participation of people and communities in the co-production or social self-production. In order to do so, cities must actively carry out campaigns of awareness, education and outreach and design financial mechanisms to ensure people and communities access to these technologies and models. Tax incentives for responsible consumption and tax disincentives to the conspicuous consumption must also be establish. This could be used to meet the needs of the most vulnerable social groups, or for the provision of other colective public goods.

3.5. Sustainable forms of natural resources use and production of energy and food - productive cities

Cities should actively promote, among families and businesses, access to technologies with low energy consumption. In addition, they should facilitate the installation of household or individual systems of power generation for consumption (solar or other), whose surpluses may contribute to the city network and can be financially compensated. It should

be encouraged also energy efficiency in buildings, for example, promoting gardens and terraces in buildings.

Planning, regulation and urban-environmental management should ensure a balance between urban development and the protection of natural heritage. Thus, cities must promote the protection and sustainable use of natural resources, especially water and natural heritage, flora and fauna, and human life. Cities should also encourage the intensive use of the soil, seeking to integrate green spaces, services and housing, as well as a model of pedestrian-friendly cities.

Regarding food production and sustainability, cities should convey public spaces and stimulate the creation of individual, collective or shared green spaces for self-production or social production of food - especially in urban areas of greater social and economic vulnerability. It should also promote trade off between small producers and distributors of basic foods in rural areas and small cities neighborhood dealers, thus promoting greater equity and balance between rural production and urban consumption.

3.6. Management and sustainable use of water resources - right to water

Cities should ensure equitable access of all citizens to an adequate potable water supply, in terms of quantity, frequency and quality in order to meet their basic needs of consumption. They must also ensure access to basic sanitation, waste disposal, energy sources and telecommunications. The privatization of services should have acessible prices to ensure access to those services for everyone and especially for vulnerable groups. Cities need to ensure the conservation, use, reuse and sustainable utilization of water resources by regulating all the production cycle, use, waste and water treatment for human consumption. It should promote responsible drinking and the use of water saving technologies, and allowing home or industrial reuse for

various uses. It is essential to recognize the right of access to fundamental basic services and to ensure effectiveness for all through investments throughout the city and especially in vulnerable areas characterized by precarious conditions or by the informality of these services. Planning, implementation, and operation of water and sanitation services must be made by binding instances of participation, control and inclusive social audit.

In settlements that failed to even have access to water and sanitation networks, cities should support the installation of systems with appropriate collective, progressive and intermediate technologies that facilitate immediate access to water for domestic use and for future connection to formal systems.

3.7. Forms of prevention and remediation of climate change impacts

It is necessary to face the causes of disasters, which are: consumption patterns, mining transport, etc. Without changes in behavior patterns it will not be possible to change or mitigate climate change process. Green economy – which is companies addressing issues that they are generating themselves – does not face these causes. Cities should ensure resilience, both at the community and social level and at services and infrastructure level. It is important to respect communities resilience strategies, avoiding relocations and resettlements. It is necessary to classify risks to define intervention strategies and it is important also to promote a prevention culture by dissemination and awareness.

First, cities should conduct studies on the risks of climate change to predict the likely impacts on the population and activities, as well as the areas that are most at risk. Therefore, cities should also articulate and develop strategies and participatory plans to mitigate climate change impacts, involving communities and private sector to carry out those actions.

Disasters are not just happenning because of climate change, they are also human induced, due to local poverty and vulnerability conditions in certain areas. Strengthen the capacity of groups and organizations representing vulnerable and low-income populations, as well as partnerships with local governments, is also key to promote urban adaptation strategies. It is noteworthy that, in the case of the most vulnerable settlements and when it is really necessary, cities can relocate families to new housing units, following sustainable and fair guidelines for resettlement in order to preserve the social fabric and income sources.

Improving basic services provision and building resilient infrastructure, in fact, reduce the exposure and vulnerability to climate change, especially for vulnerable populations or at risk.

3.8. Urbanization and land regularization of informal settlements

The recognition and realization of the right to acess to public services, infrastructure and land provision for residents of informal settlements should be recognized through practical regulatory frameworks, which should enable its implementation, replacing obsolete standards and laws. This actions should be taken to establish institutional and management arrangements that enable effective investments to transform local realities from physical, social, environmental, economic and urban perspective.

Populations resettlement or displacement processes must be regulated by inclusive and sustainable policies that respect human rights, restricting themselves to risk cases. In case of key infrastructure projects for population's benefit, they should only take place after exploring all possible alternatives and guaranteeing the right to an adequate location, preferably articulated with the original area.

Land regularization should include other kinds of property (such as community and collective land). Urbanization and land regularization processes should take place

from active and conscious participation of the population, from a governance structure that gives voice to the population. It should expand access to information and recognize existing forms of organization, respecting the autonomy of communities in decision-making process.

The urbanization process should not promote evictions and unfair compensation. It should ensure negotiation processes that also considers productive activities. In addition, the urbanization and land regularization processes shall comply with the form of different occupation of these areas, avoiding interventions that generate displacement of many families and considering on one hand stablished urban parameters and on the other, special construction parameters. It should also ensure that the produced or rented houses have affordable cost (up to 30% of family income).

3.9. Knowledge production in the cities - diagnosis and participatory mapping, participatory community readings

Cities nowadays (mega cities) are unsustainable, unflexible, problematic and new urban forms are required. There is little hope of equality and equity in these cities. It requires rethinking urban design with equity and rights in its core. It is necessary to work in secondary cities, with new paradigms, new ways to expand the city and to avoid segregation.

The new paradigm of planning and "integrated" territory management should include and ensure participatory, transparent, binding dimensions, with social control/auditing, accountability, and holistic/sectorial-comprehensive approach (considering that sometimes laws or sectorial policies are contradictory).

Cities planning and investments should incorporate the regional perspective and should minimize the negative impacts of urban demands over the sustainability of natural resources and over rural activities (for example: mega projects or extractive character, such as as mining, hydroelectric). Investment projects in the territory (whether rural or urban) must involve communities to ensure social return, not only financial return.

Information and data and also new technological tools (for example: sallite photography, recording equipment, etc.) are crucial to work on rights issues. They are particularly important to preserve cultural and natural heritage as well.

The population involvement in registering city's memories and the restoration of information about the territory and its occupation help to subsidize more coherent and sustainable interventions. Diagnostics, mapping and participatory community readings, in addition to producing detailed information, helps to recover local identity and strengthens the daily struggles for better living conditions. In this sense, participatory processes of knowledge production should be prioritized and supported by public and private actors who build the city, with methodologies and tools suitable to each context, strengthening communities' sense of ownership of its results.

Community knowledge should be institutionalized by the government as a legitimate source of knowledge, since it expresses their perception of the world. Integrate lore with academic knowledge could influence sustainable patterns of development (overcoming the consumption practices of non-renewable energy, that also pollutes the environment and affects the health of the most vulnerable); and also improve community social practices (use of materials and appropriate technologies).

3.10. Social production of adequate housing - social renting

Besides information production, the organization of the population to build their own solutions has been established as an important empowerment tool and guarantee

of rights. The search for appropriate solutions to the contexts of each group has been reference in many cases to policies and programs readjustments in order to make them more flexible and accessible by organized groups.

In this context, there is the social production of housing, as a way to build neighborhoods and settlements more appropriate to each context, strengthening individuals and their organization and existing ties of solidarity, based on self-management of training processes and house construction. It also must be considered the need to include and give special attention to homeless people situation.

However, for a more structured and expanded approach, it is necessary to support the capacity-building and strengthening of associations and cooperatives that can take over the processes and structure management. It is necessary also to ensure public policies with specific funding and subsidies for the poor, which can be accessed by those entities and should prioritize alternative forms of production and management (such as collective construction, social rental and cooperative/collective property models).

Social rental needs to be considered as a specific item, with greater visibility, considering that it also includes the State production and administration. The social habitat production needs to be recognized legally in the countries (including in its laws) and should provide housing opportunities and productive activities. It is necessary to have some directed State action to regulate the cost of housing, including rents value.

Regarding access to land for social habitat production, it must also be consider the possibility of use concession for housing purposes and other instruments, in the case of public land. It is also necessary to explore alternative materials and techniques for housing production and take into account retrofitting abandoned properties.

Axis 4: Economic Development and Social Inclusion in Cities

4.1. Formal and informal economy - challenges and perspectives of the informal economy

From a macroeconomic perspective and from the analysis of connections between the two systems (supply and consumption chains, financial system), one can understand territory informality and also support the gradual and inclusive transition to formality. It will be necessary to overcome the dichotomy of the formal and informal economy and work on the transition culture. This transition should support and complement both systems, as well as the importance of the informal economy to macroeconomic indicators (income, employment).

In 2009, the International Labor Organization (ILO) estimated that one in five workers throughout the world—around 630 million people—lives in poverty conditions with their families, with the equivalent of approximately US$1.25 per day. The vast majority of these poor workers make their income in the informal economy without being recognized for their important role in economic development, prevailing the invisibility and vulnerability of their working and housing conditions and of access to public services. Furthermore, this often results in violation of their rights.

The informal economy workers are frequently object and main targets of privatization and revitalization policies (in other words, sanitization, in the majority of the cases), which are detrimental to realization of the Right to the City. While it is important to recognize the need for "negotiating" the occupation of public space by workers on the streets—so that the rights and needs of all of those who make use of the urban public space are met—it is important to recognize the extent of the process of privatization of the public sphere by elite groups in various countries. The streets are

the primary and most-essential component of the public sphere, where a great deal of the informal economy workers (particularly for waste pickers and street vendors) make their livelihood. Assuring the rights of informal workers assures realization of the Right to the City.

Considering that (i) cities are to work, not only to live; (ii) for a long time, it was thought that informal activities would naturally migrate to the formality, which did not occur; (iii) the formal and informal economy are already interconnected, some matters must be placed. First, employment and economic growth may have negative impact on urban policy? What is the price of economic growth? Who are the protagonists? What is wanted: economic growth or equitable growth? And how can we achieve this equitable growth and the city as a production space for all, when there is a right to production and entrepreneurship? How to ensure food security in cities by maintaining city-region food systems?

It must be noted that a significant part of the population is involved in the informal economy, but has no rights, is invisible. The informal economy it is part also of the physical informality of the city (housing, access to basic services, etc.). It is necessary to gather these two discussions. We see social stigmatization meaning that the poor have no right to citizenship and the city, especially more vulnerable groups, such as migrants. The issue of gender and inequalities as a barrier to equitable economic growth should also be placed on the agenda. Illegality and vulnerability makes informal workers more susceptible to corruption (have to pay bribes to sell their products, for example). Public opinion perspective on the problem also stigmatize, linking informal work with illegal/criminal working (pirate products, occupying the street – which is seen as a municipal public property and not as citizens common good) and then treat them as something to be repressed. The informal worker is seen as a transgressor and not as a worker. It is necessary also to put on the agenda the link

between economic and formal working crises and informal entrepreneurship.

In addition, it is essential to decrease the present gap that exists between the formal and informal economy, including the chains of supply and consumption and the financial system in a way that both encourages connections and complementarities between these two systems and supports the gradual and inclusive transition of the informal economy to the formal urban economy. All in all, the objective is for the informal economy to have a legal and fiscal status that considers the interests of informal workers as legitimate and reduces the risks associated with their jobs, thus avoiding the exploitation of the workers by others.

Some important issues:

- It is necessary to consider the diverse situations within the concept of informality (different types of work – informal employment, entrepreneur, different places of work, etc.) and what is necessary for worker be considered informal.

- It is necessary to ask: what kind of formalization. Who decided and asked for it? Who can benefit from it?

- Since formalization brings advantages and disadvantages for informal workers, they must decide what is best for them, not just a mere query.

- If informality is the rule, it must be taken into account in decision making. Public products and services must be adapted to the situation of informality.

- Role of the state in promoting alternative economic production: the State must take responsibility for informal workers, after all they are part of citizenship and have rights. There is the need of the Governments to position themselves on the informal market.

- The importance of public and private investment in the informal sector.

- Insert income-support (livelihood) in the

SDG (Sustainable Development Goals)

• Need for cultural change – creating awareness about the groups currently invisibility.

4.2 Megaprojects and real estate expansion: impacts and proposals for a more sustainable and inclusive future

Today our cities are being shaped daily by real estate markets. Few cities have control over it. This has a direct impact on the informal settlements and on the limits of new homes supply. How can we deal with this in a sustainable way? How to promote equitable growth with space for everyone in the city?

There is a dilemma that surrounds urban sprawl, involving the question of how to ensure it in a sustainable and inclusive manner. We must answer the questions: (i) how to expand the city sustainably with more equitable access to land use; and (ii) if large economic enterprises are capable of promoting sustainable development of small urban centers from a social, environmental and urban point of view. Another aspect of the problem are unilateral solutions, for example, top-down decisions.

Real estate expansion: influenced by rural migration, people are still coming to town. Without proper employment offer, most of them end up living in informal settlements and, since this is their only option, they consider it as legal. What is then the boundary between the formal and the informal? Access to land and housing is a major theme that must be considered and also the impact of multinational corporations' actions, which sometimes act predatorily. Institutional mechanisms do not recognize this reality. It is necessary to accept parallel processes.

In the entire developing world, the speed of population growth and territorial expansion in cities continues to occur without adequate and corresponding urban planning. In general, the processes of urban growth have been distorted by the strength of the real estate market and not less frequently by large government and private ventures, which do not necessarily prioritize the social, cultural and environmental interests or assure everyone the Right to the City.

Given that all citizens have the right to participate in the ownership of the urban territory within democratic parameters, with social justice and within sustainable environmental conditions (World Charter for the Right to the City, 2005, p. 3), cities should encourage an urban expansion guided by collective interests, thus creating the potential for socio-environmental sustainability and the equal access to the use of the soil. Therefore, cities should adopt norms for just distribution of burdens and benefits generated by the urbanization process and adjust economic, tributary and financial policy instruments, as well as public spending policies to the objectives of equitable and sustainable urban development.

In addition, the extraordinary income (surplus) generated by public investment should be redirected in favor of social programs that guarantee the equitable access to land use, the right to housing and to a dignified life for the population living in precarious conditions and risk situations, and the sustainable development of small urban centers according to a social, environmental and urban point of view.

Thus, it is fundamental to institutionalize mechanisms of participatory and democratic urban planning with robust and effective instruments in the sense of guaranteeing both the sustainable use of the urban land and also spaces for the production of housing with prices for acquisition or rent that is compatible with the incomes of those living in the city. This planning should be holistic and integral, prioritizing the integrated development of the territory, taking advantage of existing areas that could potentially be reconverted and guaranteeing sustainable densities according to an urban, environmental and economic perspective. The expansion of the real estate market and productive ventures should converge with economic opportunities and social needs,

such as the provision of accessible housing, which works as a stimulus for development and growth in cities, but also responds to the interests of its inhabitants in order to establish a better quality of life and opportunities for all.

Given this, it is proposed: land and housing have to be included in the Goal 11 of the SDGs; it must be given due importance to information for planning and to reinforce the connection between urban planning and popular participation; to seek alternative solutions on how to ensure planning autonomy for indigenous peoples, recovering their knowledge about the territory; a soil management and urban and economic planning aimed at reducing inequality; and finally, to combat speculation, ensure the progressive taxation of property, capture and redistribution of capital gains.

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