



AfriCities 2018 Recommendations - Grassroots Organizations

We, the undersigned organisations, hereby respectfully submit the following recommendations developed by the participants in the Session on the Associations of Inhabitants for consideration at the Political Session of the Summit for adoption into the operational programme of the UCLG-A, and as a contribution to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda agreed at HABITAT III

Recognising that:

- The resolutions presented at previous AfriCities conferences have not been widely adopted by local governments.
- Local associations of inhabitants and of informal workers are committed to developing inclusive networks of organisations to protect the interests of poor and marginalised urban and non-urban citizens in Africa through advocacy for appropriate local government policies, especially with regard to housing, shelter and livelihoods

We recommend the following:

- A renewed commitment from UCLG-A, the local governments they represent, and the international development community to put an end to forced evictions of both residents of settlements and informal workers from public space and invest in the creation of collaborative, innovative eviction alternatives developed through partnerships between grassroots communities, informal workers' organizations, their governments, and other key stakeholders.
- Secure commitments by national governments, bilateral and multi-lateral institutions to provide direct financing to support community level action, including community organizing, grassroots leadership development, and peer exchanges.
- Continued institutionalization & formalized partnerships with governments & international NGOs to take our relationship to the next level to go beyond securing space for participation to creating space for joint problem-solving and building enduring partnerships.

Specifically, we submit the following recommendations to:

Mayors and Local Authorities of Africa

1. To accelerate the acceptance and implementation of the resolutions contained in the proposals of previous Africities convenings, by creating follow-up committees to promote these recommendations in each country;

2. To promote meaningful engagement with communities, through associations of inhabitants and organizations of informal workers, that incorporates them into decision-making processes;
3. To make urban housing, land and public space inclusive for the development of our cities.

The National Governments of Africa

1. To develop pro-poor strategies to eliminate homelessness and substandard housing, and to develop or expand legal frameworks to protect the rights and entitlements of informal workers.
2. To promote and implement community-based projects in urban and rural areas in collaboration with local communities and civil society;
3. To ensure that local authorities and governments have the necessary capacity and resources to meet their obligations to uphold the human right to adequate housing for all and to ensure the right to work for all (including the right to vend in public space).

The International Development Partners

1. To provide resources including political support to promote dialogue between associations of inhabitants, organizations of informal workers and local authorities;
2. To support methodologies to promote integrated and balanced rural and urban development;
3. To ensure the involvement of local communities when implementing projects.

We look forward to UCLG-A's commitment to enhance and maintain institutionalized support for participation of grassroots communities as a permanent feature at AfriCities – providing space for critical reflection and debate among grassroots constituencies and other city based stakeholders as a vehicle for developing and implementing a longer term vision.