**HIC Board Meeting**

**Monday, 27 April 2015**

**Via Skype**

**Attendees:** Marie Bailloux (MB), Silvia Emanuelli (SE), Ramiro García (RG), Rajaa Kassab (RK), Isabel Pascual (IP), Álvaro Puertas (AP), Joseph Schechla (JS), Pauline Yao (PY) and Lorena Zárate (LZ).

**Idioma principal:** español

**Traducción por el chat de Skype**: Marie (ES-FR)

**Notes:** Isabel

**1. Welcome by the President**

LZ: Let'sstart with the issue proposed by RK about HIC-MENA coordinator Rabie Wahba (RW), while the others join the call.

**2. HIC MENA Coordinator**

RK requests to solve RW’s situation. She says that it is unacceptable to dismiss staff without a fair compensation. If JS is not satisfied with RW's work he should have notified him in advance in accordance with the law. RW sent an email in which he mentions that the work environment was unbearable, but that was not a formal resignation. RW also offered himself to discuss the situation. RK believes that this situation will cause problems for HLRN and HIC. There is a group of members willing to talk to Joe about this issue.

JS replied that RW chose to leave, without prior warning, and now he regrets this. He was compensated according to HLRN’s policy. He adds that for the last three years, the coordinator (RW) didn't do his job and that he had given him several warnings. In any case, he sympathizes with his personal situation.

PY believes that the meeting should not start with such a complicated issue. Instead of this, she suggests to follow the agenda. This shouldn't be an argument between JS and RK.

LZ says it is a sensitive issue we discussed in Tunisia. Staff management is not usually a Board’s topic, but in this case the Board might help as there is a conflict. But we need more information -such as the contracts and a statement of the situation from both sides- in order to analyze the situation and make a collective decision. We should ask RW for a document explaining the situation and have another meeting in two weeks.

RK offers to write to RK requesting this information.

**3. World Social Forum in Tunis**

AP says that there was no quorum at the Board in Tunis, which prevented the vote of initiatives. The General Assembly was very dynamic and with good participation. The activities were diverse and allowed us to get closer to other networks, such as IAI, NoVox and Red Habita. Now we should resume these contacts. Due to the proximity of PrepCom2 invitar a

SE adds that the activities’ reports are still pending. These reports are a priority in order to inform members as soon as possible. It is a task that shouldn't be a responsibility of the Secretariat alone. She said others could help.

IP apologizes and explains that due to the proximity of the PrepCom 2 and other urgent tasks, it has been impossible to complete these reports. During the forum some press releases, reports and photos were published on GS website and on the social media. She added that the portal was launched on Friday and this is causing problems on the GS’ website that are currently being solved. The reports are already available in 3 languages.

LZ says RK should read the minutes of the HIC meetings held in Tunis. She stressed that voting was impossible due to the lack of quorum. Regarding Vanessa, we must speak with the alternate or choose someone else due to her lack of participation during these two years. She proposed that we invite Rita Silva, from the European Action Coalition for the Right to Housing and the City, to join the Board as a representative of social movements.

JS says it is important to think about the violence and repression around the world, and remember the attack in Tunis. The letter of support for the Tunisian people and condemnation of the attack was published, but we should send the letter to the WSF along with other statements.

AP explains that the WSF International Committee (IC) meeting was held after the WSF. The Committee discussed again about other ways to proceed, because some of the IC members think this committee is obsolete and too bureaucratic. There was a proposition to hold the next WSF in Canada, but that would be too expensive for many organizations. Canada's visa restriction was another important issue. The next IC meeting will be hold in Brazil in September or October.

**4. Second session of the Preparatory Committee of Habitat III (PrepCom 2)**

JS explains Barry, Davinder, Nelson and he represented HIC. A statement was drafted (see: http://hic-gs.org/news.php?pid=6135) and side events were interesting. HIC’s message was well received. The main points demanded by HIC were clear and repeated by other organizations such as the need to evaluate HII’s commitments and include this evaluation in the regional reports.

They had an interesting meeting with the Executive Director, Joan Clos, in which he mentioned important points such as sharing the surplus of urban planning, although later he said in other statements that evictions were not a problem, because the incidence ratio was lower. The working groups were closed to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), but Nelson was able to participate, as he was part of the Brazilian delegation; due to mismanagement no major issues were discussed, such as stakeholder's participation.

Brazil proposed to hold a new PrepCom before July 2016. The official process is weak and complicated, there is a sense of crisis. The regional reports should be based on national reports but this is not clear. There are a number of Issue Papers and Policy Units (<http://unhabitat.org/issue-papers-and-policy-units/>) which develop specific points on six topics that affect CSOs, such as the Right to the City. HLRN has presented a project to draft parallel reports and support CSOs in 4 countries with very active membership, Peru, Ivory Coast, Egypt and India. It is a good idea that each of us engage in parallel and regional reports.

LZ adds that there are internal problems in Ecuador regarding the preparation of HIII. UCLG wants to organize a parallel event and HIC could participate.

RG proposes to make an information campaign on HIII and reactivate the working group. He asks for the document presented by JS at the General Assembly (see: www.hic-gs.org/content/H3\_EVAL\_en.pdf).

JS says that we know what should be done in the HIII process and we must draw up a methodological summary, with the help of the working group.

LZ proposes to assess the next steps with the help of Davinder, Nelson and Barry.

PY explains that she asked Ivory Coast's government for the national report without any reply. LZ says the name of HIC can be used for this.

End of the meeting.