

## **World Assembly of Inhabitants II: Rural and urban inhabitants take responsibility for demanding a new paradigm(\*)**

Two years after the [World Assembly of Inhabitants \(WAI\) in Dakar](#), the Inhabitants Networks is redoubling its efforts to support the empowerment of these actors based on a g-local vision, this time through the [Declaration](#) of the [WAI II](#), as part of the World Social Forum, which took place in Tunis in March 2013.

The 2013 WAI Declaration summarizes the necessary steps towards an [open and democratic process](#), and involved organizations and networks from across the world throughout 2012, particularly during the People's Summit in Rio, the Urban Social Forum in Naples, and Africities in Dakar, culminating in the thematic workshops and the General assembly in Tunis.

This Declaration, supported by more than 200 rural and urban organizations, from 40 different countries and every continent, first and foremost highlights the fact that the logic of capitalism drives cities to grow in a predatory way which is damaging to rural areas, and conceals the fact that cities are built by their inhabitants, while rural men and women are the ones who feed our planet.

Therefore, these inhabitants make a responsible commitment to demanding a new model and paradigm for the neoliberal capitalist system which supports the planet and human beings, in other words, common ownership and other forms of traditional and communal types of use and management, as well as recognizing the importance of society for a more just, human and sustainable habitat. Furthermore, they demand security of tenure and food sovereignty, as well as the values and proposals of the right to the city, setting out forms of shared, direct, participative democracy, in order to live well.

All of this aims to strengthen the links and solidarity between rural and urban movements, to build national and international resistance alliances, and call for a halt to the criminalization of social movements and activists who support the struggle for the respect and application of human rights: the right to land, water, food, housing, and the city, among others.

It also supports laws that make explicit reference to international human rights agreements such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the right to food, convention no. 169 of the ILO, and all those that help to avoid any kind of eviction.

For many organizations and networks, IAI in particular, this process of convergence of the different struggles is still part of a shared journey towards the [Urban and Community Way](#). It is a process made up of discussion of experiences and strategies, as well as shared tools, and the development of an agenda for responsible action. In particular: before the International Evictions Court in Geneva (October 2013); in the World Zero Evictions days - for the Right to Housing (October 2013); pressuring governments to take responsibility regarding the management of public goods, through the Campaign on the social role of land, the city and housing; and support for the efforts of the Arab peoples to bring new perspectives to the question of land management and natural resources based on human rights, protecting the environment and the empowerment of inhabitants.

(\*) *Cristina Reynals, Southern Antena, IAI*

Reviser:



## **Declaration of World Assembly of Inhabitants (WSF Tunis, March 29, 2013)**

**Do not touch my land, my water, my house, my activists!  
For rural and urban harmony, respect diversity and cultures**

The capitalist logic in which cities grow in a predatory way onto the countryside, promotes speculation, mega-projects and land, water and natural resource grabbing, destroying ecosystems which link the two environments. The prevailing discourse views urbanisation as inevitable and the agribusiness industry as the only one which is able to eradicate hunger and poverty.

This logic makes invisible the fact that the cities are built by the inhabitants and that the peasants men and women are those who fed, feed and will feed the planet. Indeed the major producers will only feed 20% of the world in pursuing aggressive policies that destroy nature and humans.

Faced with this situation, the World Assembly of Inhabitants requires the change of the paradigm model of the neoliberal capitalist system, for the planet and for human beings. In this framework, we demand as an alternative to private ownership, collective ownership and other forms of custom and traditional communal management and the recognition of the social function of more just, humane and sustainable habitat.

We demand the securing of user rights on land and food sovereignty. We claim the values and proposals contained in the right to the city, which are based on forms of participative, direct and community democracy within the framework of living well.

People have already created many alternatives and made proposals, it is necessary to put pressure on and strengthen the links and the solidarity between rural and urban movements to build alliances with national and international resistance.

We stand in solidarity with the struggles of inhabitants and peasants organizations, and demand a halt to the criminalisation of social movements and activists engaged in the struggles for compliance and enforcement of human rights: to land, water, food, housing, the city...

We want laws that refer explicitly to international covenants on human rights, such as the ICESCR, the Right to Food, the ILO Convention 169, to avoid any type of eviction, and that are promoted at national and local levels as in the case of the laws adopted respectively in Venezuela and in Argentina<sup>1</sup>

We support all legal initiatives which affirm this principle, in particular those of popular initiatives, such as the law regulating the giving in payment, blocking evictions and social rent in Spain.

We demand the immediate liberation of all those who are detained for having occupied land and houses and for having resisted evictions.

We support the struggle of all those who are displaced, in particular the Haitian struggle against illegal evictions and forced displacement camps.

**We undertake to strengthen the convergence of struggles of inhabitants organizations through the exchange of experiences, sharing of strategies, tools and a common agenda:**

- The World Assembly of Inhabitants 2013 invites submissions to the International Tribunal on Evictions (next session in Geneva: October 2013) the violations of the right to housing on which the Tribunal will issue recommendations.
- This will be one of the activities planned during the World Days for Zero Evictions – Right to Habitat of October, which aims to draw attention to the struggles for right to housing and to dignified habitat.
- The Assembly proposes that the Campaign on the social function of land, the city and housing can be extended on global level and pushes governments to assume their responsibilities for the management of common property.
- We support the efforts of the Arab people to engage new perspectives on the management of urban and rural land and natural resources, based on human rights, the environment and the responsibilities of all the subjects involved
- We support the efforts of the inhabitants' organisations and international networks which met in Tunis on March 27<sup>th</sup> to give life to a continental network, the Pan-African Network of Inhabitants Organisations. This network aims to strengthen local struggles through mutual solidarity between networks and organisations. For this reason we invite all the international networks concerned to unite and to support this effort, and to contribute to the work of the Working Group, which promotes its development.

**Agenda of the inhabitants' mobilization:**

- Throughout the month of October: World Zero Evictions Days - for the Right to Habitat

**YES to the reproduction of life, NO to the reproduction of profit!  
YES to the right to land, to housing and to the city!**

---

<sup>1</sup> Venezuela (Ley de arrendamiento inmobiliario 11/11/2012 – a popular initiative law for the regulation and control of property leases approved by the parliament last year) and Mendoza, Argentina (ley no 7684 - modifying the civil code 11th September 2009).

Info: [www.habitants.org](http://www.habitants.org) - <https://www.facebook.com/events/498799256828990/>  
Signatures: [amh-wai2013@habitants.org](mailto:amh-wai2013@habitants.org)

On March 29, 2013 in Tunis, the following networks and organizations sign this commitment:

[International Alliance of Inhabitants](#)  
[Association des Cités du Secours Catholique \(ACSC\), France](#)  
[Amandia Centre of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe](#)  
[Arquitectos Sin Fronteras , España](#)  
[Asociación Civil "Nuestro Hogar", Argentina](#)  
[Association Réseau Doustourna, Tunisie](#)  
[Association Science Technologie et Développement, Tunisie](#)  
[Association Tunisienne des Sciences, Technologies et Développement, Tunisie](#)  
[Association "Vigilance", Tunisie](#)  
[Attac, Gabon](#)  
[Bunge La Mwananchi, Kenya](#)  
[CENCA, Peru](#)  
[Centro Operacional de Vivienda y Poblamiento \(COPEVI\), México](#)  
[CEPROSOC, Congo](#)  
[Confederação Nacional das Associações de Moradores \(CONAM\), Brasil](#)  
[Cooperativa Chilavert, Argentina](#)  
[Coophabitat, República Dominicana](#)  
[Coordinadora de Colonias Unidas, México](#)  
[CTA, Juventud, Argentina](#)  
[Dignity International, Netherlands](#)  
[Doustourna Cellule Tozeur , Tunisie](#)  
[Doustourna Cellule Tunis Medina , Tunisie](#)  
[Enhacore, Argentina](#)  
[Federación de Villas, Núcleos y Barrios Marginados \(FEDEVI\), Argentina](#)  
[Fòs Refleksyon ak Aksyon sou Koze Kay \( FRAKKA \), Haiti](#)  
[Frente Continental Organizaciones Comunales \(FCOC\)](#)  
[Front Commun des SDF , Belgique](#)  
[Habitáfrica, España](#)  
[Habitat et Participation ASBL , Belgique](#)  
[Habitat Project, Italia](#)  
[Instituto Pólis, Brasil](#)  
[Ligue Algérienne des Droits de l'Homme, Algérie](#)  
[Movimiento en Defensa de la Vivienda Familiar \(MO.DE.VI.FA.\), Argentina](#)  
[Muthurwa Residents Welfare Association , Kenya](#)  
[National Forum for the Urban Poor \(NFUP\), India](#)  
[NoVox, Japan](#)  
[Nojien, Japan](#)  
[Sanya Day Laborers' Union, Japan](#)  
[Kamagasaki Patrol, Japan](#)  
[ONG Harmonie Planétaire](#)  
[Organisation des Jeunes Verts \(O.J.V\), Maroc](#)  
[Other Worlds, Haiti](#)  
[Pax Romana-ICMICA, Asia](#)  
[Plateforme haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif \(PAPDA\), Haiti](#)  
[People's Responsible Organisation of United Dharavi \(PROUD\), India](#)  
[Réseau Africain pour le Droit à l'Alimentation \(RAPDA/ANORF\) , Bénin](#)  
[Red Metropolitana de Inquilinos Caracas , Venezuela](#)  
[Rede Justiça nos Trilhos, Brasil](#)  
[Réseau Marocain Pour Le logement Décent , Maroc](#)  
[Réseau National des Habitants du Cameroun \(RNHC\), Cameroun](#)  
[Sembrar Conciencia, Argentina](#)  
[Shelter for the Poor , Bangladesh](#)  
[SOS expulsion, Algérie](#)  
[Sur la voie de 96 \(Imider\), Maroc](#)  
[UCISV-Pobladores, México](#)  
[Under Tents Campaign , USA-Haiti](#)  
[Unión Popular Valle Gómez, A. C., México](#)  
[Unione Inquilini, Italia](#)  
[USA Canada Alliance of Inhabitants \(USACAI\), USA-Canada](#)  
[Ben Nasr Sarra, Tunisie](#)  
[Ghassen Chebbi, Tunisie](#)  
[Khansa Ben Tarjem, Tunisie](#)  
[Inchirah hababou, Tunisie](#)  
[Mohamed Habib Sellami, Tunisie](#)  
[Mike Davies, Interim Convenor - Southern Africa](#)  
[Rocio Lombera, COPEVI, México](#)  
[Shelly Brownin, USA](#)  
[Sofien Asta, Doustourna tunis Medina, Tunisie](#)  
[Yves Cabannes, DPU, University College London, United Kingdom](#)

#### Signatories on-line appeal (144 - 4/6/2013)

Fábio Vicente Dala, - Angola  
Gabriela Cabrera, BARRIO EL PROGRESO - Argentina  
Roberto Curione, - Italy  
MAFOLO LADHA FERDINAND, CENTRE POUR LA PROMOTION SOCIALE ET COMMUNAUTAIRE - Congo, The Democratic Republic Of The  
Paulo Jarbas Pereira de Lima, CONCA - Brazil  
OMUNGA - Angola  
Sergio Broggio, - Italy  
José António Martins Patrocínio, OMUNGA - Angola  
Ana Cortés Martiniorena, Comité de Solidaridad con África Negra - Spain  
Blaise Sandrine, - Belgium  
Luiz Paulo Gerbassi Ramos, Arquitetto - Brazil  
Kofi Mawuli Klu Klu, PANAFRIINDABA Pan-African Community Advocacy, Research and Think Tank - United Kingdom  
Leticia Valenzuela, La Asamblea Veracruzana de Iniciativas y Defensa Ambiental. (LAVIDA). Veracruz, México - Mexico  
Fernando Toulson, - Angola  
BADARA DIENG, RESEAU NATIONAL DES HABITANTS DU SENEGAL et de L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (RNHS-AO) - Senegal  
OUADEBA ROGER, ASSOCIATION DOUNIA SOLIDARITE - Burkina Faso  
Traore Adama, uacddddd NO-VOX Mali - Mali  
Sara Pinzani , - Italy  
LONGENDJA HENRI CHRISTIN, Comité des Droits de l'Homme et Développement, CODHOD - Congo, The Democratic Republic Of The  
NKESHIMANA Jean, TERRE DES JEUNES DU BURUNDI - Burundi  
Pedessi Ezzo-K'l nam, Jeunes Verts Togo - Togo  
Letsch Fritz, zusammenschluss bayr. Bildungsinstituten e.V. - Germany  
Molefi Ndlovu, Centre for Civil Society - South Africa  
ALLALI ABDELLAH, RESEAU MAROCAIN POUR LE LOGEMENT DECENT - Morocco  
John Kagana, Kikandwa Environmental Association - Uganda  
FALOUJI MOUNIR, RESEAU MAROCAIN DE LOGEMENT DECENT - Morocco  
Daria Faggi, Unione Inquilini Livorno - Italy  
Paolo Gammegni, Unione Inquilini Livorno - Italy  
Marina Ghiringhelli, - Italy  
Juan Luis Rodríguez Gómez, - Spain  
Onofrio Infantile, Comitato Acqua Pubblica Salerno e Coord.to "Salviamo il Paesaggio" di Salerno e dintorni - Italy  
Giovanni Battista Baggi, - Italy  
Cristina Reynals, FEDEVI - Argentina - Argentina

Marius Florin Popovici, - Italy  
Massimo Pasquini, Unione Inquilini Roma - Italy  
Fabio De Gregorio, - Italy  
Michele Saponaro, A.I.B.A. - Italy  
DIOP OUMAR, HANDICAP FORMEDUC/CRPH - Senegal  
Delia María Demartini, Blogger - MO.DE.VI.FA - Argentina  
Ércio Araújo, Instituto Viver da Mata - ONG Ambiental - Brazil  
MORTIME ANTONAL, Plate-forme des Organisations Haïtiennes des Droits Humains (POHDH) - Haiti  
bchir\_mhalla nejia, doustourna elmanezeh, tunisie - Tunisia  
Ana Gaspar, Teachers Union - Portugal  
Coopsulrs cooperativa Mista Solidaria Utopia e Luta, Movimento Autonomo Utopia e Luta - Brazil  
Ring Susanne, - Germany  
Luana Barigazzi, - Italy  
NA Franck, PALC - France  
Movimiento Democracia Popular, - Mexico  
Noris Pimentel, Feminista ambientalista independiente - Dominican Republic  
Andrea Trentini, Comitato delle ass per la pace e diritti Umani - Italy  
Nanga Philippe , Un Monde Avenir - Cameroon  
Ms H. S. Briggs, National Union of Tenants of Nigeria - Nigeria  
Bruce Wright Rev. Dr., Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign - United States  
Juan José Sánchez Romero, Asociación de Afectados por la Hipoteca - Spain  
Federico Fassina, - Italy  
Lucy Valenzuela, FESPAD - El Salvador  
José Vázquez Gómez, - Spain  
Gustavo González, Centro Coop Sueco Programa de Vivienda y Hábitat - Uruguay  
Osvaldo Buscaya, - Argentina  
Joao Batista Silva, Associação dos Geógrafos Brasileiros AGB GT Ambiente - Brazil  
Ignacio Cruz, Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas - Mexico  
Bukulu Haruna, Mission For Youth Rights - Uganda  
valerio bindi, SCIATTO produzie - Italy  
diana pauro, - Argentina  
Ignacio García, - Mexico  
Alessandro Barbato, - Italy  
JOSÉ IVAN DE OLIVEIRA, ASSOCIAÇÃO IARENSE DOS AMIGOS DA INFÂNCIA - AMINF - Brazil  
Beltrán Uriarte Calonge, - Spain  
Arq. Milton Gustavo Andrade Sánchez, Mas construcciones - Ecuador  
Silvio José Herrera Mendieta, Instituto Nicaragüense de Estudios Territoriales, INETER - Nicaragua  
VICENTE SILVERIO, ALIANZA CAMPESINA PARA VOLVER AL CAMPO - Dominican Republic  
Chico Bento, Brigadas Populares - Minas Gerais - Brazil - Brazil  
Maria luisa Weidmann, - Argentina  
Kennedy Kinuthia, Independent Medico Legal Unit - Kenya  
JOSEPH KWASHIE SENYO KWASHIE, COMMUNITY AND FAMILY AID FOUNDATION(GHANA) - Ghana  
M. Ameen Keryo, Sindhica Reforms Society- Pakistan - Pakistan  
Mireya Bolett, - Venezuela  
tanzela eraclea, - Italy  
German Herrera, Fundación de Saneamiento Ambiental de la Zurza. Fundsrzua - Dominican Republic  
Enrique Goldin, Sociologia./ Periodismo. - Argentina  
Marcia Macul, Associacao Cardever / Curadores da Terra - Brazil  
ANTONIA GARCIA, CENTRO DA MULHER BAIANA - CEM - Brazil  
Daniel Capuccio, individual - Argentina  
Antonio Silvestre Leite, Autônomo - Brazil  
Francisco Mederos Medina, - Spain  
Hariharan A.J, Indian Community Welfare Organisation - India  
Domingo Acevedo. Acv2, Brigada Cimarrona Sebastian Lemba. - Dominican Republic  
KABONGO Jean, Solidarité Agissante pour le Développement Familial (SADF) ONG en Statut Consultatif Special de l'ECOSOC - Congo, The Democratic Republic Of The  
Teresa Lapis, giuristi democratici - Italy  
LONGBANGO NGBANDOMA Alphonse, Comité des Droits de l'Homme et Développement, CODHOD - Congo, The Democratic Republic Of The  
Javier Sanchez, 15M Azuqueca - Spain  
Stefano Portelli, Repensar Bonpastor - Spain  
Mauro Scalise, - Italy  
Achour Oussama, UCLG - Spain  
Lamarque Cecile, CADTM - Belgium  
Passadakis Alexis, - Germany  
Cristina Márquez Calzada, - Spain  
Silvia Soccio, - Italy  
Mar Toharia, Oriri - Spain  
Barbara Spinelli, movimento 5 stelle - Italy  
Oscar Revilla, - Spain  
Raúl García-Durán de Lara, Ateneu de Palafrugell - Spain  
Susana Mallen lorente, - Spain  
Manuel Vasco, Bluephoto - Spain  
Mariateresa Dubini, - Italy  
Carlo Cappellari, - Italy  
JOSE MANUEL RATIVA MAYUSA, CORPORACION COLOMBIA SOLIDARIA - Colombia  
Zaida Machuca Inostroza, - Chile  
Grattan Puxon, 8 April Movement - United Kingdom  
Javier Dean, Adsis - Spain  
Fariha Tariq, Beaconhouse National University - Pakistan  
John Kagana, Kikandwa Environmental Association - Uganda  
Madhu Talwalkar, Falcon Movement Association. - India  
Michel Azcuta, Villa El Salvador - Peru  
Maria de Lourdes Garcia Vázquez, Laboratorio Hábitat, Participación y Género LAHAS - Mexico  
Maristela Grynberg, RDIDH - Rede de Defensores independentes de Direitos Humanos - Brazil  
Berenice Avendaño, arquitectura social y sociedad estoica mexicana a.c. - Mexico  
Patricia Merkin, Hecho en Bs As - empresa social - Argentina  
Mariana Avalos, - Argentina  
Giuliana Bonosi, - Italy  
Frank Robbi, ESS-Munich - Germany  
Emanuel Bonfante Demaria Junior, Sindicato dos Trabalhadores em Empresas de Assessoramento, Pesquisas, Perícias, Informações e Congêneres de Minas Gerais -SINTAPPI-MG - Brazil  
Emanuel Bonfante Demaria Junior, Sindicato dos Trabalhadores em Empresas de Assessoramento, Perícias, Pesquisas, Informações e Congêneres de Minas Gerais - SINTAPPI-MG - Brazil  
Muhammad Hilaluddin Hilaluddin, ANGIKAR BANGLADESH - Bangladesh  
Ana Cortés, Comité de Solidaridad con África Negra - Spain  
Marielou Garroville, - Philippines  
Lurdinha Lopes Lopes, Movimento Nacional de Luta pela Moradia - MNLM - Brazil  
Marisa Velardita, Italia dei Valori - Italy  
Vuillon Daniel, Centre de Ressources pour l'Essaimage des AMAP, Association pour le Maintien de l'Agriculture Paysanne - France  
Alberta marin, I.S.M. din Pax Christi - Italy  
Miria Pericolosi, - Italy  
Yury Simonov, IAI Russia - Russian Federation  
Elena Lozzi, ASCI- Liguria - Italy  
Laura Pappasergio, - Italy  
ISABEL BARROSO, ASOCIACION EN DEFENSA DE LA VIVIENDA FAMILIAR. LA PAMPA. ARGENTINA. - Argentina  
Mardocheo MESADIEU, AJFCDA - Haiti  
MESADIEU Guylande, Fondation Zanmi Timoun - Haiti  
Berenice Avendaño, arquitectura social y sociedad estoica mexicana a.c. - Mexico  
Patricia Merkin, Hecho en Bs As - empresa social - Argentina  
Mariana Avalos, - Argentina  
Giuliana Bonosi, - Italy

