

HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO URBAN SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH. 4PM.
PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE ECUADOR.
AUDITORIUM - TOWER 1.

The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development, known as Habitat III, provides an opportunity for national governments -and the entire international community- to collectively assess the current policies regarding the construction of cities and set standards and mechanisms in order to make them become more inclusive, fair, sustainable and integrated spaces.

Currently, the high levels of inequality, segregation and exclusion -experienced by many sectors of urban populations- reveal the urgent need to rethink the way societies are being planned and developed. This is the main challenge to be faced.

Territorial expansion, internal migration, the mercantilization of land and housing, urban segregation, the growth and upsurge of informal settlements, employment crisis and social conflicts, are all processes associated with current models of urbanization.

The New Urban Agenda, that will emerge at Habitat III, must respond to the need of setting new development standards for building more just and inclusive cities. However, in many cases, the lack of political will or absence of clear enforcement mechanisms lead to the need to resort to the courts and the judicial system. Thus, public defenders, civil organizations, judges and magistrates will be key players in the design, implementation and control of the new urban principles.

THE EVENT

This meeting aims to reflect on the role to be taken by key actors and institutions responsible for the defense of human rights of the city inhabitants, and the need to think of an urban social justice.

In particular, the discussion will address the strategies that need to be promoted to ensure that the New Urban Agenda principles and the Sustainable Development Goals are effectively implemented.

Through the exchange between professionals and specialists from all over the world, the event will suggest the guidelines that the legal discussion should address in the future. As a strategy to continue with the agenda, upcoming events and conferences in this topic will be encouraged. The creation of an Observatory on Urban Social Justice will also be promoted in order to systematize progresses and good practices developed in Latin American countries.

MEDIUM AND LONG TERM GOALS:

1. Create an Urban Social Justice Observatory that will bring together experts on human rights defense from cities around the world in order to:
 - a. Promote the exchange of experiences and “best practices” at the local level, to develop urbanization models respectful of the urban social justice principles.
 - b. Develop analytic tools for tracking and monitoring urban public policies.
 - c. Report actions or policies that promote exclusive and segregated cities, or that threaten access to justice in urban matters.
 - d. Develop joint actions or public campaigns to promote access to justice in the cities, considering the New Urban Agenda principles and Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Encourage the development of webinars and conferences that allow regular discussion with stakeholders (public and judicial officials, activists, academics, civil society, etc.) on public policy or judicial strategies.

SPEAKERS

- Dr. Horacio Corti (General Defender. Public Ministry of Defense. Buenos Aires)
- Mg. Pablo Aguilar González (President. CNJUR Internacional).
- Maria Silvia Emanuelli (Habitat International Coalition)
- Dra. Perla Gómez Gallardo (Doctor in Law. UNAM)
- Dr. Fernando Murillo (Program Director UBA - UN Habitat Consultant)
- Dra. Rachelle Alterman (Neaman Institute for National Policy Research, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology)
- Dra. Marta Lora-Tamayo Vallvé (CNJUR - UNED)
- Josefina Torres Barón (Judicial Lawyer)