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Project author or developer:  
**A committee of civil society organizations in the context of the Habitat Forum**

Where:  
**IT / Italy / Biella**

Website:  
**[www.hic-net.org](http://www.hic-net.org)**

## Mission and Strategy

The Habitat International Coalition (HIC) is the global network for rights related to habitat. Through solidarity, networking and support for social movements and organizations, HIC struggles for social justice, gender equality, and environmental sustainability, and works in the defence, promotion and realization of human rights related to housing and land in both rural and urban areas.

## Strategic guidelines

The HIC strategic approach corresponds to three lines of intervention:

Strengthen networks between members, among them and with other networks and organizations, to promote the HIC mission through democratic practices and transparent management and in the spirit of gender equality and generational renewal. Accompany and support community processes in building alternatives towards a good living with dignity for all people by promoting gender equality and the social production of habitat, defending the right to a healthy environment, and fighting against violations of the rights to housing, land, and the city. Influence public policies related to housing and habitat at the local, national and global levels based on human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

## Objectives

HIC's work aims to meet four central objectives:

I: Advance towards gender equality and equity

Through the HIC gender mainstreaming plan, place gender as a fundamental issue that cuts across all aspects of habitat-related rights. Strengthen women's leadership at all levels to influence public policies. Challenge inherited cultural concepts and prejudice surrounding gender-based violence and link this issue with the rights to housing, land and the city. Promote gender equality in the HIC inner and outer world, ensuring that women of all ages hold decision-making positions. Strive to eliminate all forms of legal discrimination against women and to implement national legislation and international conventions that guarantee women their habitat rights, including inheritance rights. Towards this objective, focus on the promotion of legal instruments ratified by states and on raising women's awareness about their rights.

II: Defend the right to a healthy environment

Place environmental protection as a fundamental issue that cuts across all aspects of habitat rights. Increase efforts to raise awareness, educate and provide training on the importance of the environment in human habitat and on the challenges associated with climate change through the Coalition's tools, such as HIC Academy. Support the collection and dissemination of research on the impacts of climate change faced by the most vulnerable populations. Promote a critical analysis of environmental policies and advocate for the implementation of renewable energy policies and popular technological alternatives to eliminate the use of fossil fuels. Through networks of ecological specialists, develop campaigns that propose alternatives made collectively and publicly. Support risk prevention and disaster victims' claims, and defend the rights of all people affected by disasters to

