

Fighting Forced Eviction

Description of Event:

Forced Eviction is a violation of the right to housing and is becoming a major threat to the achievement of Target 11 of the Millennium Development. As the UN agency charged with the responsibility of monitoring the achievement of the goal. UN-HABITAT is organising a networking event to discuss the broad issue of forced eviction. The event will highlight what the current global situation is on forced evictions, what innovative approaches are being employed to address the situation such as those in Curitiba, Ghana, Nairobi, France and New York), best practices on preventive policies e.g., Brazil, Thailand and Argentina. The event will also highlight what UN-HABITAT is doing to address the situation through the newly established International Advisory Group on Forced Evictions.

Name of Organisation

UN-HABITAT

Description of Organisation

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme-UN-HABITAT is the United Nations Agency for human settlements. It is It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

Partner organisations:

International Advisory Group on Forced Evictions
UNHCHR -Special Rapportuer on Adequate Housing

Confirmed Speakers

Hon. Mr Minister Olivio Durto, Minister of Cities Brazil
Mr. Paulo Teixeira, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Sa Paulo, Brazil
Inger Lindgren, Director General, Ministry of Local Development and Regional Development Norway
Yves Cabannes, Convener, AGFE
Leticia Osorio, COHRE Latin America, Brazil
Cesare Ottolini, Coordinator International Alliance of Inhabitants, Italy
Malik Gaye, ENDA, Tiers du Monde, Sénégal
D. Satherwaite, Senior Fellow, Human Settlements Programme IIED, UK
Somsook Boonyabancha, Community Organisation Development Institute, Thailand
Jane Weru, Pamoja Trust, Kenya
Miloon Kothari, Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, India

Contact Information

Ms Sandra Baffoe-Bonnie
UN-HABITAT
Sandra.baffoe-bonnie@unhabitat.org



NETWORKING EVENT:
"Fighting Forced Evictions"
15 September 2004
9:30am – 12:30pm - Room 116



13-17 September 2004
Barcelona, Spain

Provisional Programme

Segment One: 9:30am – 10:30am

Opening: Minister O. Dutra, Minister of Cities, Brazil
Farouk Tebbal, Chief Shelter Branch, UN-HABITAT
Yves Cabbanes, Moderator, Convener, Advisory Group on Forced Evictions

Presentation of Report on Evictions

Leticia Osorio, Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions

Testimonies from selected cases:

Malik Gaye, ENDA Senegal

Cesare Ottolini, Coordinator Association of International Inhabitants

Comments and Questions

Perspective and Conclusion: M. Kothari Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing

Segment Two: 10:30am – 11:45am

Innovative Approaches – Overview, & Preventive Policies

David Satherwaite, Senior Fellow IIED

Somsook Boonyabacha, Asian Coalition for Housing Rights

Approaches of select countries:

Jane Weru, Pamoja Trust

Paulo Teixeira, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Brazil

Comments and Questions

Segment Three: 11:45am – 12:30pm

Way Forward: Perspective of UN-HABITAT, & the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions

Farouk Tebbal, UN-HABITAT

Inger Lindgren, AGFE Member

Yves Cabbanes, Convener, AGFE

Closing: Dr. Anna. Tibaijuka Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

ORGANIZATION

The event which will be organised in three sections, will start with opening remarks from Minister Dutra of Brazil, UN-HABITAT and Yves Cabbannes-Convener of the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions. This will be followed by a presentation on Reports on Evictions which will briefly highlight the situation as it exists in different countries. It will be complimented with testimonies, contribution by the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing on perspectives and conclusion. The second section will focus on innovative approaches and preventive policies with specific testimonies from the floor including a general debate, followed by, a question and answer segment. The final section will focus on the way forward from both the perspective of UN-HABITAT and the AGFE. Final concluding remarks will be presented by Minister Dutra and the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT. The Panellists will include:

- Minister Olivio Dutra Minister of Cities Brazil;
- Miloon Kothari, Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing;
- Leticia Osorio, Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE);
- Malik Gaye, ENDA Senegal;
- Cesare Ottolini, Coordinator, Association of International Inhabitants;
- David Satherwaite, Senior Fellow, IIED
- Somsook Boonyabacha, ACHR;
- Jane Weru, Pamoja Trust;

- Paulo Texeira, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Brazil;
- Inger Lindgren, Director General, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Norway;
- Yves Cabannes, Moderator.

The discussion will be conducted in English with translation in Spanish, French and other official UN languages.

VENUE AND DATE

The networking event will be held during the 2nd session of the World Urban Forum Barcelona on 15 September 2004 at Room 116 from 9:30-12:30.

For more information contact:

Ms. Sandra Baffoe-Bonnie
United Nations Human Settlements Programmes
(UN-HABITAT)

P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya
Tel: +254-20-624084; Fax: +254 20-624265

E-mail: gcst@unhabitat.org

Web-Site: www.unhabitat.org/gcst

Yves Cabannes, Convener AGFE
Harvard University, CUSD
Boston, MA USA
E-mail: ycabanes@gsd.harvard.edu



UN-HABITAT

Panel Discussion and Debate on Fighting Forced Evictions



15 September 2004

Time: 9.30 – 12.30

Room: 116



13-17
September 2004
Barcelona, Spain

WORLD URBAN FORUM
FORUM URBAIN MONDIAL
FORO URBANO MUNDIAL

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT:

During the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul a number of state members have raised the issue of forced evictions that are faced by the urban poor, especially those living in informal settlements. The Habitat Agenda has translated the resolution of the member states to provide security from forced evictions. in three paragraphs (40, 61 and 98). Paragraph 61, states the following: *“Governments should take appropriate action in order to ensure...effective protection from forced evictions that are contrary to the law”*;

Despite many positive developments in recent years which have significantly strengthened legal protection against force evictions under international law and which continue to confirm that forced evictions are a gross violation of human rights, and despite the many ongoing efforts by community organisations and NGO's forced evictions continue to occur. A Global survey conducted by COHRE in 2003 shows that most of the forced evictions occur largely as a result of development projects, urban beautification, gentrification and land alienation.

Forced evictions impact most negatively on the most vulnerable such women, children, the elderly and indigenous people. Evictions often take place in the middle of the day when the men are away from home. Women are left to defend their homes, and the evictors meet such resistance with violence, beating rape, torture or even death.

It is against this background that participants to the dialogue on the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure during the first World Urban Forum recommended to UN-HABITAT that it “establishes a group to promote mechanisms for linking systems of eviction monitoring to networks of institutions/individuals with experience in promoting negotiated alternatives”. The dialogue participants recommended further that the “composition of the group should include slum dweller associations, government, local authorities, NGOs, private sector professional organizations”.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

- Review what the forced eviction situation is world wide;
- Provide and opportunity to discuss best practices and innovative approaches;
- Discuss policy options;
- Present Report on activities of the Advisory Group of Forced Evictions;
- Discuss plan of action on the way forward.

“The practice of Forced Evictions constitutes a gross violation of human rights in particular the right to adequate housing”

Commission on Human Rights Resolution 1993.77

FOCUS OF THE DISCUSSION

The World Urban Forum provides and opportunity to share and discuss the global issue of forced evictions, its impact on the achievement of the Millennium Development

Goal on Slums, and what alternatives can be proposed to respond proactively. The event will provide the opportunity of a wide range on stakeholders particularly slum dweller communities to share their experience and approaches with dealing with the problem.

PARTICIPANTS:

In addition to the participation of the members of the Advisory Group, it is expected that the following participants will attend the session:

- representatives of countries and cities that have resolved successfully eviction issues,
- representatives of countries and cities that are facing or about to face such situations,
- NGOs and CBOs active in the field of Housing Rights and the protection of urban poor, women, minorities, and marginalized population against forced evictions,
- UN Agencies as well as multilateral and bilateral agencies, including: OHCHR, Cities Alliance, UNIFEM,
- Other experts, individuals and bodies such Global Development Goals Task force on slums, etc.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Participants are encouraged to bring information material related to the activities and experiences in the area of forced evictions to disseminate at the event. Documented cases and selected innovative approaches is available from www.unhabitat.org/gcst. These will also be made available to participants at the event.