



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 feed, 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 Argentina¹

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.

Comentario [MD1]: ???

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 27th 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!**

Info: www.habitants.org - <https://www.facebook.com/events/498799256828990/>
Signatures: amh-wai2013@habitants.org

¹ 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).