



HOUSING AND LAND RIGHTS NETWORK

Habitat International Coalition

HIC-HLRN side-event application for Africa Forum for Sustainable Development, “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions,” Cairo, 22-25 April 2024

Side event title: “Remedying Displacement amid Climate Change”

Sub-title: Addressing loss and damage in urban settlements: Localising norm-based assessment approaches, action, and finance mechanisms

Event description:

Progress on loss and damage by the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) and at the UN Climate Change Conferences of the Parties has been slow, but the CoP28 decision to establish the Loss & Damage Fund (LDF) is guided by both binding and non-binding normative frameworks, including adaptation commitments under SDGs 1, 5, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 17.

This event provides a repertoire of normative and methodological options for remedying a common feature of climate-change impacts, namely involuntary displacement. It showcases the organizers’ 15-year experience at quantifying impacts, including loss and damage (L&D), for remedy and reparation purposes. From these and other examples, the event seeks to demonstrate how climate-induced displacements—and displacements, in general—can be managed in practice at the local level with the full involvement of those most affected, with due consideration of non-economic loss and damage (NELD). The relevant normative frameworks help all stakeholders attain positive outcomes and avoid hazards, especially the prospect of urban areas becoming conflict zones in the process.

The proposed side-event will benefit from on-ground insights of locally and globally active CSOs, national and local authorities, and multilateral agencies in Africa. The panel discussion will:

- A. review experiences with L&D and its socio-economics impacts on urban communities, including impacts and responses to both climate-related extreme weather events and slow-onset hazards;
- B. examine human rights-based and community-based approaches to assess economic and non-economic L&D and
- C. finally draw conclusions for policy design aligned with the LDF and 2030 Agenda.

Objectives

This event aims to stimulate discussion of experiences at L&D by informal settlements and low-income communities and land tenure as increasingly important elements for equitable

and sustainable urban development. In this spirit, the panel discussion seeks to shed light on issues around the tangible and intangible impacts of L&D on urban communities in terms of multidimensional poverty and agency. Furthermore, the discussion on human rights-based assessment methods will yield conclusions for the localisation of human-centred and efficient operationalisation of L&D funds.

Key action areas

1. Universal access to adequate housing
2. Urban climate action and environmental protection
3. Urban crisis recovery
4. Localization of the SDGs and multilevel governance
5. Finance mechanisms

Organizers (Organizations)

1. Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN), Egypt
2. Habitat International Coalition (HIC) General Secretariat, South Africa
3. HIC-Sub-Saharan Africa Coordination, Nigeria
4. Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (Egypt)

Speakers (max. 5)

1. Mr. Ahmed Mansour, Legal Advisor, Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN)
2. Mr. Desmond Chieche, HIC-Sub-Saharan Africa Coordinator;
3. Mr. Joseph Schechla, Coordinator, Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN);

Moderator

Ms. Grace Chikumo-Mtonga, HIC President, Civil Forum for Housing and Habitat (Zambia);

Topics and questions to be discussed

The questions and issues refer to both, climate-related extreme weather events and slow-onset disasters and might be a this is a basis for working out the event description. Some of them could also be reformulated as political demands.

- 1. What is L&D – conceptualisation and examples from the ground**
 - Conceptual and practical distinction between climate-related L&D and climate adaptation, such as risk management approaches
 - Experienced NELD and ELD in informal settlements caused by extreme weather events and/or slow-onset disasters
- 2. Social impact of L&D**

Discussion: In how far does L&D affect

Multidimensional poverty of urban communities in terms of

- health (nutrition, child mortality),
- education (years in schooling, school attendance), and

- standard of living (cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets)?
- The agency of urban communities, defined as their ability to define goals and act on them?

3. Human rights and community perspective

- Observed cases and values at stake (e.g., human rights to remedy, adequate housing, water, land, adequate standard of living and continuous improvement, environment, participation) as direct or indirect consequences of extreme weather events and/or slow-onset disasters
 - Discussion about the legal basis for classifying human rights violations that occur in the context of extreme weather events as L&D
 - In how far can human rights violations be (technically) integrated into L&D assessments?
- Example and discussion of people-led / community-based approaches for assessing L&D (both ELD and NELD)

4. Funding and compensation mechanisms

- Which access to technical and financial resources of existing L&D funding and compensation mechanisms do urban communities have, how do they work?
 - Exchange and examples of barriers to speed, eligibility, adequacy and access to L&D finance for urban communities
- Outlining core elements of operationalizing the CoP 28 LDF to ensure adequate remedy for urban communities: speed, eligibility, adequacy and access to finance