

## CONCEPT NOTE

### **Side Event: Inequalities and Challenges of Social Inclusion: Housing and evictions, Extractive Industries and land grabbing.**

The event will be looking at how addressing inequalities and the challenges to social inclusion can reduce the problems of housing and shelter and consequently reduce the impact of social, economic, health and environmental related issues on local communities / indigenous people. The event will also discuss human rights violations related to housing and land, in particular forced evictions, while it will explore the community ownership of land and housing cooperatives as an alternative to the private ownership of land and housing.

Being focused on African countries, and other continents, the side event will also focus on the negative impacts of extractive and mining industries seeking to divert its profits to local populations through adequate taxation as well as to minimize land grabbing.

The event will in addition, highlight inequality and social exclusion as it relates to evictions, land, social injustices and gender inequality, being the issues Habitat International Coalition (HIC)<sup>i</sup> has been dealing with over the past 40 years.

The panelists will talk about the Right to the city and how this can be achieved despite the high level of inequality and social exclusion going on in and around the cities in developing countries, in particular in the African region.

The issue of extractive industries and evictions should also be discussed as this industry is growing exponentially in the African region but adequate taxation, salaries and redistribution of revenue is yet to be achieved. As this is a major concern for local communities, CSO actors are encouraged to discuss this issue at every United Nations Commissions.

The side event will also be contributing to the policy process of the United Nations Commission for Social Development, whose priority theme in this year's 57<sup>th</sup> session will be "Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies."

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<sup>i</sup> Habitat International Coalition (HIC) (<http://www.hic-gs.org/>) is the global network for the rights related to habitat. 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. HIC is a nongovernmental organization granted with Special Consultative Status with United Nation's Economic and Social Council since 1993.