

M. Lorena Zárate

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Lorena studied History at the National University of La Plata, Argentina. At the same time, she worked as a member of the editing and publishing team for the Centre for Environmental Studies and Projects (Fundación CEPA), the Latin American Forum for Environmental Studies (FLACAM) and the journal *Environment*.

She moved to Mexico City in 1999. In 2000, she started collaborating with Fomento Solidario de la Vivienda (FOSOVI) and other members of the Mexico Habitat Coalition (CHM for its initials in Spanish), the former HIC-GS team and the Urban Popular Movement in the organization of the first World Assembly of Inhabitants. Between 2003 and 2011, Lorena was the coordinator of the HIC-Latin American Regional Office. In late 2011, she was elected as HIC president (2011-2015).

During these years, Lorena has been involved in the elaboration and dissemination of the World Charter for the Right to the City, the consultation process to define the Mexico City Human Rights Program, and the Promoting Committee for the elaboration of the Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City, among several other local and national initiatives.

At international level, she has been working in close collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing as well as with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for the elaboration of thematic reports and recommendations for national and local governments on how to improve security of tenure, land and housing rights and the right to the city worldwide.

She has co-edited and published books and articles in Latin America, North America, South Africa and Europe on issues related to housing rights, social production and management of habitat and the right to the city (see below).

She has participated as a speaker in numerous workshops, seminars and conferences, as well as in meetings with HIC members and allies, local communities, activists and authorities in 27 countries, many of those within the framework of the World Urban Forum and the World Social Forum.

She has also given presentations and public lectures at universities in Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Mexico, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and USA. In 2013, she was awarded the *John Bousfield Distinguished Visitorship* from the Geography and Urban Planning Program at the University of Toronto, Canada.

More recently, she has made statements and presentations as HIC representative at the UN Human Rights Council and the first Integration Segment on the ECOSOC related to urbanization, the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Habitat III process.

She is currently co-coordinator of an international project to promote a Global Platform for the Right to the City, working in close collaboration with HIC staff and members, as well as with social movements, NGOs and international networks to develop a common action plan for advancing networking and alliances, research and capacity building, and communication and advocacy strategies.

Publications and Editing Work

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