



MENA LAND FORUM VII

Remedies for Climate Change and Conflict-induced
Displacement the in MENA Region

2024

Presented by:

Middle East/ North Africa Program

Housing and Land Rights Network

HABITAT INTERNATIONAL COALITION (HIC-HLRN)

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CONCEPT NOTE

Summary

HIC-HLRN seeks to remobilize and align common efforts and struggles of Members and allied CSOs in the region to empower civil society after the COVID-19 pandemic to develop together common regional approaches to the priority issues affecting the habitat-related human rights and remedies for people and communities in Middle East (West Asia) and North Africa.

The eighth Land Forum at Istanbul, 12–13 June 2024, is a vehicle for such collaboration, following the broken promises in implementing the global commitments under the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement, New Urban Agenda, and regional conferences of FAO, among other policy forums. This Land Forum will take place also in the context of new formations to remedying climate-change impacts, including the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FLD). This Land Forum also takes place in preparation for the next High-level Political Forum (July 2024) and the much-anticipated Summit for the Future (September 2024) and Pact of the Future toward needed reform of the UN.

In light of these crises and emerging norms, HIC-HLRN seeks to organize the next round of the Land Forum VII with a format and program that enable specialized CSOs members and partners to contribute productively to such key global and regional processes and their implementation. The next round of Land Forum and the follow-up process will produce an updated Action Plan with CSOs to pursue jointly and individually in a coordinated program for advocacy and positive change across the MENA region through collaboration focused on two high priorities: (1) costs, loss and damage associated with climate change and (2) housing, land and property (HLP) restitution for refugees and displaced persons across the region.

Background

The previous rounds of Land Forum have enabled HIC-HLRN and participants to jointly diagnose the main issues related to land across the region. The culmination of those inputs can be found in the regularly updated *The Land and Its People: Civil Society Voices Address the Crisis over Natural Resources in the Middle East/North Africa*.

HIC-HLRN seeks to organize the next round of the Land Forum beyond the usual conference format to prepare participants to engage their organization's programs related to land and natural-resource management, as well as to join forces in favor of the region's victims of gross violations of human rights and, thus, holders of rights to remedy and reparation.

The Land Forum will apply the collective tools and techniques developed by HLRN and partners to seek synergies and collaboration among them.

The participation of MENA civil society is crucially important as its is:

1. Committed to rule-based and human rights-based approaches to sustainable development and governance;
2. Potentially influential in guiding national-level policies, programs and projects consistent with these norms and standards;
3. Leaders in innovating best practices; and
4. Active in deliberations and monitoring outcomes in international forums, whereas opportunities are more restricted in the local and national spheres.

The upcoming round of Land Forum will culminate with an evaluation of the cases of climate change impacts and HLP restitution after displacement within their respective normative framework. The recommendations from the Land Forum discussion will be incorporated into Action Plans for CSOs to engage in the relevant global processes. These will be shared with the HIC-HLRN Members through the region and beyond. The Land Forum also will prepare participants to engage in the civil society forums and mechanisms related to these processes under forthcoming activities of HIC and HLRN.

General objectives:

- Develop the MENA Land Forum process as a mechanism to channel human rights-based research, assessments, projects in the field and problem-solving advocacy;
- Update knowledge and information on the range of relevant regional and global processes currently taking place;
- Provide analytical tools for relevant civil society actors to monitor and evaluate global policy commitments related to land (e.g., Paris Agreement, 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, “New Urban Agenda”);
- Establish the base of active HIC-HLRN Member activities for 2024–2027.

Specific objectives:

- Identify objectives and next steps for the UN’s High-level Political Forum Summit for the Future, and cooperation across the UN Human Rights System and Development System;
- Identify objectives and next steps for influencing the FLD and the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (CoP29) in November 2024;
- Consolidating civil society efforts in the Arab world to effect remedy and reparation for refugees and displaced persons;
- Prepare for other related advocacy opportunities proposed by the Land Forum participants.

See the MENA Land Forum VIII program below.

PROGRAM

Day 1: 12 June 2024		
9:00-9:30	Welcome to the MENA Land Forum VII: Ahmed Mansour, HIC-HLRN	
9:30-10:00	Participant introductions, expectations	
10:00-10:30	Land Forums Past and Looking Forward, Joseph Schechla	
10:30-11:00	Discussion	
<i>Break</i>		
Costs, Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change		
11:15-11:45	Hala Murad, Dibeem Environmental Development Society & Abdel Mawla Ismail, Egyptian Association for Collective Rights	Global Climate Justice Platform
11:45-12:15	Muhammad al-Helow, Egyptian Initiative on Climate Change and the Built Environment	Urban loss and damage constituency
12:15-12:45	Ahmed Mansour, HIC-HLRN & Mohamed al-Yatari, International Youth Council - Yemen	Transitional Justice & land restitution in Yemen
12:45-13:15	Maede Salimi, Center for Sustainable Development and Environment (CENESTA)	Climate change impacts on Iran's rural communities
13:15-13:45	Discussion Prospects and strategies for collaboration	
<i>Lunch</i>		
14:45- 15:15	Taleb Brahim, Sahrawi Farmers Union	Effects of climate change in Western Sahara
15:45- 16:15	Hassiba Belghith, Development Sustainable and Citizenship of Association	Loss and damage in Tunisia
15:15- 15:45	Joseph Schechla, HIC-HLRN Methods for monitoring climate finance	
15:45-16:15	Joseph Schechla, HIC-HLRN Quantifying costs, loss and damage	
16:15-16:45	Discussion: Prospects and strategies for collaboration	
<i>Adjournment</i>		
Consolidating Civil Actions		
17:00- 17:30	Discussion	Capturing lessons, priorities and opportunities for collaboration
Day 2: 13 June 2024		
Housing, Land and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons		
9:30-10:00	Ahmed Mansour and participants	Recap of Day 1
10:00- 10:15	Joseph Schechla, HIC-HLRN Regional overview of displacement	
10:15- 10:45	Ombretta Tempra, Arab Land Initiative – Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) Documenting HLP rights	
10:45-11:15	Anwar Majanni, The Day After Obstacles to HLP restitution in Syria	
11:15–11:45	<i>Break</i>	
11:45-12:15	Tasneem Fuad, Land Research Center-Jerusalem	HLP Restitution in Palestine – West Bank
12:15–12:30	Ahmed Sourani, Gaza Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Platform (GUPAP) (via Zoom)	Prospects for Gaza's Food System under Genocide
12:30-13:00	Saadia al-Salhy & Khalid Najj, Together to Protect the Human and the Environment HLP restitution in Iraq	
13:15-13:45	Discussion: Prospects and strategies for collaboration	
<i>Lunch</i>		
14:45-15:15	Mohamed al-Yatari, International Council of Youth	HLP reparation in Yemen
15:15-15:45	Ahmed Mansour, HIC-HLRN / Salah Abu Kashawwa, Istdama – Centre for Land and Environmental Governance (via Zoom)	Displacement in/from Sudan
15:45-16:15	Discussion: Prospects and strategies for collaboration	
<i>Break</i>		
Consolidating Civil Actions		
16:15-17:00	Moderated by one of the participants with HLRN	Regional strategic plan of action

17:00-17:15	Capturing lessons learnt and opportunities for cross-regional collaboration, Joseph Schechla & Ahmed Mansour	Concluding remarks
<i>Departure</i>		