



SDI.
SHACK/SLUM DWELLERS
INTERNATIONAL

JOINT COMMUNIQUE AGAINST FORCED EVICTIONS AFFECTING THE URBAN POOR

We, the members and representatives of the international movement of the urban poor, affiliated to Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI), join hands at our West Africa hub meeting held at Erata Hotel, Accra, Ghana from 18-22 October 2015 and approve and adopt the following communiqué.

Sharing the pain of our recently evicted sisters and brothers from the informal settlements of Crab Town in Freetown, Sierra Leone; Old Fadama in Accra, Ghana; and Badia East in Lagos, Nigeria.

Standing in solidarity with other communities under threat of eviction in Liberia, Togo, Burkina Faso, Senegal, among others.

Condemning the continued use of counter-productive demolitions and forced evictions against our communities in cities across Africa.

Having documented the many negative social and economic impacts of evictions on the shelter, livelihoods, lives, health, and educational opportunities of our communities.

Noting that forced evictions are a gross violation of international human rights law, including article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Recognizing that the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to end poverty, upgrade slums, and ensure access to clean water and sanitation by 2030.

Recognizing the leading role of some of our governments in developing a sustainable African Urban Agenda.

Acknowledging the challenges our governments and city authorities face in planning for inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities.

Recognizing the many ways our communities offer real solutions to urban challenges, such as lack of affordable housing, lack of access to basic services, among others.

We resolve the following:

1. To stand firmly united against evictions and demolitions affecting our communities.
2. To seek active partnership between our communities, governments, and city authorities to explore and implement community-led alternatives to evictions.
3. To leverage expertise developed by the SDI network over the past 30 years to utilize community resources and community generated data to upgrade our settlements.
4. To work together with our governments in gathering citywide data on our communities to assist in planning inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities.

And we call on:

National and Local Governments:

1. To refrain from, prevent, and protect our communities against homelessness and other negative impacts of evictions and demolitions.

2. To put in place and implement legislation and policies to prohibit forced evictions and enable us to secure land tenure for our communities.
3. To partner with us in developing, implementing, demonstrating the success of mutually agreed upon community-led alternatives to evictions.

Development partners:

1. To use all available influence to ensure that our governments refrain from, prevent, and protect our communities against homelessness and other negative impacts of evictions and demolitions.
2. To refrain from financing or otherwise supporting our governments should they continue to use forced evictions against our communities.

Regional organizations:

1. To use all available influence to ensure that our governments refrain from, prevent, and protect our communities against homelessness and other negative impacts of evictions and demolitions.
2. To adopt regional resolutions prohibiting forced evictions and encouraging security of tenure and in-situ upgrading of our communities.

Signed this 22nd of October 2015 in Accra, Ghana by:



Ghana:
Ghana Federation of the Urban and Rural Poor (GHAFUP)
People's Dialogue on Human Settlements

[Signature]



Nigeria:
Nigerian Slum/Informal Settlement Federation
Justice & Empowerment Initiatives - Nigeria

[Signature]



Sierra Leone:
Federation of the Urban and Rural Poor (FEDURP)
Centre Of Dialogue On Human Settlement and Poverty Alleviation (CODOHSAPA)

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Senegal:
Senegalese Federation of Inhabitants

[Signature]

Liberia:
Slum Dwellers Association of Liberia (SLUMDAL)
YMCA Liberia

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Togo:
Togo Federation
YMCA Togo

[Signature]

Burkina Faso:
Burkina Faso Federation
Laboratoire Citoyentés

[Signature]