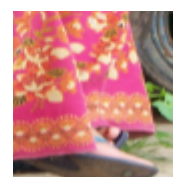


Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights



2013
ANNUAL
REPORT

Message from the Co-Executive Directors

20 years ago, when the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action was adopted, the international community reaffirmed that “All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis.” Today, that vision is just as vital as it was then, as human rights advocates work to transform a world wherein close to one billion persons live without inadequate housing, wherein over one billion persons lack access to clean water, and wherein over 840 million persons are chronically hungry.

In 2013, at Vienna +20, we are proud to say that we and other representatives of the global community once again reiterated “the importance of affording the same standard of protection to economic, social and cultural rights and to civil and political rights.” In today’s world, the interconnection and interdependence of all human rights is readily apparent and acknowledged. Yet, so too are the gaping inequalities which continue to exist in our ever more technologically advanced, yet ever more ecologically fragile, world. To advance on the most pressing questions which plague humanity today, we believe a human rights lens is key.

In 2013, the Global Initiative continued to raise its voice on behalf of ESC rights, and we have sought to work in close collaboration with our civil society partners, grassroots advocates and others throughout the world who are on the front lines of human rights advocacy within their communities. We are happy to have this opportunity to make a valuable contribution together with them, and are proud to say that we have achieved significant outcomes from our work – outcomes we see laying the foundation for transformative impact on the ground. In 2013, these outcomes were realized across all of our strategic priority areas – namely strategic litigation and legal advocacy; advancing women’s and ESC rights; and human rights and development.

Our work in strategic litigation, for example, has significantly strengthened international jurisprudence related to extra-territorial human rights obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and also led to the first ever complaint filed before the Human Rights Committee dealing with extra-territorial obligations. Extra-territorial obligations are those obligations a State has to respect, protect and fulfill human rights outside of its own borders.

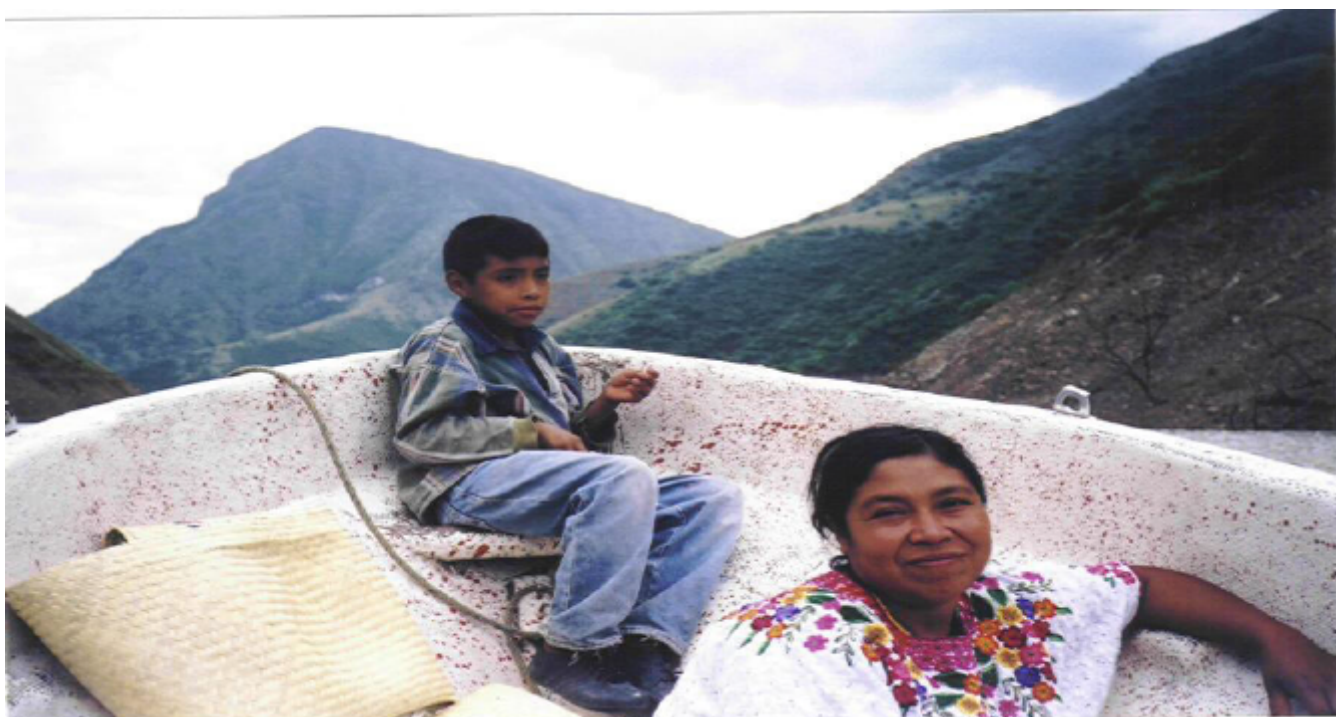
These achievements continue to advance the scope of ESC rights protection at the international level by expanding human rights accountability mechanisms to examine extra-territorial human rights violations. These results are part of our continued efforts to ensure that those that violate certain aspects of social rights – including those related to housing and water – are held accountable by the UN Human Rights Committee as violations under the ICCPR.

These successes before the UN Human Rights Committee have ensured that the principle of indivisibility of rights has real meaning and has expanded avenues for social rights enforcement under the ICCPR, including for social rights violations by States or corporate actors abroad. A range of human rights advocates are now using this expanded space for human rights accountability and remedies in their own respective advocacy, and we are proud to have helped pave the way.

Our organization also continues to play a vital role in the advancement of women’s economic, social and cultural rights with a particular focus on women’s rights secure rights to land and other productive resources. We believe that these rights are fundamental to improving women’s lives and to ensuring gender equality. Here, we have sought to create and strengthen a coherent set of progressive norms and standards which can be used by advocates to orchestrate change related to women’s rights to housing, land and other productive resources at various levels.

In 2013, we hosted a Thematic Briefing for the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) on women’s rights to land and other productive resources and later were invited to give a keynote presentation during the CEDAW Committee’s Day of Discussion on the rights of rural women. We also facilitated the participation of our international and national partners to attend and participate during this important session. The background paper, keynote address and partners’ participation all further informed the draft General Recommendation on the rights of rural women which will be adopted by the CEDAW Committee.

The Global Initiative also worked closely with partners to lead a campaign that successfully resulted in the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights adopting a landmark resolution on women’s rights to land and other productive resources. That resolution – the first of its kind – urged African States to fully comply with their obligations and commitments to ensure, protect and pro-



mote women's right to land and property. This resolution now lays the foundation for continued work towards a General Comment to Maputo Protocol on these rights.

In the area of human rights and development, we have continued to advocate for a post-2015 development paradigm that fully incorporates the human rights framework, and ESC rights in particular. As we noted above, in 2013, the Global Initiative participated in the Vienna + 20 Conference and helped draft the CSO Declaration that resulted in the official Vienna + 20 Outcome Document calling for the entire body of human rights to be at the core of the post-2015 development framework. The Global Initiative also joined forces with other organizations to call for human rights as the core of the post-2015 development framework, including leading a consortium of groups that pushed for the recognition of rights related to access to, use of and control over land and other productive resources as a key component of the development agenda.

2013 also brought new organizational growth and increased capacity. A UN Liaison, based in Geneva, was welcomed to our team and has made a wonderful contribution to our work. Our on-the-ground presence in Geneva has allowed us to amplify not only our own voice, but also the voice of partners and advocates from around the world who would otherwise not have access to the UN's human rights mechanisms. For example,

the Global Initiative and its partners made a joint intervention at the Human Rights Council calling for a clear statement by the international community acknowledging the human rights obligations of international financial institutions and the extra-territorial obligations of their Member States. This intervention lays the foundation for future work at the Council aimed at leading to a full panel discussion of this issue at a forthcoming session of the Human Rights Council.

Finally, at the end of our second full year of operation, we are happy to report that we have ended the 2013 fiscal year on a sound financial footing which lays the foundation for organizational growth in 2014 and beyond. We are extremely grateful to our donors for the financial support we receive, and for their shared vision. We look forward to the Global Initiative's continued work and engagement with our partners worldwide to ensure that all of the gains we have achieved so far continue to move us toward the transformative impact we seek.

Mayra Gomez and Bret Thiele

**Co-Executive Directors
Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**



Message from the Board of Directors

It was over 60 years ago now that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted, enshrining civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights as a comprehensive whole and side-by-side. 20 years ago, through the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the international community reaffirmed that “All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis.” And, just last year, at Vienna +20, representatives of the global community once again reiterated “the importance of affording the same standard of protection to economic, social and cultural rights and to civil and political rights.”

In our world, with rising poverty and inequality, and increasing conflict over resources, economic, social and cultural rights are perhaps more relevant than ever. Throughout 2013, the Global Initiative has continued to advance work in strategic areas where we feel the we can make the highest impact contribution: strategic litigation, advancing women’s rights and human rights and development.

This report shows significant accomplishments in all of these areas. By tackling emerging issues in the field

of economic social and cultural rights, such as the extraterritorial obligations of States or the impact of privatization on the enjoyment of basic rights such as the right to education, the Global Initiative has also proven itself a leader in the field of economic, social and cultural rights advocacy, and we are pleased with the progress that the organization has been able to make in only a few years since its founding.

As the Board of Directors we wish to note progress in governance as well. Keeping in mind that we are a relatively new organization we are pleased to report that we are building the foundation for sound governance. As of last year, we now have a Board of six members with gender and ethnic diversity, geographic diversity with each Director having a rich history in human rights and governance. Our backgrounds are posted on the website.

The Board is in regular contact with staff to review activities and strategies. As a 501(C)3 non profit, we are able to move forward with fundraising with institutional partners as described in the included financial report. We are pleased to report that the organization is on sound financial footing for 2014, and we are thrilled to say that 2013 has been a year of growth and increased capacity for the organization. Through the generosity of our donors we hope to see an increase in our human rights impact by bringing additional staff to

our work over the coming year. The board stands ready to move forward with fundraising when we can make a difference.

We believe that the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has become an important member of the human rights community. We look forward to continue doing our part to ease suffering and bring dignity to those for whom it is denied.

Meg Satterthwaite, New York, USA

David Stamps, MN, USA

Paul J. Nelson, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Ellen Dorsey, Washington, DC, USA

Opiata Odindo, Nairobi, Kenya

Malavika Vartak, London, United Kingdom

Board of Directors

Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

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Introduction

The Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural (GI-ESCR, hereinafter ‘Global Initiative’) seeks to advance the realization of economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights throughout the world, tackling the endemic problem of global poverty through a human rights lens. In doing so, however, we rely on the full spectrum of human rights and in particular civil and political rights such as the rights to participation and access to information. We believe that humanity’s current crisis -- wherein close to 2 billion people worldwide daily lack access to adequate nutrition, health care, education, housing, water and sanitation -- will only be overcome through the concerted efforts of human rights, women’s rights, environmental and development organizations and agencies. The Global Initiative seeks to play a catalyzing role in fostering these cross-sector collaborations on key issues and linking them to human rights law and mechanisms.

In 2013, the Global Initiative worked to advance three strategic priority areas, namely: strategic litigation and legal advocacy; advancing women’s and ESC rights; and human rights and development. Through these strategic areas, we have hoped to contribute to the advancement of ESC rights while at the same time showcasing our unique perspective and contributions as an organization.

This report highlights the Global Initiative’s key activities and resulting achievements across these strategic areas and discusses the relevance of the gains made, as well as opportunities for building upon these successes.

1. Strategic Priority: Strategic Litigation and Legal Advocacy

Strategic Litigation and Legal Advocacy

As human rights advocates know, with human rights come obligations, and when those rights and obligations are violated, the victims are due remedies and the perpetrators should be held accountable. This basic equation is part of the power of human rights. These ideas of rights, obligations and accountability, however, have for too long been denied when they come to the arena of economic, social and cultural rights. The aim of the Global Initiative’s strategic litigation and legal advocacy is to continue to move the justiciability of ESC rights from theory to practice.

In order to do so, the Global Initiative engages in and supports human rights lawyering at national, regional and international levels. Our philosophy in this regard is to build a body of progressive jurisprudence that not only protects ESC rights in practice, but informs those rights from the perspective of marginalized communities. We must

advance new frontiers in ESC rights and continue to ensure that these rights are legally enforced, thereby ensuring the strength, coherence and continued relevance of the international human rights framework, the accountability of actors that violate human rights, and effective remedies when rights are violated.

Because litigation and other forms of legal advocacy play an important role in protecting an individual's or a community's existing social and economic entitlements as well as improving those situations, and because litigation is often necessary to prevent, halt or remedy violations of ESC rights, it is critical not only to catalyze and intervene in legal cases but also to empower local actors to undertake legal action on their own behalf. This strategy will not only ensure protection of rights for claimants, it will also create beneficial jurisprudence in the area of ESC rights at various levels which will have far-reaching structural and systemic impact. Enabling this work entails building the capacity of grassroots individuals, groups and communities, as well as of lawyers and other human rights advocates, to claim and enforce rights through legal advocacy, as well as creating resources and tools explaining how ESC rights can be claimed and enforced.

Goals of the Global Initiative regarding strategic litigation and legal advocacy are first and foremost aimed at holding perpetrators of human rights violations accountable and at achieving remedies for victims and survivors for those violations. Beyond that, however, the Global Initiative seeks to achieve structural and transformative change by engaging in legal advocacy with the aims of: (1) demonstrating the justiciability of ESC rights; (2) achieving broad public-interest, structural and systemic remedies; (3) expanding the scope of human rights protections; (4) expanding the scope of human rights mechanisms; and (5) furthering the accountability element of the human rights-based approach to development.

Global Initiative Promotes and Enforces Extra-Territorial Human Rights Obligations

In 2013, the Global Initiative continued its work on promoting and enforcing extra-territorial obligations [ETOs], a cutting edge issue within the field of human rights, and of special relevance to ESC rights in particular. ETOs entail the legal obligations of States related to human rights violations abroad, whether by the State directly or by other actors, such as transnational corporations, that the State is in a position to regulate. This work includes continuing its leadership role within the ETO Consortium and helping implement the Consortium's Strategic Plan. In 2013, the Global Initiative was re-elected by its peers to serve on the Steering Committee of the ETO Consortium. The Global Initiative also provides leadership for the Consortium's International Financial Institutions and Development Cooperation Focal Group and provides its expertise on strategic litigation to Consortium members and others.

The Global Initiative prepared two publications for the ETO Consortium, one on the extra-territorial obligations of Member States of international financial institutions such as the World Bank and regional development banks, and one on extra-territorial obligations in the context of bilateral development assistance. These publications will now be used by the ETO Consortium to build the capacity of Consortium members and civil society more broadly to understand the ETO implications of international financial institutions (IFIs) and development cooperation and to hold States accountable for human rights violations that occur in the context of decisions and actions related to IFI and other development agreements and projects.

Ensuring Recognition of Extra-Territorial Obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

In 2012 the Global Initiative laid the foundation for strategic litigation under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) dealing with extra-territorial obligations (ETOs) by successfully using the periodic reporting process to ensure the recognition of extra-territorial obligations under the ICCPR. The resulting Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee represent the clearest articulation of extra-territorial human rights obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to date, and also reinforces the principle of indivisibility.

Building upon this outcome, the Global Initiative filed an Individual Complaint against Canada for failing to regulate two Canadian transnational corporations for human rights violations abroad and for failing to provide accountability mechanisms and remedies to the victims of those violations. The case deals with two Canadian corporations

complicit in the construction, marketing and selling of Israeli settlements in occupied Palestine and is the first of its kind dealing with the extra-territorial application of the ICCPR in the context of corporate accountability.

While the decision is not yet known, the groundwork has been laid. The expected decision could be groundbreaking both in terms of corporate accountability and with regard to the extra-territorial human rights obligations of countries to respect and to protect human rights abroad.

Scrutinizing the United States on its Extra-Territorial Human Rights Obligations

In 2013, the Human Rights Committee prepared to scrutinize the United States regarding its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Global Initiative intervened regarding the United States' extra-territorial obligations under the Covenant.

First, the Global Initiative successfully intervened with a Parallel Report laying out the extra-territorial obligations under the ICCPR and requesting that the Committee include scrutiny on those obligations within the periodic review of the United States. The resulting 'List of Issues' adopted by the Committee, which defines the scope of review, required the United States to discuss its understanding of the "the scope of applicability of the Covenant with respect to individuals under its jurisdiction but outside its territory; in times of peace, as well as in times of armed conflict." As the Parallel Report made clear, the jurisprudence of the Committee provides a clear articulation of the extra-territorial application of ICCPR obligations. Notwithstanding, the United States continues to state that the ICCPR only applies within its territory.

The Global Initiative's Parallel Report for the periodic review also called on the Committee to hold the United States accountable for extra-territorial obligations in the context of decisions made within international financial institutions such as the World Bank, and provided the Human Rights Committee with a detailed examination of extra-territorial obligations under the Covenant. The Global Initiative also worked with the International Human Rights Clinic at the Western New England School of Law to submit a joint Parallel Report containing emblematic examples of failure to regulate U.S. corporations for activities abroad that resulted in human rights violations. Our UN Liaison prepared short memos on the two Parallel Reports and met with and briefed several members of the Committee on the issue of extra-territorial obligations.

Advocating that the World Bank Must Ensure and Abide by its Human Rights Obligations

The Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) of the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) has been asked to consider human rights violations against Honduran villages, as part of its audit of a \$30 million loan to the Dinant Corporation, a Honduran African palm oil producer controlled by Honduras' largest landowner, Miguel Facusse. The World Bank loan was made in late 2009, to Dinant Corporation and the military-backed regime that came to power in Honduras after the June 2009 military coup, and that was engaged in widespread repression and human rights abuses against the Honduran people.

In March 2013, the Global Initiative and its partner Rights Action submitted a brief to the CAO explaining that, as a Specialized Agency of the United Nations, the World Bank is obligated by international law to further the objectives of the United Nations Charter, which include "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all." Thus the policies and directives of the Bank must be interpreted and defined in accordance with international human rights law and the Bank should defer to UN human rights mechanisms in order to determine if loans contribute to the violation of human rights. It was also argued that the Bank must ensure that the victims are afforded effective remedies and allowed to participate in decisions relating to any further development in their territories.

The brief further argued that Member States of the World Bank are legally obligated to abide by their respective extra-territorial human rights obligations within the context of decisions and actions taken as Member States and urged the CAO to find Member States of the World Bank in violation of their respective human rights obligations in relation to violations that resulted from the Dinant Corporation loan.

In early 2014, the World Bank's Office of the CAO has found that the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) failed to abide by its own ethical standards, including failing to ensure that human rights obligations are met, by continuing to finance Corporación Dinant.

The CAO relied heavily on a human rights analysis in finding that the IFC failed to adequately supervise the funded project and failed to ensure that Dinant abided by environmental and social standards, including international human rights standards. According to the CAO, the "IFC's Policy on Social and Environmental Sustainability (Sustainability Policy) expresses the Corporation's mission in terms of promoting sustainable private sector development" and the Sustainability Policy requires the IFC to "avoid infringing on the human rights of others and to address adverse human rights impacts business may cause or contribute to" and that "in this context the Sustainability Policy (2012) provides that the IFC will be guided by the International Bill of Human Rights and the eight core conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO)."

Global Initiative Files Complaint before Human Rights Committee Condemning Forced Evictions in the Philippines

In 2013, the Global Initiative represented residents of Corazon de Jesus, a community in San Juan City, Metro Manila, in filing an Individual Complaint before the UN Human Rights Committee. The Complaint seeks accountability and remedies from the Philippines for the brutal forced eviction of the community that took place last year. The Complaint also seeks a permanent halt to any further evictions. The Global Initiative worked closely with its local partner, Defend Job Philippines, a human rights organization based in the Philippines, and the International Human Rights Clinic at the New England University School of Law in the United States in preparing the complaint.

This complaint follows on the work of the Global Initiative in opening the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as an instrument under which to seek justice for forced evictions.

Global Initiative Participates in OP-ICESCR Capacity Building Workshop: Slovakia

At the invitation of ESCR-Net, the Global Initiative participated in a workshop for Slovakian civil society on how to strategically litigate under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Some thirty Slovakian organizations learned the content of economic, social and cultural rights generally; how to use the Optional Protocol to enforce those rights; and applied this content to their specific areas of work. The Global Initiative will continue to work with ESCR-Net to assist Slovakian organizations as they now move this work forward.

Guide on Strategic Litigation under the OP-ICESCR

The Global Initiative also worked with ESCR-Net to produce a Guide on Strategic Litigation under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Guide, now being finalized by ESCR-Net, provides both details on the process for bringing a complaint under the Optional Protocol and strategic advice on how to ensure that such complaints are successful. The Guide also includes advice on how to complement strategic litigation with other advocacy strategies as well as suggestions for follow up advocacy after a successful litigation outcome.

2. Strategic Priority: Advancing Women's ESC Rights

Advancing Women's ESC Rights

Today, women represent approximately 70 per cent of the 1.2 billion people living in poverty throughout the world. Inequality with respect to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights is a central fact of women's lives in every region of the world. Ongoing inequality in the sphere of ESC rights contributes to the continuing subordination of women and makes them especially vulnerable to violence, exploitation and other forms of abuse.

While all of the activity streams within the work of the Global Initiative incorporate a gender-sensitive perspective, we feel it is vital to include a targeted focus on advancing women's ESC rights. A particularly important issue in



this are of work is ensuring women's access to, use of and control of land and other vital resources. Ensuring women's access to, use of and control over, land and property, is fundamental to improving women's lives and to ensuring gender equality. When women are able to enjoy their land and property rights, women are much better able to meet their material needs, and to provide for the wellbeing of their families. Land and property provide women with the basic productive assets and resources they need to improve the quality of their lives, and to weather some of life's most difficult challenges.

But, just as importantly if not more so, land and property rights go beyond addressing women's immediate material needs, and speak directly to what some have called women's 'strategic needs.' In other words, advancement of these rights advances the broader goal of gender equality. Experience shows that fulfillment of women's right to land and property has profoundly transformative effects, uplifting women's status and improving women's lives, making it an important focus for those concerned with women's equality and empowerment everywhere.

The Global Initiative's work in this area encompasses several components which are key to advancing women's land and property rights in practice, as well as strengthening the normative framework protecting these rights, with a particular focus on Africa. To this aim, the project focuses specifically on utilizing various strategic spaces at international and regional levels to further these rights, namely the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the human rights treaty bodies of the United Nations. The project also envisions continuing ongoing strategic discussions and partnerships between key actors and organizations working on these issues. Each of these activities is carried out with African and other international partner organizations wherever possible.

Strategic Meeting Seeks to Advance Women's Land and Property Rights in Africa

Since 2008, a group of international and national organizations began meeting annually around the time of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to discuss their work related to women's land and property rights. These meetings resulted in increased networking and sharing of strategies, both community driven and professional policy work, as well as other opportunities to raise the profile of these issues, for example through the coordination of CSW side event and the production of a publication on women's housing, land and property rights. For the past two years, this meeting has been convened by the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

While this previous work has helped to partially consolidate a group of key organizations poised to carry out shared advocacy, particularly as it relates to women's land and property right in Africa, there has been a desire to focus

more on possibilities for collaboration. In 2013, the group – comprised of international, regional and national organizations – discussed concrete collaborative efforts vis-à-vis advocacy before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

As a result of the meeting, participants agreed to work collaboratively on the adoption of a thematic resolution on Women's Land and Property Rights in Africa, as well as a General Comment to the Maputo Protocol addressing Women's Land and Property Rights. These efforts are also supported by Commissioner Soyata Maiga (the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa), who also attended the meeting. A 6-person inter-organization working group was also created to follow up these efforts, coordinated by the Global Initiative.

Adopted!: Landmark Resolution of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights on Women's Land and Property Rights in Africa

In close collaboration with our long-standing partner, the Initiative for Gender Equality and Development in Africa (IGED-Africa), the first goal was achieved in November 2013 when the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted a ground-breaking Resolution on women's right to land and other productive resources.

With this resolution, the African Commission urged States "to fully comply with their obligations and commitments to ensure, protect and promote women's right to land and property" and encouraged them "to repeal discriminatory laws and adopt legislative measures to sanction customary practices that limit or have a negative impact on women's access to, use of and control over land and other productive resources." The Commission also called on States "to organise sustained public sensitisation, information and education campaigns for community and religious leaders in order to transform socio-cultural patterns of conduct that deprive women of their security of enjoyment of and equal access to property, land and adequate housing" as well as "to undertake land and agrarian reforms to ensure equal treatment for women in rural development, land distribution and social housing projects."

The resolution paves the way for continued advocacy with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on women's land and property rights issues, and we are continuing to work with partners to make more normative advancements in the near future.

Thematic Briefing with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Committee (CEDAW Committee) Highlights Women's Land Rights

The CEDAW Committee has turned its attention to the unique and important issues of rural women around the world and is in the process of elaborating a General Recommendation on the rights of rural women. This presents an important opportunity for developing a framework that expands the interpretation of state obligations, ensures the elimination of discrimination and promotes substantive equality of rural women, particularly in the context of rights to land and access to other productive resources.

As part of this process, in February 2013, the Global Initiative convened a Thematic Briefing for the CEDAW Committee on 'Rural Women and Land and Property Rights,' held in Geneva, Switzerland. In total, 17 Committee members attended, including the Chair of the CEDAW Committee (Ms. Nicole Ameline, France) and the Chair of the Working Group charged with drafting the General Recommendation on the Rights of Rural Women (Ms. Naéla Gabr, Egypt). With the help of our partner the International Land Coalition (ILC), 19 written submissions were received from organizations around the world working on rural women's land rights which also informed the briefing. Collaborating organizations included International Women's Rights Action Watch - Asia & Pacific (IWRAP), Federation of Women Lawyers – Kenya (FIDA-Kenya), Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Bangladesh, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, International Land Coalition and FIAN International.

From this Briefing, CEDAW Committee members gained new knowledge on the relevance of women's land and property rights, as well as knowledge of how other UN agencies and UN human rights treaty bodies have addressed these issues. Committee members expressed a willingness to apply this knowledge to the drafting of their General Recommendation on the Rights of Rural Women. Within the context of this project, the Global Initiative also pre-

pared a Compendium and analysis of what the CEDAW Committee has said with respect to women's land and property rights within its Concluding Observations over the past 10+ years. This along with other documentation was presented to the Committee during the Briefing.

Global Initiative helps to inform the CEDAW Day of Discussion on the Rights of Rural Women

In October 2013, the CEDAW Committee held a Day of Discussion on rural women which aimed to further inform the draft General Recommendation on the Rights of Rural Women. Civil society representatives of rural women from all around the world briefed the Committee on the situation of the human rights of rural women. A common theme that arose was the importance and transformative nature of secure access to land and other productive resources, for the lives of rural women and their families. The Global Initiative's Mayra Gomez was invited to give a keynote presentation on this issue. This was indeed an honor for the Global Initiative, as providing a keynote at an event such as this is a rare and important opportunity.

Working with our partners, the Global Initiative also led a joint oral statement on behalf of 7 organizations (in addition to ourselves, cosponsoring organizations included ActionAid, Huairou Commission, International Accountability Project, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), International Land Coalition (ILC) Secretariat, and Landesa. The Global Initiative also prepared and submitted its own written submission. These interventions will help to inform the Committee's deliberations as it articulates and adopts this important new standard.

Ongoing Advocacy before International Human Rights Treaty Bodies Leads to Increased Scrutiny on Women's Land and Property Rights in Multiple Countries

During the course of 2013, the Global Initiative prepared and submitted twelve Parallel Reports on women's land rights, four to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Rwanda, Togo, Djibouti and Gabon), four to the UN Human Rights Committee (Angola, Mozambique, Djibouti and Mauritania) and four to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) (Angola, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Benin).

The results of these interventions have been very positive, with the Committees picking up on the issues that the Global Initiative has raised within the context of its reporting. This is particularly true with the CEDAW Committee, where all Concluding Observations have been influenced to specifically address women's land rights.

On Angola, the CEDAW Committee recommended that the State Party adopt the Land Reform Programme without delay and '[s]ensitize traditional leaders on the importance of eliminating discriminatory practices ... and put an end to the application of customary law that discriminates against women with regard to land inheritance.'

On Cape Verde, the CEDAW Committee said that it was 'particularly concerned that the absence of a land registration system prevents rural women from using ownership of land as a guarantee in order to gain access to financial credit.' It asked the State Party to implement specific measures, to combat rural women's poverty and ensure their access, inter alia, to fertile land. It also asked that the State take measures to tackle the root causes, including irregularities in the registration of land, preventing rural women from gaining access to land, property and credit.

On the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the CEDAW Committee expressed concern about discriminatory customary practices with regard to the inheritance of land and asked that the State party withdraw various discriminatory provisions of the 1987 Family Code. As with Angola, it also asked that the State party raise the awareness of traditional leaders on the importance of eliminating discriminatory practices against women with regard to land inheritance.

On Benin, the Committee expressed concern 'that the customary practice of excluding women from inheriting agricultural land remains dominant in rural areas and that women continue to face practical difficulties in gaining access to both land and credit. The Committee also notes that, although women are overrepresented in the agricultural workforce and women's agricultural organizations make up 70 per cent of all small farmers' organizations, they are not sufficiently included in the decision-making process and management of resources, such as land, water and forestry.'

The CEDAW Committee also made a significant three-part recommendation to the State in this regard, urging Benin to conduct awareness-raising activities targeting the general public in rural areas, including traditional leaders, to effectively implement the 2007 Land Code and to ensure that women have access to land and credit facilities on an equal basis with men; enhance the economic and political empowerment of women in rural areas, through the use of temporary special measures, in order to ensure that women participate in the decision-making process and management of resources, in particular land, water and forestry; and assess the status and progress in the implementation of the 2001 Policy for the Advancement of Rural Women and Women in Agriculture and, on that basis, develop gender-responsive land policies and programs, and ensure that women fully participate in their formulation, implementation and evaluation.

Advocacy with the Human Rights Committee also showed many inroads. For example, on Mozambique, the Human Rights Committee expressed concern that women are vulnerable to discrimination under customary law, including in respect of inheritance and access to land; on Mauritania the Committee expressed concern related to women's inheritance rights and the rights of spouses during and at the termination of marriage; and on Djibouti the Committee expressed concern over the application of the Family Code.

Similarly, in the Concluding Observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on Gabon the Committee expressed regret that that provisions that discriminate against women, including the possibility of applying customary law in matters of succession and the non-recognition of married women as independent landowners, have been maintained in domestic legislation, and the Committee recommended that the State revise its legislation accordingly.

3. Strategic Priority: Human Rights and Development

Human Rights and Development

Even where the political will exists to uphold human rights, many State authorities and development practitioners do not have the technical expertise they need to translate human rights standards into day-to-day policy and practice. ESC rights highlight this gap dramatically: the traditional human rights approach (characterized by 'naming and shaming,' and documentation of violations) simply falls short when it comes to creating the tools necessary for the practical realization of rights like housing, water and sanitation, and health care. To advance, we must also recognize and overcome this obstacle, creating new tools which allow us to easily translate rights on paper into rights in reality. This means that we need to document what works, and we need to make those solutions far more accessible. Resources demonstrating how ESC rights can and have successfully been implemented – including fulfilled – in practice (highlighting key obstacles to implementation and how these may be overcome) serve as invaluable tools which complement more traditional documentation of violations.

Furthermore, engaging the development community in the ESC rights conversation is a critical aspect of the Global Initiative's work. Here, a golden opportunity looms on the horizon, because we are currently in the midst of global discussion and debates regarding the post-2015 MDG agenda. The 2015 deadline for meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is fast approaching. The MDGs represent the first-ever global framework and partnership for development, and World Bank and UN reports on progress indicate that the MDGs have been instrumental in focusing donors and governments on a set of priority actions. However, while there has been progress in some areas, reports also indicate that there are still enduring pockets of poverty for some regions and for marginalized populations in particular.

The Global Initiative works with global networks of human rights and development organizations to ensure that ESC rights permeate the development agenda, and to ensure that practitioners are well informed on rights based approaches to development and the specific relevance of ESC rights. We seek to use this position to help bridge the gap between these complementary sectors so that together they can have real and meaningful impact on the development framework, including the post-2015 MDG framework.



The Global Initiative Joins International Human Rights Community at Vienna + 20

The Global Initiative actively participated in the Vienna + 20 Civil Society Organization Conference. The Global Initiative contributed in areas associated with its Strategic Priorities, namely women's human rights, extra-territorial obligations, and the post-2015 development framework. The Global Initiative participated on three panels dealing with these three areas of strategic priority and in a media event related to Vienna + 20 as well as on the overall Drafting Committee for the Vienna +20 CSO Declaration.

With the Vienna + 20 CSO Declaration, civil society has spoken clearly and with a concerted voice reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and reminded States that human rights must take primacy, including in the post-2015 development framework. The Declaration was immediately sent to the State delegations at the Vienna + 20 conference.

The CSO Declaration will also guide and focus the work of the NGOs and CSOs at Vienna + 20 over the next several years and progress on implementing the Declaration will be monitored along the way. The CSO Declaration called for a Third World Conference on Human Rights in 2018 where the results of implementing the Declaration will be considered.

The CSO Declaration also influenced the Vienna + 20 Outcome Document, including in the area of human rights obligations of international financial institutions including extra-territorial obligations of Member States of IFIs. The Vienna + 20 Outcome Document, drafted by Member States of the United Nations, recognized the human rights obligations of inter-governmental organizations, which includes international financial institutions such as the World Bank and regional development banks, as well as the recognition of extra-territorial human rights obligations, and also made clear that such human rights norms, and indeed the entire body of human rights, must be at the core of the post-2015 development framework.

The Global Initiative also contributed to a book chapter on 'Human Rights in the Post-2015 Development Agenda,' which appears in the book *Vienna +20: Advancing the Protection of Human Rights: Achievements, Challenges and Perspectives 20 Years after the World Conference*.

Research and Advocacy Project on the Impact of the Development of Private Education in Morocco

In September 2012, the Global Initiative, together with the Moroccan Coalition on Education for All and the Forum des Alternatives Maroc, started a one-year project to assess the impact of the rapid growth of private education on the right to education in Morocco, in particular at the primary level. This project is supported by the Privatization in Education Research Initiative and is part of a broader inquiry into the push for private education in the world, as private education has been growing at a fast pace in many developing countries over the last decade, raising issues about discrimination and segregation in access to quality education.

The project consists of a one-year empirical research on the impact of privatization in education in urban areas in Morocco. The results of this research are used in parallel to conduct advocacy at the UN level with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which is reviewing the implementation by Morocco of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which protects the right to education. As part of its advocacy efforts, the Global Initiative has submitted a parallel report Committee on the Rights of the Child which was complemented with a list of recommendations. A visual summary of key issues in the report was also produced.

As a result of this, the Committee on the Rights of the Child issued a list of issues, to which the Moroccan government must respond in writing, and which questions Morocco about its policy of privatizing education.

The Global Initiative Joins with Partners to Call for Human Rights to be Placed at the Center of the Post-2015 Development Framework

The Global Initiative joined some 300 other organizations in a joint intervention demanding that the human rights framework be the core of the post-2015 development framework and be integrated into all aspects of that framework. Published on International Human Rights Day, the joint statement “Human Rights for All Post-2015” was presented to the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals at its 6th session later this week. It set out 10 practical, baseline implications of embedding existing human rights standards into the core of the sustainable development agenda.

The joint statement, advanced by a caucus of human rights organizations, is part of a series of advocacy activities in New York and across the globe to ensure that human rights are not marginalized from the operational aspects of the sustainable development agenda.

Human Rights Council: Accountability of International Financial Institutions

The Global Initiative jointly drafted and presented, along with Amnesty International, FIAN and the Indian Law Resource Center, a statement to the Human Rights Council on the human rights obligations of Member States of international financial institutions such as the World Bank and regional development banks.

The statement contributes to a longer term campaign aimed at getting the Human Rights Council to reaffirm these obligations, as already expressed in the 2011 UN International Law Commission’s “*Draft Articles on Responsibility of International Organizations*” and the Maastricht Principles on Extra-Territorial Obligations of States, including by holding a panel discussion on this topic at a forthcoming session of the Council.

Global Initiative Practitioners Guides on the Human Rights Based Approach to Development

In partnership with the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, the Global Initiative continued to produce the first of its Briefing Papers on the human rights-based approach to development in the areas of environmental justice and ecology, the right to water, participation, land, women migrant workers, and family planning. These papers provide a detailed examination of the human rights-based approach to development in their respective areas, including sources of international norms. Importantly, they also offer real world examples of how governments and other policy-makers can best implement development plans within the human rights framework and thereby achieve real-world sustainable human development. This first round of briefing papers will be released in 2014.

4. Partnerships and Networks

The Global Initiative actively participates in several relevant networks, including:

- ☐ ESCR-Net Adjudication Working Group
- ☐ ESCR-Net Strategic Litigation Initiative
- ☐ ESCR-Net Women and ESC Rights Working Group
- ☐ ESCR-net Social Movement Working Group
- ☐ Extra-Territorial Obligations Consortium
- ☐ ETO Consortium World Bank/IMF Focal Point Working Group
- ☐ World Bank and Human Rights Affinity Group
- ☐ Bringing Human Rights Home: ESC Rights; Working Group

5. Financial Report

2013 Internal Unaudited Financial Statement

(January 2013 – December 2013)

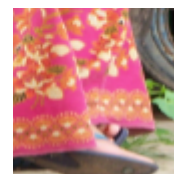
2013 Unaudited Financial Statement				
items in blue represent funds/grants carried over from 2012				
Grant:	OSF (CEDAW)	Anonymous 1	Anonymous 2 (Year 1)	Anonymous 1 Renewal
Income by Grant Received:	20,104	82,950	60,000	210,000
Staff costs				
Salaries	11,500	34,750	45,000	99,665
Project Costs				
Flights & Transportation	3,274	9,842	3,700	13,524
Accommodations	2,724	6,950	1,759	5,527
Meals & Per Diem	1,135	7,635	1,683	3,770
Materials				
Visas				
Meeting/Venue Costs	1,195			
Joint Project Agreements (JPAs)				
				35,098
Office Support / Overhead				
Rent		1,468	1,852	
Utilities		66	91	
Internet		439	458	271
Office Supplies		623	1,116	11,805
Communications & Publications	265	891	1,297	612
Wire Transfer & Bank Fees		171		500
Website				
Other			50	1,500
Reserves				
TOTAL Income	20,104	82,950	60,000	210,000
TOTAL Expenses	20,094	62,834	57,006	172,272
Remaining Unspent Balance (at end of	10	20,116	2,994	37,728



The Global Initiative

for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

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