

# SDG Land Indicators:

In Pursuit of Normative Integrity and Policy Coherence  
with the UN System-wide Approach



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# Human Rights Habitat Observatory



Housing and Land Rights Network - Habitat International Coalition (HIC-HLRN)

# Remembering the Habitat Agenda



The “Habitat” approach:

“Cross-sectoral human settlements planning, implementation and governance approach that emphasizes rural/urban linkages and considers villages and cities as points on a human settlements continuum in a common ecosystem” (H2, para. 104);

Reaffirming:

“Full and progressive realization of the human right to adequate housing” (61 times!)

# Human Rights Dimensions of Land in SDGs

- Goal 1: indicator 1.4.2 – tenure security,
- Goal 2: (human right to) food and nutrition,
- Goal 5: Target 5.a (women's equal access to, and control of land and productive resources),
- Goal 6: (human right to) water and sanitation,
- Goal 11: Human settlements (human right to adequate housing)
- Goal 15: (human right to) life on land.





# Charter of the United Nations

Development

Peace & Security

Human Rights



# General Assembly Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General

11 July 2017

Original: English

**Repositioning the United Nations development system to  
deliver on the 2030 Agenda: ensuring a better future for all**

**Report of the Secretary-General**

- **peace, development and human rights pillars of the United Nations, provide a clear road map for Member States and the United Nations system alike....(para. 2)**
- **advancement of all human rights: economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights. (para. 14).**

# The Future We Want – The United Nations We Need

New Development Understanding:

“...We envisage a world:

**...reconciling humanitarian assistance with longer-term development objectives, within the framework of human rights [with their preventive and remedial dimensions]**



Independent Team of Advisors Findings and Conclusions, ECOSOC Dialogue on longer-term positioning of UN Development System in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 16 June 2016 (pp. 72, 74, at:

<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/qcpr/ecosoc-dialogue-publication.pdf>.



Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises,  
CFS 2015/42/4, 13 October 2015, paras. 15–16)



**Overarching values:**

- respect for **human rights** and **international humanitarian law**; [addressing] **underlying causes** of protracted crises.
- policy coherence in line with the progressive realization of the human right to adequate food in the context of national food security, by **fostering coordination of policies and actions taken in the fields of humanitarian assistance, development and human rights.**





“UNDS-wide  
resources and  
efforts at a higher  
vantage point”





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**Resolve the data gap, while assets are scattered across  
the System....(para. 32);**

**Coordination, accountability, pooling expertise and  
assets across the Organisation...(paras. 53, 79);**

**Anticipate risks...(para. 79)**



**General Assembly  
Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General  
31 December 2015

Original: English

**Implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on  
the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational  
activities for development of the United Nations system**

**Report of the Secretary-General**

**Violations of human rights are often our best early  
warning signs of trouble.**

**Prevention...needs to be an integral part of the activities  
of the United Nations development system (para. 9).**



# Core Integrated Functions of the UNDS to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda effectively

- **Drawing on diversity and expertise across the UN system, tools and analysis utilized by the different pillars of the UN – human rights, humanitarian action, peace and security, political economy and climate change.**
- **Normative support to countries to establish, implement, monitor and report on norms, normative standards and agreements, including on international human rights commitments [sic]...**

# Commitments or Obligations?



# States' Human Rights Obligations!



- Legal effect + ***binding*** nature
- **Regular reporting** against performance criteria and indicators
- **What to do** - Implementation formula:
  - Respect / Protect / Fulfill (promote, facilitate, assist)
- **How to do it** - Over-riding implementation principles:
  - Self-determination, Nondiscrimination, Gender equality, Rule of law, Maximum of available resources, Continuous improvement, International cooperation and assistance + General Comments/recommendations
- Apply to **all spheres of government and organs of the state**
- State regulates **non-State actors**
- **Individual, collective, domestic and extraterritorial dimensions**



# States' Commitments

**1** NO  
POVERTY



**2** ZERO  
HUNGER



**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



**6** CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



**15** LIFE  
ON LAND





# Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

## Indicator 1.4.2:

- Proportion of women, men, indigenous peoples and local communities with **secure tenure rights** to individually or communally held land, property and natural resources



# Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**Target 11.1:** By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums:

**Indicator 11.1.1:** Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing.

**Target 11.3:** By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.

**Indicator 11.3.1:** Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate.



# States' Obligations



# Land and Self-determination

1. All peoples have the right of **self-determination**. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
2. All peoples may, for their own ends, **freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources** without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. **In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.**

Common Article 1 ICESCR and ICCPR (1966)





# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
21 October 2015

Seventieth session  
Agenda items 15 and 116

**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015**

*[without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.1)]*

## **70/1. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**“addressed in the Agenda...effective measures and actions to be taken, in conformity with international law...**

**Factors [that] give rise to...corruption...and illicit financial and arms flows,**

**to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation...**



## State obligations:

- ▶ Notwithstanding the type of tenure, all persons should possess a degree of **security of tenure [that] guarantees legal protection against forced eviction, harassment and other threats**. States parties should consequently take **immediate measures aimed at conferring legal security of tenure upon those persons and households currently lacking such protection**, in genuine consultation with affected persons and groups.

General Comment No. 4 “right to housing” (1991), para. 8(a)

# State obligations:

CESCR Reporting (Process) Indicators:

- ▶ 51(a). **The measures taken** to ensure access to adequate and affordable housing with legal security of tenure for everyone, irrespective of income or access to economic resources;
- ▶ (b) **The impact of social housing measures**, such as the provision of low-cost social housing units for disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and families, in particular in rural and deprived urban areas, whether there are waiting lists for obtaining such housing and the average length of waiting time;
- ▶ (c) **Measures taken** to make housing accessible and habitable for persons with special housing needs, such as families with children, older persons<sup>28</sup> and persons with disabilities;
- ▶ 53. ...**measures taken** to ensure that no form of discrimination is involved whenever evictions take place.

# ICESCR Article 11: The human right to adequate housing

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CESCR Reporting Indicators:

53. ...**disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups**, such as ethnic minorities, ... particularly **affected by forced evictions...**

54. ... **number of persons and families evicted within the last five years...**



## Illustrative Indicators for Monitoring MDG 7

	Habitability <sup>1</sup>	Accessibility	Affordability	Security of Tenure
	<b>Structural: Acceptance Commitment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International human rights instruments, relevant to the right to adequate housing, ratified by the State</li> <li>• Provision for the right to adequate housing/water/sanitation in Basic Law/Constitution/Bill of Rights</li> <li>• Judiciable right to adequate housing/water/sanitation legislated in domestic law</li> <li>• Domestic laws guaranteeing opportunities for participation in decision making, access to information, and affirmative measures for minorities, indigenous peoples and/or other groups subject to discrimination, and safeguards for women in cases of VaW</li> <li>• # of registered <i>and</i> operational civil society organizations<sup>2</sup> involved in the promotion and protection of the right to adequate housing/water/sanitation</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National housing, water and land policies formulated, written, known and understood reflecting a strategy for the progressive realization of the human right to adequate housing and water at all levels of government, as applicable</li> <li>• National policy on rehabilitation and resettlement reflecting applicable housing rights is formulated, written, known and understood</li> <li>• National adequacy line for housing and water formal and monitored to demonstrate progress</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforced of legislation on security of tenure, equal inheritance and protection against forced eviction/dispossession/destruction</li> </ul>
	<b>Process: Effort Function Implementation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of complaints on the right to adequate housing/water/sanitation received, investigated and adjudicated by the National Human Rights Institution/Human Rights Ombudsperson/Specialized Institution and other administrative mechanisms (for specific populations groups)</li> <li>• Public expenditure on reconstruction and rehabilitation of displaced persons as a proportion of public development budget</li> <li>• Net ODA for housing received/provided as proportion of public expenditure on housing, water and sanitation<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Δ #/% of habitations (cities, towns and villages) covered under building codes</li> <li>• Δ #/% of public development budget spent on social /community housing, water access, sanitation</li> <li>• Increase in habitable area effected through reclamation<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• Addition to habitable area earmarked for social/community housing, water &amp; sanitation</li> <li>• Δ in minimum social housing criteria<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Δ #/% of household budget spent on access to utilities including water supply, sanitation electricity and garbage disposal</li> <li>• Δ #/% of vulnerable households dependent on private sources for water</li> <li>• Δ #/% of public development budget spent on provision and maintenance of sanitation, water supply, electricity and physical connectivity of habitations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• #/% of households that receive public housing assistance<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• #/% of households in self owned, publicly provided housing and squatter settlements.</li> <li>• Average rent of bottom three income deciles as a proportion of the top three</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Δ #/% of households without secure tenure</li> <li>• Average duration to settle housing, land &amp; water rights disputes in courts/tribunals</li> <li>• Δ real costs of accessing adequate housing, land, water &amp; sanitation</li> <li>• # of legal appeals aimed at preventing planned evictions/demolitions/dispossession through injunctions</li> <li>• # of legal procedures seeking compensation following evictions/dispossession/destruction</li> <li>• Proportion of displaced or evicted persons with reparations annually</li> </ul>
	<b>Outcome: Results Consequences (conditions/well-being/rights fulfillment or violation/deprivation) at end of review period</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• #/% of population with sufficient living space (average # of persons/room or rooms/ household) in targeted households</li> <li>• #/% of population with sufficient water and sanitation access<sup>7</sup> among targeted households</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• #/% of urban population living in slums<sup>8</sup></li> <li>• #/% of (rural and urban) population with sustainable access to an improved water source</li> <li>• #/% of (rural and urban) population with access to improved sanitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• #/% of households spending more than [X]% of monthly income/expenditure on housing &amp; water<sup>9</sup></li> <li>• Households' monthly expenditure (% of income) on water &amp; sanitation in target population</li> <li>• Annual % of homeless persons per 100,000 population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• #/% of households without secure tenure</li> <li>• #/ of reported cases of "forced evictions" per 100,000 population (e.g. as reported to UN special procedures)</li> <li>• #/% of households with legally enforceable, contractual, statutory or other protection providing security of tenure.</li> </ul>



# Goal 5: Attain gender equality, empower women and girls everywhere

**Target 5.a:** Undertake reforms to give **women equal rights to** economic resources, as well as access to **ownership and control over land** and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

# Goal 5: Attain gender equality, empower women and girls everywhere

## Structural Indicator 5.a.1:

- ▶ (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex, and
- ▶ (b) Share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, type of tenure (data unavailable)

## Structural Indicator 5.a.2:

- ▶ Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control (data unavailable)



**CEDaW General  
recommendation  
No. 34 (2016) on  
the rights of  
rural women**

# State obligations:

- ▶ **Implement** substantive equality in relation to land and **temporary special measures**, comprehensive strategy to achieve equal access to natural resources, and address discriminatory stereotypes, attitudes and practices that impede their rights to land and natural resources (57);
- ▶ Ensure that **customary systems** do not discriminate (58);
- ▶ **Raise awareness** about rural women's rights to land, water and other natural resources among all relevant actors (58);
- ▶ **Ensure that legislation guarantees rural women's equal rights to land** and other natural resources, irrespective of civil and marital status or guardian or guarantor arrangements, and that they have full legal capacity (59);
- ▶ Promote rural women's access to and **meaningful participation in agricultural cooperatives** (59a);
- ▶ **Enhance rural women's knowledge and role in fisheries and aquaculture**, and **promote their access to forests and sustainable forest resources**, including safe access to fuelwood and non-wood forest resources (59b);



# State obligations:

- ▶ **Strengthen customary and statutory institutions and mechanisms for defending or protecting women's rights to land and other natural resources, including community paralegal services (59c);**
- ▶ **Implement agricultural policies that support rural women farmers, recognize and protect the natural commons, promote organic farming and protect rural women from harmful pesticides and fertilizers and their effective access to agricultural resources (62);...**
- ▶ **Ensure that land acquisitions, including land-lease contracts, do not violate the rights of rural women or result in forced eviction, and protect rural women from the negative impacts of the acquisition of land by national and transnational companies, development projects, extractive industries and megaprojects; (62c);**
- ▶ **Obtain rural women's free and informed consent before any acquisitions or project affecting rural lands or territories and resources, and, when such land acquisitions do occur, they align with international standards, including adequately compensation (62d);**
- ▶ **Adopt and effectively implement laws and policies that limit the quantity and quality of rural land offered for sale or lease to third States or companies (62e).**



# Commitments & Obligations !





# Charter of the United Nations

Development

Peace & Security

Human Rights



# Charter of the United Nations







bligations