



Housing and Land Rights Network
Habitat International Coalition

AGENDA

Draft general comment on Land and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Tuesday 11 May 2021, 14:30 – 16:30 CEST, live on Zoom from Villa Moynier, Geneva.

Land use management and land tenure security are one of the basic building blocks of environmental, economic and social sustainability globally. Land is a determining factor in the availability of housing and of economic opportunity and the management of its use is also a major driver in local and global environmental health. It is also important to note that access to, and control over the use of, land has been increasingly recognised as central to cultural life and identity. This is particularly prominent in the rights of indigenous peoples, as recognised by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' Convention 169. Without access to land, the achievement of the right to an adequate standard of living, as recognised by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, will be impossible for many individuals and communities. This has been recently reaffirmed in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas.

The importance of land is explicitly recognised in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in relation to poverty (Goal 1), food security (Goal 2), gender equality (Goal 5) and environmental sustainability (Goal 15). Further, effective land management is a prerequisite for a number of other

goals. Land tenure security, and the closely related issue of housing tenure security, have also been recognised as fundamental elements of the rights to adequate housing and to adequate food. General comments 4 (the right to adequate housing), 7 (forced evictions) and 12 (right to adequate food) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are influential in this regard.

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is now developing a general comment on Land and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The purpose of this general comment is to clarify the specific obligations of States parties relating to land and the governance of tenure of land under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. By way of public consultation, the Committee invites interested individuals and organizations, including States, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, academics, international and regional organizations and experts, to make a written contribution to the draft general comment.

The draft general comment on Land and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ([Draft Text in English](#)) recognises the broad and complex relationship between land and human rights. It proposes more general and holistic guidance for policy in this area than has previously been available. Consequently, if and when adopted, the draft general comment is likely to influence policy and law on land governance and management in many Member States.

UN-Habitat and its predecessors have been asked to provide technical assistance and policy guidance on land use and tenure for more than 60 years. The Global Land Tool Network is a partnership committed to increasing access to land and tenure security for all. The Geneva Human Rights Platform is a leader in promoting understanding of, and access to, the international human rights framework and Geneva based forums. The Geneva Cities Hub promotes cities' access to Geneva based institutions. The Habitat International Coalition is an independent alliance of non-profit organizations defending and implementing human rights relating to housing and habitat. In collaboration with partners, we seek to promote a wide discussion on the draft general comment both to ensure the relevance of its content and to encourage the adoption of its principles and guidance.

Registration / Languages

The meeting will be held primarily in English, with simultaneous interpretation into Spanish and French.

Please register via the following link:

<https://geneva-academy-ch.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpcO2rqzljHtfMcmfl-55EtjkvdBUCvJSi>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Agenda

- 14:20 – 14:30 **Welcome Coffee / Login to Zoom meeting**
- 14:30 – 14:45 **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**
- Felix Kirchmeier, GHRP
 - Robert Lewis-Lettington, UN Habitat / GLTN
 - Kamelia Kemileva, GCH
 - Joseph Schechla, Habitat International Coalition
- 14:45 – 15:05 **Presentation of the Draft Text**
- Michael Windfuhr, CESCR
 - Rodrigo Uprimny, CESCR (tbc)
- 15:05 – 15:20 **Placing the draft GC in the wider human rights framework**
- Within the UN Human Rights Treaty Body system
 - Links to UN Declaration and Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
 - Links to UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP)
- 15:20 – 16:15 **Open Discussion**
- 16:15– 16:30 **Next steps for providing input to the draft / Closing of the meeting**