

Ten Principles of a Rights Based Housing Strategy

Principle 1: based in law and legal standards

Is there legislation to give the housing strategy legal effect? Does it recognize the primacy of the right to housing as a legal right subject to effective remedies? Does it map a process for its realization, identifying both immediate and progressive obligations consistent with maximum of available resources?

Principle 2: prioritize those most in need and ensure equality

Does the strategy prioritize those most in need, ensure substantive equality and respond to the particular circumstances of groups facing discrimination? Are the effects of colonization addressed in a manner consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

Principle 3: comprehensive and whole-of-government

Is the strategy comprehensive, including all dimensions of the right to housing and addressing all relevant issues, policies, groups and regions? Does it engage all levels and spheres of government?

Principle 4: rights-based participation

Does the strategy ensure rights-based participation through specific mechanisms? Is meaningful participation guaranteed in the design, implementation and monitoring of the strategy, and is support provided for the participation of marginalized groups?

Principle 5: accountable budgeting and tax justice

Does the strategy ensure the allocation of maximum available resources? Does it include measures to address inequalities and injustices in the tax system, including tax avoidance, and does it ensure that taxation promotes the realization of the right to housing?

Principle 6: human rights-based goals and timelines

Does the strategy include reasonable goals and timelines that are based on human rights indicators and subject to rigorous monitoring and enforcement?

Principle 7: accountability and monitoring

Does the strategy provide for an independent monitoring body with jurisdiction to address systemic issues directly with Governments and in a variety of forums?

Principle 8: ensuring access to justice

Does the strategy ensure effective claiming mechanisms for the right to housing through courts and other means, including where violations result from failures to progressively realize the right to housing?

Principle 9: clarify the obligations of private actors and regulate financial, housing and real estate markets

Does the strategy clarify the obligations of private actors and ensure regulation of financial, housing and real estate markets, consistent with all aspects of States' obligations, including the obligation to fulfil the right to housing?

Principle 10: implement international cooperation and assistance

Does the strategy incorporate international cooperation and assistance and engage international financial institutions so as to address global challenges to the right to adequate housing?