

the right to the city building another possible world

guidelines for its
understanding and
operationalization



global platform
for the right
to the city

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for the right
to the city**

The Global Platform for the Right to the City is an active and action-oriented advocacy network committed to social change and with the promotion of the Right to the City as a core value for policies, commitments, projects and actions at the local, national and international levels.

We gather organizations, networks and individuals from a wide range of backgrounds: local-based and international social movements, NGOs, forums, academics, representatives from local governments, and other institutions who work on issues related to the right to the city, human rights and sustainable urban development. Our affiliates possess documented advocacy expertise and hands-on experience on social change in several countries in sectors ranging from gender equality, quality public spaces, local governance and participation, inclusive economies, food security, rural development, housing solutions, sustainable urban development, and many others areas.

Our affiliates have been actively contributing to the drafting and negotiation process of the New Urban Agenda at the United Nations, possessing close familiarity with the complex debates on the various issues addressed during the process.

Organizations

ActionAid; Brazilian Association of Municipalities; Brazilian National Urban Reform Forum; Cities Alliance; Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of the United Cities and Local Governments - UCLG - CISDP; Ford Foundation; Fundación Avina; Global Fund for Cities Development - FMDV; Habitat for Humanity; Habitat International Coalition - HIC; Huairou Commission; International Alliance of Inhabitants - IAI; Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy - RIPESS; Polis Institute; Shack Slum Dwellers International - SDI; TECHO; United Cities and Local Governments - UCLG; Women In Cities International - WICI; and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing - WIEGO.

Presentation	07
What's the right to the city?	07
Definition	11
Pillars of the right to the city	14
Pillar 1: Spatially Just Resource Distribution	15
Pillar 2: Political Agency	15
Pillar 3: Socio-cultural Diversity	16
Cities and human settlements as common goods	17
Legal basis of the right to the city	19
Some misconceptions about the right to the city	25
Suggested roadmap for the implementation of the right to the city	29
Who has the responsibility to operationalise it?	29
Cross-cutting actions	33
Active citizen involvement and social mobilizations	33
Advocacy, capacity-building and awareness-raising	33
Information and assessment	33
Legislation and accountability	34
Policies and innovative institutions	34
Benchmark and monitoring	34
Specific actions	35
A city fulfilling its social functions	35
A city with quality public spaces	42
A sustainable city with inclusive rural-urban linkages	45
A city with inclusive economies	47
A city of inclusive citizenship	48
A city with enhanced political participation	49
A city free of discrimination	51
A city of gender equality	52
A city with cultural diversity	53
References	55

Presentation

What's the right to the city?

Is it a political claim conveying the utopian call of some urban groups that hope for another possible city? Or is it a programmatic instrument enabling key transformations to shift the current urban model?

The precarious life conditions of too many women and men in such an urbanised world have boosted a number of social mobilizations around the world during the last 50 years under the motto of the right to the city. These experiences show that this political flag is a twofold instrument enabling both the emergence of new social utopias for a better future, as well as the development of alternative ways to produce cities and human settlements based on the agency of all dwellers without discrimination, but giving a particular voice to those affected by exclusion and marginalization.

This document aims at exploring the contents of the right to the city building on the struggles, experiences and mobilizations that have taken place during the last decades. These practices, undoubtedly connected to the theoretical approach of Henri Lefebvre (2009, 2000), have nonetheless brought to the right to the city a specific meaning that goes beyond its original formulation. Drawing from such narratives which stem from diverse regional contexts (Global Platform for the Right to the City, 2015a), from significant efforts of organized civil society and urban social movements working together on a global, national and local level (World Charter for the Right to the City, 2005; Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City, 2010), and from recent debates on the occasion of Habitat 3 preparatory process (United Nations General Assembly, 2016), this paper aims at summarizing the broad field of debates, initiatives and proposals linked to the right to the city in order to better understand its meaning and potential as a new paradigm. It also attempts to contribute to its mate-

rialisation, both by promoting its symbolic dimension as a new imaginary built on a set of alternative social, political, economic and cultural values; and by implementing specific legislative and policy instruments that translate such a complex concept into concrete multi-sectoral measures.

To this end, the paper begins by providing an in-depth definition of the right to the city (section 2). In this regard, it starts by dealing with its core features, namely: the claim for the application of all human rights standards in cities and human settlements, together with specific principles and entitlements which constitute the added value of the right to the city (i.e. the social function of the city, the fight against socio-spatial discrimination, quality public spaces, and sustainable and inclusive rural-urban linkages); its character as a collective and diffuse right; an understanding of cities as commons; and its application both in urban settings and human settlements at large. The right to the city is further based on three pillars: spatially just resource distribution, political agency and cultural diversity, which are described thereafter. Next, the section refers to the components of the right to the city, that is, those elements that, combined altogether, shape cities and human settlements as a common good, namely: (i) social function of the city; (ii) quality public spaces; (iii) sustainability and inclusive rural-urban linkages; (iv) inclusive economies; (v) inclusive citizenship; (vi) enhanced political participation; (vii) non-discrimination; (viii) gender equality; and (ix) cultural diversity. As mentioned before, the right to the city envisions some new principles and entitlements, but is also based on existing rights enshrined in international public law. On this matter, the paper refers to the legal basis of the right to the city by mentioning both relevant human rights treaties and covenants, as well as recent legal and political tools contained in global compacts, national legislation, and city charters that explicitly acknowledge the right to the city as such or some of its specific principles and entitlements. After that, the reader will find a section

(3) which attempts to provide further clarity on the right to the city by tackling some of the main misconceptions related to it. A number of expressions of scepticism that hinder the acceptance of this new paradigm, build on a weak or partial knowledge of the concept, thus the need to explicitly address them and elaborate on existing misunderstandings. Finally, the last section (4) suggests some guidelines for the implementation of this right. On the one hand, several cross-cutting actions are proposed, such as active citizen involvement and social mobilizations; advocacy, capacity-building and awareness-raising; information and assessment; legislation and accountability; policies and innovative institutions; benchmark and monitoring. On the other hand, a wide range of specific actions are provided on the basis of the nine right to the city components mentioned earlier.

It is important to add that this piece of work is a further step undertaken by the Global Platform for the Right to the City to spread its alternative narrative on human settlements and city-making, and contribute to its materialisation. Operationalizing such a complex and cross-cutting set of ideas, however, requires tireless efforts in several fields of action: advocacy, awareness-raising, networking, research, training and capacity-building (Global Platform for the Right to the City, 2014). This paper embodies a work in progress within the Platform's training and capacity-building agenda, which is open to further developments and deeper dialogues with relevant stakeholders.

**What's the
right to
the city?**

The right to the city is the outcome of decades of collective and bottom-up creation that epitomizes a new paradigm providing an alternative framework to re-think cities and human settlements on the basis of the principles of social justice, equity, democracy and sustainability. It envisions the effective fulfillment of all internationally agreed human rights and Sustainable Development Goals, while dealing with a dimension of urban problems that classic human rights' standards do not tackle: spatial exclusion, its causes and consequences. On this basis, the right to the city consists in the right of all inhabitants (present and future; permanent and temporary) to use, occupy, produce, govern and enjoy just, inclusive, safe and sustainable cities, villages and settlements defined as common goods.

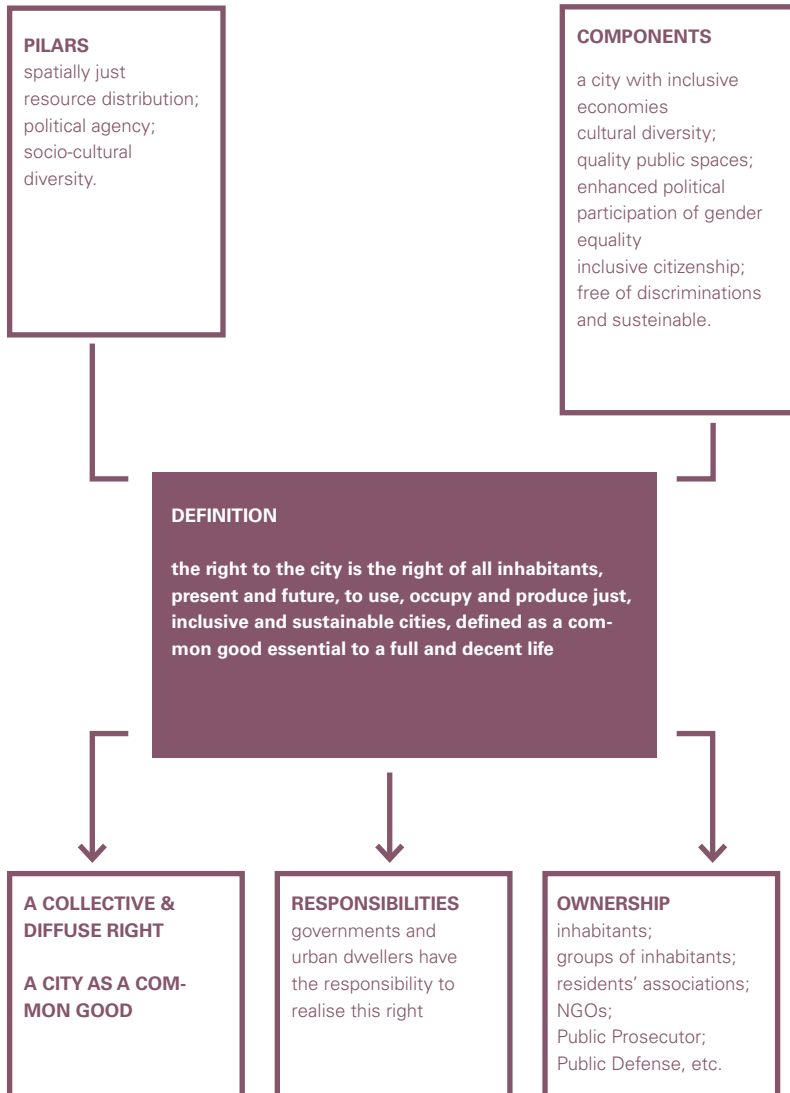
According to this definition:

- The right to the city **encompasses all civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights** as enshrined in existing international human rights treaties, covenants, and conventions. In accordance with the Vienna Declaration (1993), the right to the city calls for a universal, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated implementation of human rights in urban settings and human settlements at large. The main implication of such approach is that **the right to the city is indivisible**, meaning that its full and effective materialization requires the respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights without exception, together with the specific principles and entitlements that only the right to the city envisions: the social function of the city, the fight against socio-spatial discrimination, quality public spaces, and sustainable and inclusive rural-urban linkages.
- The right to the city is a **collective** and **diffuse** right. As a *collective right*, it pertains to all inhabitants, in all their diversity, on the basis of their common interest to participate in shaping and benefiting from their living environment. As a *diffuse right*, it belongs to present and future generations and is not subject to exclusive use or appropriation.

- The right to the city entails conceiving **cities as commons**, meaning all inhabitants should have the capacity to equally access and enjoy the resources, services, goods, and opportunities of their living environment; as well as participate in the making of their city or human settlement. This approach crystallizes in several structural components: the fulfilment of the social function of the city, quality public spaces, sustainability and inclusive rural-urban linkages, inclusive economies, inclusive citizenship, enhanced political participation, non-discrimination, gender equality and cultural diversity. Conceiving the city as a common good is key to ensuring a full and decent life for dwellers, particularly those affected by social and spatial exclusion, and marginalization processes.
- The term **“city”** is to be understood **in a broad way**, meaning every metropolis, city, town, village or human settlement that constitutes a political community, and is generally (though not necessarily) institutionally organised as a local governmental unit with municipal or metropolitan character. It includes urban spaces, as well as rural or semi-rural surroundings which make up its territory.

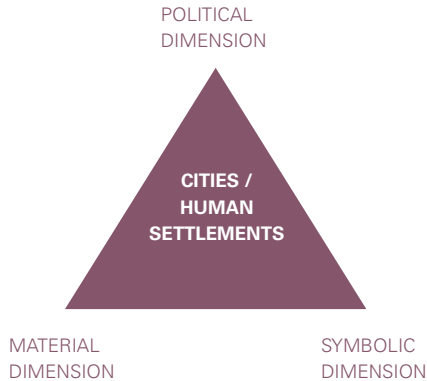
Social production of the city/ human settlement

Putting people at the centre of their structural dimensions



Pillars of the right to the city

Cities and human settlements are multifaceted entities which cannot be reduced to its material dimension (i.e. buildings, streets, infrastructures). They are actually made up by and result from ideas, as well as social values.



Understanding cities and human settlements as such a complex phenomenon, the right to the city builds on three interdependent pillars that relate to each of the previous dimensions:

- spatially just resource distribution (material dimension)
- political agency (political dimension)
- socio-cultural diversity (symbolic dimension)

The right to the city thus calls for the recognition of all dwellers' voice and agency in these three pillars in order to enable people-centred city-making or, in other words, the **social production of the city and of human settlements**.

It is particularly important to ensure the role of **women** in these processes. And to adopt all necessary measures to ensure **marginalized groups** and **people with special needs** (e.g. migrants and refugees, informal workers,

street dwellers, children, the youth, the elderly or people with disabilities, among others) equally contribute to shape their city or human settlement.

**SOCIAL PRODUCTION
OF THE CITY /
HUMAN SETTLEMENT**
Putting people at the
centre of their structural
dimensions

MATERIAL PRODUCTION
(urban form, the built environment)

PRODUCTION OF POLICIES
(urban planning, urban policies)

PRODUCTION OF MEANING
(identities, values, experiences, memory)

Pillar 1 Spatially Just Resource Distribution

The right to the city envisions a socially and spatially just distribution of material resources, ensuring good living conditions across the human settlement continuum.

These resources should be accessible in both urbanized areas and self-made settlements. They include:

- public space;
- basic infrastructures and services (e.g. water, electricity, waste, and sanitation, education, healthcare);
- appropriate, accessible and sustainable transportation options
- adequate housing and settlements;
- equitable livelihoods, opportunities, and decent jobs;
- green spaces, preserved ecosystems and biodiversity, and natural risk-free areas.

Pillar 2 Political Agency

The right to the city is realized when government structures, processes, and policies enable all inhabitants as social and political actors to exercise the full content and meaning of citizenship.

Together with **the different spheres of government**, inhabitants of all settlements (including **temporary and transitional dwellers**) should be protagonists in (re)making and shaping their living environment.

These processes should take place to a standard that fully meets the everyday **needs** and **aspirations** of inhabitants, and be able to confront the challenges faced by the diversity of human settlements.

In this way, this pillar lessens the high control by capital and state elites over decisions regarding the organization and management of the city and its spaces, and reconfigures urban space, land, and property in a manner that maximizes **use-value** for all dwellers.

It requires **transparency**, **accountability**, and **democratic structures** for decision making and the allocation of sufficient opportunities, mechanisms and resources for effective and equal political participation.

Pillar 3

Socio-cultural Diversity

The right to the city fully embraces diversity and difference in gender, identity, ethnicity, religion, heritage, collective memory, cultural practices, and sociocultural expressions.

This pillar calls for the recognition of **culture**, **neighboring**, and **stake-holding** as a lever for social cohesion, social capital, innovation, safer cities, self-expression, and identity.

It requires that the city creates possibilities of **encounters**, **interactions**, and active **connections**, in which reciprocal relations and mutual understanding advances a renewed form of urban life.

It requires **respecting and valorizing** all religions, ethnicities, languages, cultures, and customs.

It also envisions the **promotion of artistic expressions** as a means to unlock social potential and creativity, and to build community and solidarity.

Central to city life is the use of **public spaces** without

discrimination. This pillar finally calls for the need to acknowledge **recreation** and **leisure** as part of a full life.

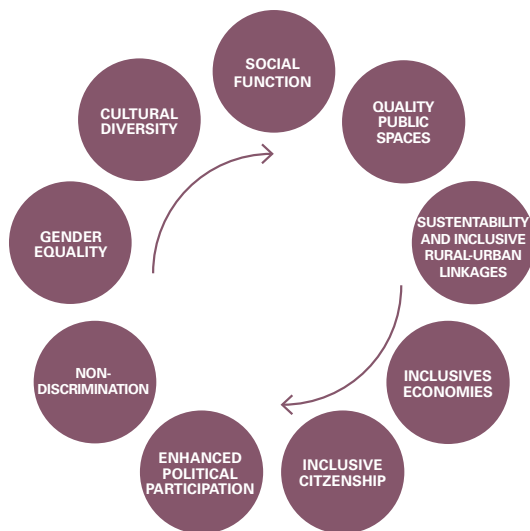
Cities and human settlements as common goods

The right to the city envisions cities and human settlements as assets that should be shared and benefit all members of the community. This principle crystallizes in the following components of the right to the city:

- **A city/human settlement fulfilling its social functions**, that is, ensuring equitable access for all to housing, goods, services and urban opportunities, particularly for women, marginalized groups and people with special needs; a city/human settlement that prioritizes the collectively defined public and social interest, ensuring a just and environmentally balanced use of urban and rural spaces.
- **A city/human settlement with quality public spaces** that enhances social interactions and political participation, promotes socio-cultural expressions, embraces diversity, and fosters social cohesion; a city/human settlement where public spaces contribute to building safer cities and to meeting the needs of inhabitants (especially those related to livelihoods).
- **A sustainable city/human settlement with inclusive rural-urban linkages** that benefit poor people, both in rural and urban areas; a city/human settlement that protects biodiversity, natural habitats, and surrounding ecosystems.
- **A city/human settlement with inclusive economies** that safeguards and ensures access to secure livelihoods and decent work for all inhabitants, gives room to other economies (e.g. social and solidarity economy, sharing economy or circular economy), and ensures the full development of women.
- **A city/human settlement of inclusive citizenship** in which all inhabitants, (whether permanent or temporary) are considered as citizens and granted equal rights (e.g.

women, those living in poverty or situations of environmental risk, informal economy workers, ethnic and religious groups, LGBT persons, people with disabilities, children, youth, the elderly, migrants, refugees, street dwellers, victims of violence and indigenous peoples).

- **A city/human settlement with enhanced political participation** in the definition, implementation, monitoring, and budgeting of urban policies and spatial planning in order to strengthen the transparency, effectiveness and inclusion of the diversity of inhabitants and their organizations.
- **A city/human settlement free of discrimination** based on gender, age, health status, income, nationality, ethnicity, migratory condition, or political, religious or sexual orientation.
- **A city/human settlement of gender equality** which adopts all necessary measures to combat discrimination in all its forms against women, men, and LGBT people; a city/human settlement which takes all appropriate measures to ensure the full development of women, guarantee them equality in the exercise and fulfilment of human rights, and a life free of violence.
- **A city/human settlement with cultural diversity**, which respects, protects, and promotes all customs, memories, identities, languages, and artistic and cultural expressions of its inhabitants.



Legal basis of the right to the city

The right to the city encompasses all civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights as enshrined in existing international human rights treaties, covenants, and conventions. In accordance with the Vienna Declaration (1993), it calls for a universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated implementation of human rights in cities and human settlements.

As the following list shows, the right to the city is set out in existing international and regional human rights treaties and instruments. It has also been explicitly acknowledged in global compacts, national legislation, and city charters around the world:

International human rights treaties

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1968)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers (1977)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)
- Convention on the rights of the Child (1989)
- Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993)

Regional instruments

- European Convention on Human Rights (1950)
- European Social Charter (1961)
- American Convention on Human Rights (1969)
- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981)
- Global compacts
- World Charter for the Right to the City (2005)
- Rio de Janeiro Manifesto on the Right to the City, World Urban Forum (2010)
- Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Right City (2014)
- Global Platform for the Right to the City Action Plan and Thematic Axes (2014)
- National legislation
- Brazil's the City Statute (2001)
- Ecuador's Constitution (2008)

City Charters

- European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City (2000)
- Montreal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities (2006)

- Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City (2010)
- Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City (2011)

The following table provides a list of some of the most relevant **human rights instruments** and **Sustainable Development Goals** from the perspective of the components of the right to the city.

Components	Key Human Rights Instruments	SDG Targets
A city fulfilling its social functions	The 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Art. 2.2, Art. 6, Art. 11.1, Art 15 a, and b) 1972	6.1, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3
	Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Art. 4, Art. 6.1, Art. 11, Art. 12)	
	The 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Art. 2, Art. 11 and Art.15)	
	The 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (UNESCO)	
	Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development- Based Evictions and Displacement A/HRC/4/18, 2007	
	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment 15, The right to water (Twenty-ninth session, 2003), U.N Doc. E/C.12/2002/11 (2002), reprinted in Compilation of General Comments and General Recommendations Adopted by Human Rights Treaty Bodies, U.N. Doc. HRI/GEN/1/Rev.6 at 105 (2003)	
	Resolution The human right to water and sanitation. Resolution A/RES/64/292. UN General Assembly, 28 July 2010 (Art. 1 and Art. 2)	
A city with quality public spaces	The 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) (Art. 6, Art. 11, Art 15 a, and b)	11.7
	Human rights and sustainable development (SDG target 11.7 on public space)	

Components	Key Human Rights Instruments	SDG Targets
A sustainable city with inclusive rural-urban linkages	<p>The 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) (Art. 2.2, Art. 6, Art. 11.1, Art 15 a, and b)</p> <p>Declaration and Principles Governing the sea-bed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the Limits of national Jurisdictions - Resolution 2749 (XXV) of 17 December 1970 (Art. 1)</p> <p>United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 10 December 1982 (Art. 133 and Art. 136)</p> <p>Declaration on the Right to Development. Resolution A/RES/41/128 4 December 1986 (Article 1 and Article 2)</p> <p>International arrangement on forests beyond 2015 The Economic and Social Council, Recalling its resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000</p> <p>Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 22 July 2015 [on the recommendation of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2015/42 and Corr.1)] 2015/33.</p>	11.5, 11.6, 11a, 11b
A city with inclusive economies	<p>The International Labour Organization's 1962 Convention No. 4.4, concerning Basic Aims and Standards of Social Policy (Art. 1, Art. 2, Art. 5.1)</p> <p>International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990) (Art.7, Art.43.1)</p>	8.3, 117 8.5, 8.8, 9.1
A city of inclusive citizenship	<p>The 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Art. 2.2, Art. 6, Art. 11.1, Art 15 a, and b)</p> <p>The 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Art. 1, Art. 18.1)</p>	1.4, 1.5, 5.1, 10.1, 10.6, 10.7
A city with enhanced political participation	<p>Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) (Art. 1, Art. 2, Art. 25.1)</p> <p>The 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Art. 1, Art. 18.1)</p>	5.1, 5a, 5b, 5c, 11.3

Components	Key Human Rights Instruments	SDG Targets
A city free of discrimination	Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) (Art. 1, Art. 2, Art. 25.1)	1.3, 1.4, 1.5
	The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Art. 3, Art. 17, Art. 18, Art. 21)	
	The 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Art. 3, Art. 5 e)	
	The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Art. 3, Art. 14.1, 2 and Art. 15.2)	
	The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (Art. 2, Art. 4, Art. 27.1 and 3)	
	Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993) on universality and indivisibility of human rights	
A city of gender equality	The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Art. 3, Art. 14 .1 and 2, Art. 15.2)	5.1, 5a, 5b, 5c
A city with cultural diversity	The 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (UNESCO)	11.4

In many jurisdictions, some or several of these components are already protected by national, regional or local laws and policies. However, **the challenge remains to take into account the indivisible nature of the right to city and operationalize it as a whole, by drawing in all its components.** In other words, moving forward some or several components is a positive step, but it does not lead to the full and effective realization of the right to the city in all its complexity.

**Some
misconceptions
about the right
to the city**

It is not exactly a new right as it envisions the effective fulfilment of all internationally agreed human rights, Sustainable Development Goals and the commitments of the Habitat Agenda.

However, the right to the city provides a framework to improve and expand human rights implementation in urban settings and human settlements at large, on the basis of their universal, interdependent, interrelated and indivisible approach.

Then, is the right to the city a mere juxtaposition of existing human rights' standards?

No. The right to the city has the added value to deal with the causes and consequences of a specific issue that classic human rights' standards do not tackle as such: spatial exclusion.

Urban space and its functions are both contributors to and expressions of social and gender exclusion. In this regard, the right to the city provides an alternative framework to re-think cities and urbanization challenging the current model based on the commoditization of the city and its public spaces. To that end, it envisions some specific principles and entitlements that shape its distinctive nature vis-à-vis human rights, namely: the social function of the city, the fight against socio-spatial discrimination, quality public spaces, and sustainable and inclusive rural-urban linkages.

Is the right to the city, defined as “collective and diffuse”, very different in nature than other existing human rights?

No. The interpretation of the right to the city is similar to environmental rights as enshrined in international

agreements, which acknowledge collective rights. See, for example, the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* (1992), which establishes that “[t]he right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of *present and future generations*” (Principle 3); the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (1982); and the *Declaration and Principles Governing the Sea-bed and Ocean Floor and Subsoil Thereof beyond the Limits of National Jurisdictions* (1970), both defining the sea-bed and ocean floor and their resources as the “common heritage of mankind”.

The right to the city is also similar in nature to cultural and natural heritage rights, as enshrined in international conventions, which acknowledge diffuse rights. See, for instance, the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (1972), which places a duty on State Parties to ensure “the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission *to future generations* of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory” (art. 4), and acknowledges the spatial dimension of cultural heritage (art. 1). Under this convention, many cities, old towns and other urban districts have been declared “World Heritage” (such as Potosí, Bolivia, 2014; the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, 1982; or Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 2012).

These rights and conventions establish precedents for understanding certain rights as collective and diffuse, and thus they enable conceiving *cities as commons*.

Does the right to the city deepen the rural/urban divide?

The right to the city is not limited to urban areas. It rather but applies to all cities and human settlements, from large metropolitan areas, cities and towns, to villages and small rural settlements.

In fact, the term “city” is to be understood as a “local political community”.

No. The right to the city draws on 50 years of debate and social struggles. It was first theorized by French philosopher and sociologist Henri Lefebvre and later used as a political tool by urban social movements and civil society groups to struggle for a better life in cities and settlements. It has also been operationalized in global compacts, national legislation, and city charters around the world.

Global compacts include: the *World Charter for the Right to the City* (2005); the *Rio de Janeiro Manifesto on the Right to the City* (World Urban Forum, 2010); the *Global Platform for the Right to the City Action Plan and Thematic Axes* (2014).

Relevant national legislation includes *Brazil's City Statute* (2001) and *Ecuador's Constitution* (2008), as well as its *National Law on Territorial Occupation and Land Management and Use* (2016).

Finally, city charters include the *European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City* (Saint Denis, 2000), the *Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City* (2010), the *Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City* (UCLG, 2011), and *Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Right City* (2014).

Therefore, the right to the city has a very precise definition and has been endorsed by a number of civil society organisations and urban social movements, as well as national and local governments.

By contrast, the concept “cities for all” (like other narratives such as “cities for people” or “cities for life”) have appeared more recently to call for people-friendly cities, cities without discrimination or even physically accessible cities. Its meaning apparently varies according to the stakeholder who is using it.

Suggested roadmap for the implementation of the right to the city

Who has the responsibility to operationalize it?

The materialization of the right to the city calls for the strategic alliance of governments, citizens and the private sector. Among these stakeholders, women, marginalized groups and dwellers with special needs should play a key role. Besides, its implementation needs to be trans-scalar, that is, it needs build on a wide range of transformations put in place at the global, national, and local level.

- **Citizens** have the right and responsibility to participate in the making and shaping of the city. Several longstanding self-managed experiences lead by groups and local communities in the fields of habitat and/or housing production, service provision, securing livelihoods or cultural development among others, have shown self-organized citizens play a key role in taking forward the right to the city. Civil society has also the right and responsibility to participate in social and political processes to claim and defend this right, be it individually or through groups, communities and their representative organizations (including residents' associations, NGOs, social movements, trade unions, workers' organizations, and other interest groups). It is particularly important that such groups enable and foster equal participation of women and traditionally marginalized urban groups. Educational and research centers, as well as professionals (i.e. architects, urban planners, engineers, lawyers and social workers) are also placed in a key position to multiply, support, and enable the materialization of the right to the city. The articulation of citizens at local, national and global level is critical to increase the capacity to influence the political agenda; share experiences and struggles; and spread the right to the city narrative.
- **States** have the responsibility to ensure an equitable social and spatial distribution of available urban resources, and to foster political participation and socio-economic diversity within locally agreed interpretations of the right to the city.

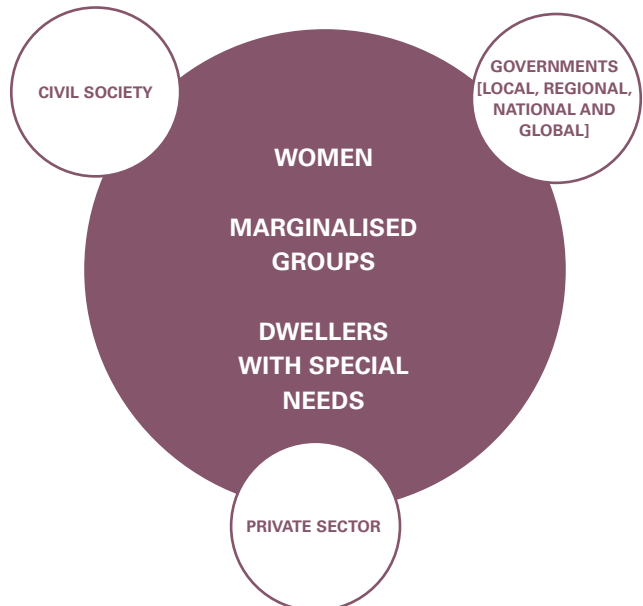
- **Local governments** are central to implementing the right to the city and to establishing a strategic vision and operational framework in close dialogue with citizens. In co-responsibility with national authorities and in accordance with the legal framework, they should adopt all necessary measures, to the maximum allowed by available resources, to progressively achieve the full realization of all the right to the city components, by all appropriate means and with the adoption of legislative, regulatory and policy measures. Local governments should guarantee the involvement of citizens and civil society organizations in these processes by ensuring transparent and participatory program-planning, decision-making, program implementation, and policy monitoring. They should also provide training to public officials regarding the implementation of the right to the city, particularly the staff in charge of materializing the right to the city components; promote public awareness-raising; and develop co-produced knowledge with local communities. So far, cities have adopted many different approaches to the operationalization of the right to the city: adoption of city charters; adaptation of municipal laws enshrining human rights and the right to the city; establishment of local ombudsman; creation of social and spatial inclusion programmes; or the establishment of a municipal department for the right to the city to promote it transversally, among others.
- **National and regional governments** have the responsibility to comply with their legal obligations under international human rights law, while at the same time enabling legislative frameworks that contribute to realise the different components of the right to the city. A reform of judicial laws is also needed to ensure effective and timely judicial remedy. National urban policies aligned with the right to the city are key to foster and multiply political action at local level towards the materialization of this right. These policies should establish a participatory mechanism to facilitate policy dialogues among national and subnational levels, as well as between state and non-state actors, particularly civil society organizations representing marginalized

groups of urban dwellers. National governments have also the responsibility to provide sufficient funding and political competences to local governments, so that they can further the right to the city implementation as the sphere of government closest to citizens. Adequate training and capacity-building is also key to strengthen the role of local governments as catalysts of change. National governments should also establish a framework to encourage the private sector to comply with human rights standards and the right to the city, and foster training and assessment tools targeting businesses. Some Ss have developed constitutional provisions to provide the highest legal foundation to this right and/or have established special government bodies and participatory mechanisms to implement it.

- **The judiciary** plays a crucial role in enforcing the safeguarding of rights and in ensuring that a just rule of law prevails. As a result, it holds substantial responsibility in applying the right to the city, enabling interpretations of cases according to a rights-based approach and invoking human rights standards in domestic cases. Ensuring effective remedy to the right to the city violations also requires adequate and effective judicial mechanisms, such as entitling groups to take legal action in court and participate at the various stages of the judicial process (as a result of the collective nature of the right to the city). In various national contexts, collective actions have resulted in judicial monitoring of public policies that have influenced policy-making in favour of collective rights (e.g. in the fields of environmental or consumers' protection, public health, education or labour law). They have even contributed to make accountable businesses which provide public services. On this ground, should the legislative branch not pass a reform of judicial laws to further the protection of right to the city components, the judiciary governing body has the responsibility to call for it and subsequently provide sufficient training to judges in order to properly apply it and interpret it.
- **Global government bodies**, including multi-stakeholder organisations and global associations of local govern-

ments, have the responsibility to take all necessary efforts to raise the awareness of governments regarding the need to use the right to the city as new urban paradigm. They should foster capacity building, peer-to-peer learning and political debates, as well as provide policy guidelines to implement the right to the city at national, regional and local level; establish international monitoring mechanisms; and gather relevant information (e.g. best practices, legal frameworks, case studies).

- **The private sector** should act within a framework of legality and respect for human rights. It should undertake its economic activities under a corporate social responsibility framework to prioritize social objectives and to ensure inclusive and sustainable approaches to urbanization. Private bodies performing public functions or providing basic services have a special responsibility to comply with human rights standards and should be made accountable. Financial institutions should act in accordance to the UN Principles of Responsible Investment (UNPRI).



Cross-cutting actions

Active citizen involvement and social mobilizations

As a tool envisioning the social production of the city by all urban dwellers, the right to the city calls for the active involvement of individuals, communities and groups in the direct shaping and making of cities and human settlements. Social alliances and mobilisations are also critical as a means to claim for enabling regulatory and policy frameworks, to stop plans or projects contrary to the right to the city principles and to influence the political agenda. Such social processes need to give equal voice to women and avoid reproducing hegemonic discriminatory patterns.

Advocacy, capacity-building and awareness-raising

The realisation of right to the city relies on a dual strategy. On the one hand, it implies compelling governments and policy-making institutions to comply with existing legal obligations under human rights law, while at the same time urging them to use existing legal, fiscal, planning and other relevant tools aligned with the right to the city principles (several examples will be provided below). On the other hand, it is necessary to spread the understanding of the right to the city among dwellers so that they can claim and realise their rights. Capacity-building for the government and judiciary, state security forces and bodies, the media, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders is also crucial.

Information and assessment

All dwellers should have equal access to the right to the city, but women and some specific groups of people (children, the elderly, street dwellers, migrants and refugees, people with disabilities, and the

urban poor, among others) are affected by processes of social and spatial exclusion and discrimination that require different measures so that the right to the city is realized. Such measures can only be taken effectively if these groups of people are properly identified and their needs and demands are voiced directly by them. Participatory approaches are thus essential as a way to collect information from the ground and align urban policies with the life experiences and needs of marginalized urban dwellers.

Legislation and accountability

States need to ensure conformity between their domestic legal systems and their duties under international human rights law. Besides, if they are truly to support the right to the city, there is a strong case for its explicit recognition, whether in the constitution, a bill of rights or specific law. It is also key that local governments engage to respect, protect and fulfil the right to the city through legally binding local charters or ordinances. In addition, states and governments need to ensure accountability by providing access to justice and remedial measures.

Policies and innovative institutions

The right to the city calls for human rights-oriented policies and rights-based strategies, meaning that all stages of the policy process (formulation, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) should follow the principles of informed participation, non-discrimination and equality. These policies and programmes also require innovative, well-resourced and technically sound institutions able to implement such a complex right.

Benchmark and monitoring

Realizing the right to the city requires moving forward a new urban and human settlement model through achievable and progressive goals and on-going, community-based, national and international evaluation. Defining realistic targets implies identifying factors and challenges that hinder

the right to the city, and defining adequate policies and programs on the basis of such background. It also requires establishing verifiable indicators, which will help governments to map the progress made and provide to individuals and civil society concrete elements to hold the State accountable. Rights-based monitoring is also key in order to focus on the impact of policies on the most vulnerable and in order to consider not only outcomes, but also structures and processes. Monitoring must be consistent with human rights principles of transparency, participation, non-discrimination and empowerment.

Specific actions

The following guidelines refer to the realization of the different right to the city components, where several examples of good practice are provided. It is important to highlight that the right to the city is indivisible, that is, its full and effective implementation requires a holistic approach which ensures the materialization of all its components through adequate and sufficient legal and policy measures.

A city fulfilling its social functions

Goals

- To ensure equitable access for all to housing, livelihoods, goods, services, urban space and opportunities
- To prioritize the collectively defined public and social interest above individual property rights
- To fight against land speculation and the commoditization of urban space

LAND MANAGEMENT

To pass adequate legislation and establish sufficient mechanisms and sanctions to ensure a social use of deserted, unused, underused or unoccupied urban spaces and properties.

Brazil

It is one of the few countries in the world having explicitly adopted the right to the city (together with Ecuador). Brazil's City Statute (2001) is a national law that specifically enshrines the right to the city after strong social mobilization led by the National Urban Reform Movement, a platform gathering civil society organizations and social movements. The City Statute expands on articles 182 and 183 of the Constitution and acknowledges the social function of land and property, and translates this principle into urban planning policies through different types of mechanisms: strategic planning, taxation and participatory city management.

The City Statute also gives municipal governments the power to foster the utilization of underused or vacant lots that are important for city development, and to regulate the use of vacant lots in areas defined as "social interest zones" (ZEIS), as well as on the perimeter of the urban center.

Owners of underused or vacant lots are further subject to a progressive tax. After a 5-year period, if the site is not developed and occupied, it can be expropriated. Finally, the law established the creation of the Ministry of Cities (set up in 2003) and a nation-wide participatory mechanism to ensure the involvement of citizens in the conception and follow up of urban policies: the Council of Cities (set up in 2006).

- To create legal and political tools that prevent and ensure a social control of land speculation processes, urban segregation, exclusion or forced evictions.
- To promote and protect security of tenure and a continuum of land ownership and occupancy rights in Land and Housing Policies and legislative frameworks.
- To include women in the issue and registration of documents enshrining ownership or possession, regardless of

their civil status, in all public policies related to land and housing distribution of titles.

- To use tax mechanisms to capture increases in land value and redistribute it towards social housing and public space provision.

URBAN PLANNING

To foster mixed land-use by providing decentralized job/livelihood opportunities, basic services (water, sanitation, waste management, education, health, culture, leisure) and housing, thus reducing the need for mobility.

France

National urban policies, first put in place after unrest in the 1980s in areas with high indices of deprivation, include an integrated approach; realignment of urban strategies to focus on economic and social regeneration in declining areas; and developing political and conceptual learning from these experiences. The cross-cutting approach combines initiatives on employment, literacy, socio-cultural activities, and anti-discrimination.

The program covers almost 700 districts in the country and is updated every three years.

A recent evaluation recommended strengthened citizen empowerment, and participatory policy definition, now being developed through a citizen's committee called Coordination Pas Sans Nous (No Coordination Without Us).

- To develop urban planning solutions that address existing challenges without infringing on the rights of inhabitants.
- To suppress architectural barriers that hinder the use of urban space, discriminate or exclude persons with temporary or permanent disabilities or the elderly.
- To promote integrated urban planning policies across all levels of government with explicit recognition of human rights treaty obligations.
- To promote spatial strategies and national urban policies that ensure a cross-sectoral approach to human settlement planning and address the problems of metropolitan

regions, secondary cities, towns and rural communities across the human settlements continuum.

Chile

In 2014 the government of Chile enacted a National Policy for Urban Development that considers five pillars to guide the future of Chilean cities: social integration; economic development; identity and heritage; environmental balance; and institutional framework and governance.

This policy was the result of a participatory process that lasted two years and now is under implementation. To do so, the Government created a National Council of Urban Development made up of representatives from the public sector, academics, professionals and civil society.

- To adopt participatory co-production of planning interventions involving all urban inhabitants and actors, with specific initiatives to include disadvantaged and marginalized communities.
- To include principles of gender equality in all urban planning and policies.
- To ensure the right to urban mobility, particularly by ensuring a public transportation system at a reasonable cost and adapted to social needs (gender, age, capacity, etc.).

HABITAT

- To develop a coherent system of legal, financial, administrative, political, fiscal and training tools aiming at recognizing, supporting and fostering the social production of habitat.

Naucalpan de Juárez, Mexico

El Capulín is a self-managed settlement made up by 163 housing units (approximately 1,000 inhabitants) and equipped with a grey water treatment plant, a greenhouse, a primary school, green areas, a facility for the elderly and productive spaces.

This initiative is an example of the social production of habitat by low-income families lead by strong community participation and self-organization.

Besides addressing housing needs, El Capulín contributes to environmental protection through grey water treatment and to the generation of employment for the community thanks to the greenhouse.

Women have played a key role in the development and functioning of the settlement.

- To ensure the right to information to groups pursuing the social production of habitat regarding the availability and location of adequate land, housing public programs or other existing support mechanisms.
- To establish political programs that support the creation of activities and productive spaces related to the social production and management of habitat (e.g. spaces enabling family income generation, productive activities or the provision of services; environmental projects related to waste management, sewage treatment or creation of greenhouses).
- To adopt participatory and inclusive policies to upgrade self-made habitats or poor neighborhoods, and support innovative and community-led initiatives in this regard.

Mexico City, Mexico

The Neighbourhood Improvement Community Programme is an initiative by Mexico City's Department of Social Development, in coordination with the Ministry of Works and Services and the Department of Urban Development and Housing.

The programme enables social infrastructure projects to be carried out depending on the community's needs, such as community centers, cultural centers, parks, recreation and sports areas, improvement of the urban landscape, site museums, ecological projects, skateboarding tracks, service works, and the expansion or improvement of existing works, among many others. Community involvement in the projects is a key feature of this policy, fostering bottom-up city making and self-management.

The programme is aimed at all social, civic, community and neighborhood groups interested in promoting "comprehensive, sustained and participatory processes" for the physical, symbolic and cultural improvement of Mexico City's districts, neighbourhoods and colonias.

HOUSING

- To establish and progressively realize the right to adequate

housing in policy and legislative frameworks, and ensure it mainstreams availability of needed services, affordability, habitability, and accessibility for all. To pay special attention to the poor, vulnerable, and minority groups and address the special needs of women, particularly poor women or female household heads whose houses are their work places.

France

Le Droit au lodgement opposable (DALO) (enforceable right to housing) is a recognized social right, enshrined in the preamble to the 1946 Constitution, and reaffirmed in a series of laws.

Defining the possibility for everyone to have decent housing has been strengthened in 2008 with the Law on the Right to Enforceable Housing, that created an obligation for the state to provide housing solutions for the most vulnerable, considered as public priority by mediation committees (evicted families, street dwellers...).

The right to housing is also enshrined through the public rental housing program, and actions to fight sub-standard housing.

- To ensure housing policy and legislative frameworks address aspects of participation, non-discrimination, transparency, and accountability.
- To ensure adequate security of tenure and recognize, promote and support a broad range of housing tenure types other than freehold ownership, namely leaseholds, condominiums, cooperatives, shared leaseholds, and especially various forms of rental housing.
- To ensure co-responsibility between public and private sector for the provision of social housing.
- To acknowledge the potential of social initiatives that strive to develop alternative models of housing provision (e.g. cooperatives, co-housing) and to provide support for advancing these initiatives on a wider scale (institutional, legal, financial, organizational).
- To encourage innovative and more inclusive housing finance systems (e.g. through subsidies for land or housing purchase).
- To refrain from, and protect against, forced evictions from homes, land and common property resources. Should they

take place in exceptional circumstances, they must comply with the Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement (A/HRC/4/18).

Spain

In 2015, the Region of Catalonia adopted a law to protect inhabitants against evictions and insecurity.

The law prohibits the cut-off of electricity and gas, and creates a framework for local government to protect people against forced evictions.

- To establish adequate shelters and social rental housing for female victims of domestic violence and for street dwellers.
- To adopt multi-sectoral plans (i.e. related to housing, livelihoods, employment, health, education, social protection and urban planning) addressing the needs of street dwellers, in close dialogue and direct participation of them, and involving the different spheres of government. These plans should pay particular attention to migrants and refugees, children, girls and women living in the streets.

Bogotá, Colombia

In 1995, the city government established the Integrated Programme for the Protection of Indigent People and Social Security, which prompted the District Program for the Care of People Living in the Street. Back in 2003, after “El Cartucho” (main concentration spot of people living in the street in Bogota) was demolished to make room for the Third Millennium Park, Agreement No. 79/2003 (“Bogota CD Police Code”) set forth that people living in the street “will receive special protection and care by the District Administration”. A Permanent Panel for the Plan for the Integrated Care of People Living in the Street (PAIChC) was then established as a cross-institution coordination space to manage and monitor the Integrated Care Plan and public policy with a “rights-based approach”.

A few years later, the city government adopted the “District Public Policy on Homelessness”, which includes an urban component (“Inclusive Urban Development”), which provides for the Urban Renovation of the City’s Historic Center and includes the area known as “The Bronx” (in deep social and urban decay), so as to improve the living conditions and restore the rights of citizens living in the street.

At the same time, some security and coexistence issues linked to “homelessness” were incorporated into the Integrated Citizen Co-existence and Safety Plan for Bogota C.D., 2013-2023, with a human safety and security-based approach.

BASIC SERVICES

- To avoid the privatization of public services.

Italy

The gradual privatization of water services has been resisted through strong popular mobilizations and local government resistance, which overturned national government initiatives to privatize water utilities.

The Forum Italiano dei Movimenti per l’Acqua (Italian Water Movements Forum), set up in March 2006, defended water as a common good.

Privatization was rejected in national referendum in 2011, in which 27 million Italians voted.

- To manage basic services under the administrative level closest to the population.

Germany

The Stadtwerke framework allowed many municipalities to municipalize energy production and consumption, by direct public management or through user cooperatives.

In many cases, this way of managing public assets improved quality and access to services, enhanced renewable energy production and created resources for the commons.

- To develop infrastructures, facilities, policies and programs to provide accessible basic services for all (e.g. water, sanitation, energy, health, and education), especially in poor urban areas and self-made habitats, and particularly target-

ing dependent population, who are traditionally in charge of women (e.g. children, the elderly, people with disabilities), and the poor (e.g. by ensuring reduced fees).

- To ensure that basic services are culturally adapted to various groups, do not discriminate in their access or delivery and are safe to use for all, particularly women and children.
- To establish social control mechanisms over the management of basic services provided by public or private institutions, particularly regarding quality, cost determination and attention to the public.
- To support community-led and non-profit models of management of basic services.
- To promote inter-municipal and metropolitan cooperation in the provision of basic services.

A city with quality public spaces

Goals

- To create public spaces that enhance social interactions, living-together and political participation
- To ensure that public spaces promote socio-cultural expressions, recreation, sports and embrace diversity
- To acknowledge and protect the role of public spaces in the provision of economic opportunities and livelihoods
- To ensure safer public spaces
- To deal with street dwellers using a human-rights approach

Tools / measures

- To establish legal instruments that ensure the recovery, upgrading and enlargement of public spaces and their different dimensions: material (streets, parks, squares), cultural (symbols, street culture, heritage), social (spaces boosting collective identity and social cohesion), economic (spaces providing livelihoods or job opportunities, both formal and informal economy) and political (spaces enabling debates, dissent and consensus).

Ecuador

The 2008 Constitution acknowledges the “right to fully enjoy the city and its public spaces” (art. 30 and 31).

Later, the right to the city was included in Ecuador’s National Development Plan (2009-2013), followed by the setting up of an Under Secretary of Housing and Human Settlements in 2011 aimed at operationalizing the right to the city, among others.

The following National Development Plan (2013-2017) refers more overtly to several elements related to the right to the city, such as land planning, environmental sustainability, risk management, democratic management of cities, access to public space, living together and citizen security.

The National Law on Territorial Occupation and Land Management and Use (2016) establishes several general principles and rules to foster an egalitarian and sustainable territorial development and the implementation of the right to the city.

The overarching principles of the law are the social and environmental function of property and ensuring an inclusive urban development for the “good living” (buen vivir) of people.

The law establishes some mechanisms and tools to control land speculation and to guarantee an equitable distribution of urban benefits, public investments and increased land value.

It also aims at ensuring the right to a safe and healthy habitat, to adequate and decent housing, to citizen participation, and to property in all its forms.

To operationalize this set of regulations, the law strengthens the role of local government .

- To set up regulations that ensure participatory processes in the above-mentioned processes, and in defining the use and management of public spaces.
- To ensure the right to meet, manifest, use and occupy public spaces.
- To expand the network of pedestrian and cycling reserved paths, and effectively integrate them in multi-modal public transport systems.
- To enlarge public spaces at the expense of the motorized and private mobility network.

- To ensure quality and sufficient public spaces in self-made habitats, in close dialogue and participation of their dwellers.
- To guarantee public spaces are free from violence, particularly against women and young people.
- To reduce the trend of privatization of public spaces in order to ensure that all residents can access amenities and infrastructures in their place of residency.
- To remove any urban planning or urban infrastructure set up to avoid the presence of street dwellers; to abrogate any law restricting or fining them or the institutions / individuals that support them.
- To provide sufficient public lighting, particularly in poor areas or self-made habitats, as a tool to build safer public spaces.

A sustainable city with inclusive rural-urban linkages

Goals

- To tackle urban sprawl
- To foster inclusive rural-urban linkages and avoid urban development models that take place at the expense of rural areas, other cities or future generations
- To protect biodiversity, natural habitats, and surrounding ecosystems
- To mitigate the causes and effects of climate change and natural disasters
- To ensure citizen participation in the conception and monitoring of policies addressing a socially responsible use and distribution of natural resources
- To upgrade self-made habitats

Tools / measures

- To recognize that cities depend on the flow of ecosystem services and custodianship of ecosystems, outside their boundaries as well as those within them. To partner

with “upstream” managers of natural resources, hence promoting conservation or restoration of ecosystems as cost-effective options to tackle climate change and reduce disaster risk.

- To invest in “green infrastructure” (e.g. parks, greening of pedestrian corridors, conscious planting of trees, protection of urban forests, waterfronts and shorelines, and all elements of the urban ecosystem).
- To improve air quality and reduce noise pollution by providing incentives for people to use clean-energy powered vehicles; promoting non-motorized forms of transport; acquiring more clean-energy public-transport vehicles; reducing industrial atmospheric pollution and eliminating ozone-depleting refrigerants.
- To establish regulations aiming at improving energy efficiency for housing, industry, and transport. To develop affordable and accessible alternative energy supplies.
- To reduce social and environmental construction impacts by developing locally appropriate construction codes; by using locally sourced materials; and by consulting with communities affected by major construction projects.
- To pass urban laws that foster the use of environmentally-friendly technology and a sustainable management of natural and energetic resources (including protection and rational use of water reserves, sewage treatment, circular waste management, urban agriculture, use of alternative and renewable energy, filtering and storing of rainwater).
- To institutionalize regulations and procedures that establish participatory mechanisms regarding the use and distribution of resources under the principle of social responsibility.
- To institutionalize regulations and procedures to involve affected communities in risk-management and prevention strategies, as well as in post-disaster reconstruction.
- To create rules that establish compulsory environmental, economic and social impact assessment of megaprojects.
- To upgrade self-made habitats with basic services, security of tenure, quality public spaces, livelihoods and job opportunities, among others.

Goals

- To foster decent employment opportunities in both the formal and informal sector
- To secure livelihoods for all
- To ensure women's equal access to employment
- To ensure equal access to social protection

Tools / measures

- To develop policies and enact legislation that protects and promotes decent work, and secures livelihoods for both women and men in the formal and informal economies (e.g. through incentives, tax exemptions or access to affordable financial services).

India

In 2014, India passed a federal law, that seeks protect the livelihoods of street vendors, and to establish a participatory mechanism for regulating street vending.

This significant piece of enabling legislation was passed as a result of long-term activism by street vendor organizations and others.

- To ensure women's equal access to employment (e.g. through the creation of day care centers, the enactment of basic workplace protections that accommodate the care responsibilities, the transformation of the domestic division of labor, and the promotion of work-family balance).
- To promote the right to work of people with disabilities.
- To enact a universal living minimum wage.
- To implement programs that facilitate the access of all workers to national social protection systems.
- To develop legislation and policies that effectively protects all urban workers, especially informal economy workers, from evictions, harassment and discrimination at their workplace.

- To establish or strengthen institutions that build capacities among women and the most vulnerable with skills to enhance their employability in the formal and informal sectors.
- To develop policies and enact legislation that protects existing livelihoods, and ensures full recognition of the positive contributions of all livelihoods and of the activities that support them.
- To promote public-private-popular partnerships (PPPP) in job creation, and in the provision of housing and basic services, acknowledging the social production of habitat.
- To develop policies and enact legislation that formally recognize and support social and solidarity economy (e.g. through collective credit systems; service provision and production of goods; fair trade; or collective production, distribution, consumption and recycling), as well as other innovative economic practices (e.g. sharing economy or circular economy).
- To valorize the role of waste pickers/recyclers in local economy, public health and environmental sustainability, and establish a policy framework to improve their living and working conditions.

A city of inclusive citizenship

Goals

- To ensure the respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights (civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental) in cities and human settlements
- To grant them on an equal basis to all inhabitants (i.e. women, those living in poverty or situations of environmental risk, informal economy workers, ethnic and religious groups, LGBT persons, people with disabilities, children, youth, the elderly, migrants, refugees, street dwellers, victims of violence, indigenous peoples and any other excluded group), whether permanent or temporary

- To set up legal mechanisms that compel states and governments to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights.
- To adjust urban, land and housing laws to international human rights standards.
- To review legal systems in order to establish new criteria for citizenship.

A city with enhanced political participation

Goals

- To foster all dwellers' participation in urban policies and spatial planning
- To strengthen representative democracy mechanisms, particularly at local level
- To ensure transparency and accountability in policy-making
- To foster multi-level and multi-sectoral coordination to enhance urban policies

Tools / measures

- To establish legal and political mechanisms that foster and institutionalize citizen participation (e.g. referenda, plebiscites, participatory councils, territorial committees, participatory budgeting, negotiation tables, audiences, conferences, public consultations or deliberative bodies) in all the stages of urban policy-making (planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring). To recognise and support popular initiative processes in the drafting of new laws (or amendments to existing ones), as well as in the formulation of new urban policies.

Montreal, Canada

In January 2006, the city of Montreal adopted the "Montreal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities," which binds all elected officials and

employees of the city and its agencies, to comply with the charter's principles and rights.

The charter addresses several issues: democratic life, economic and social life, cultural life, leisure and sport, environment and sustainable development, security and municipal services.

The text also includes the "right of initiative", which entitles citizens to initiate a public consultation at the borough or city level to introduce new public policies.

- To ensure that citizen participation processes integrate the needs of multiple social actors, ensure that disadvantaged inhabitants have an equal say and guarantee the participation of individuals lacking the formal status of citizens.
- To develop actions that guarantee conditions for effective participation of women in decisions regarding the city, taking into account existing obstacles for participation, such as cultural stereotypes, unequal distribution of domestic labor, unemployment, single female heads-of-households or age.
- To recognize, dialogue and support social organizations and movements that defend and work to fulfil the different components of the right to the city. Special attention should be given to organizations representing vulnerable and excluded persons.
- To ensure formal recognition of women's organizations as interlocutors of governments in decision making processes, specifically regarding the physical planning of the city and urban settlements (provision of infrastructure and services, urban security, housing projects, public spaces) in order to respond to the differentiated and specific needs of women.
- To adopt all necessary measures to preserve the autonomy of above-mentioned organizations.
- To ensure free and democratic election.
- To guarantee the right to public information, that is the right to request and receive complete, reliable, adequate and timely information from governments, legislative body, the judiciary and any entity delivering public services.
- To strengthen the capacities and accountability mecha-

nisms of local governments through adequate organizational and institutional structures, effective financing systems and political decentralization.

- To establish mechanisms to coordinate efforts between different levels of government, particularly in large metropolitan areas (e.g. creating metropolitan bodies in charge of specific urban policies).

A city free of discrimination

Goals

- To guarantee the right to the city of all urban dwellers, either permanent or temporary, with no discrimination of any kind based on gender, age, health status, income, nationality, ethnicity, migratory condition, or political, religious or sexual orientation

Tools / measures

- To fight discrimination based on any ground, as well prejudice against marginalized or poor urban dwellers.
- To suppress political, economic, social and cultural obstacles that limit the freedom and equity of inhabitants in their access to health, housing, education, employment, livelihoods, justice and political agency.

New York City, United States

New York City Commission on Human Rights is one of the many local anti-discrimination agencies present in US cities. The Commission implements the city's Human Rights Law, which provides a strong mandate to act in different domains and in different policy areas to prevent discrimination.

Its main activities include the intake, investigation, and prosecution of complaints alleging violations of the Human Right Law; as well as human rights public education and encouragement of positive community relations.

- To implement special city plans for migrants and refugees in terms of health, housing, education, and livelihoods.

A city of gender equality

Goals

- To adopt all necessary measures to combat discrimination in all its forms against women, men, and LGBT people in political, social, economic and cultural terms
- To ensure the full development of women in order to guarantee them equality in the exercise and fulfillment of fundamental human rights, and a life free of violence

Tools / measures

- To establish and implement public policies that guarantee equal opportunities for women in cities and human settlements, according to international standards, charters and agreements (i.e. CEDAW, Charter for Women's Right to the City, Beijing Conference on Women).

San Francisco, United States

The city of San Francisco has translated and implemented women rights locally as defined in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The initiative started in 1998 with the approval of the so called 'CEDAW ordinance'. The policy has been funded through the municipal budget and led, administered, and developed by the City's Commission and Department on the Status of Women.

The policy aims to support the rights of women, focusing in particular on employment, violence against women and girls, and health care. Implementation has followed two interrelated tracks: city-wide initiatives to integrate women's rights in city operations and a gender analysis of city departments' workforce, budget, and services. Community organizations and private companies have been involved in the policy.

The policy has had a practical impact, especially on city departments. To a different extent depending on the case, the gender analysis has raised awareness of gender issues in the departments, has led to budget allocations that benefit more women than in the past, and has made departments' interventions, actions, and services friendlier to women and caregivers at large.

There is evidence that not only women and girls of different ethnic and racial backgrounds have benefited from the policy, but also people performing care giving tasks, members of minorities, and specific religious groups.

- To pass affirmative-action laws that guarantee the participation of women in local government in the maximum spheres of decision-making (both executive and legislative), as well as in councils or neighborhood associations, among others.
- To develop training programs for women to increase and improve their participation and leadership.
- Institutionalize women's areas with independent budgets within the structures of local city governments that guarantee the transversal integration of gender in all public policies, programs and plans.
- To design public policies on urban security that prevent the violence exercised against women in cities and human settlements.
- To implement awareness-raising and education programs in gender equality targeting public servants, educational centers, media and the private sector.

A city with cultural diversity

Goals

- To foster a cultural, recreational, sportive and political use of public spaces, as well as social interactions and living-together
- To respect, protect, and promote diverse customs, lan-

guages, memories, identities, expressions, and socio-cultural forms

- To ensure access to culture for all, importantly including marginalized groups and dwellers living in peripheral or self-made neighborhoods

Tools / measures

- To establish regulations preventing police from criminalizing the use of public spaces for social, cultural, recreational, sportive or political uses by those groups traditionally affected from police harassment (generally young, peripheral, poor and afro-descendant individuals).
- To enhance local cultures and promote cultural diversity as an effective way to mitigate urban conflict and violence, preserve social fabrics, foster tolerance and pluralism.

Bogotá, Colombia

The Programme for the Overall Improvement of Neighbourhoods seeks to reduce the imbalances and the territorial, socio-cultural, socio-economic and environmental segregation of urban and rural human settlements, and the precariousness in housing and environmental conditions.

One of its lines of action entails fostering artistic, cultural and heritage initiatives that promote community organization, harmonious coexistence in the territory and/or transformations of places and environments marked by violence and insecurity.

The programme represented progress in the recognition and affirmation of cultural rights of communities, as well as in acknowledging the diversity of cultural territories and forms of expression in the city. It also implied the recognition of culture as one pillar of development and coexistence.

- To acknowledge and protect new forms of culture promoted by and for specific groups, including women, migrants, the urban poor and new urban groups

(e.g. urban tribes, LGBT groups).

- To enable, support and foster artistic and cultural expressions of marginalized groups as a means to valorize their identities, recognize their voice and acknowledge their contribution to the broadening of the hegemonic cultural canon.
- To establish legislative and policy frameworks to ensure access to culture and cultural facilities for all, particularly for communities living in peripheral, self-built or poor neighbourhoods. To enable and foster the use of vacant buildings or urban spaces for self-managed cultural activities.
- To protect historic, architectural, cultural and artistic heritage.

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#SupportRight2City

The global campaign for the adoption of the Right to the City in the New Urban Agenda was launched on July 2016 – a strategic moment before the Habitat III Conference – to advocate for peaceful, just, inclusive and sustainable cities, villages and settlements.

Now we need to make sure that States and governments everywhere will take the Right to the City further into local policies and legislations. You can find our online petition, as well as more information, videos and articles on our campaign's website globalcallright2city.org.

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