Land and the right to adequate housing

Consultation with Civil Society

Thursday, 29 May 2025
15:30-17:00 CET I 9:30-11:00 EST

Virtual via Teams
Register here

The Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal, cordially invites civil society organizations to an online consultation to inform his **forthcoming report on land governance and its impact on the right to adequate housing**, to be presented in October 2025 to the UN General Assembly.
Among other issues, the report will address: land governance issues, affordability of land and the impact of financialization, the process and practice of communal land, the social function of land property, eminent domain and public interest, and land rights defenders and their safety and freedom. More information on the report is available here.

The aim of the consultation is to allow civil society organizations to brief the Special Rapporteur on the most pertinent issues concerning land governance, land policies, land ownership and land use and their impact on the right to adequate housing.

Questions on which the Special Rapporteur would welcome input, include:

- Examples of the disproportionate impact that different forms of land tenure have on specific groups and marginalized communities.
- Valuable examples of communal or local forms of management or use of land, irrespective of actual title, tenure or ownership.
- Examples of successful expropriation of private land for the public interest, common good and social use resulting in improved realization of the right to adequate housing.
- Examples of the opposite, namely, expropriatory or confiscatory intervention from the State in a way that is contrary to the common good, namely, not only affecting private property of one or more individuals, but the enjoyment of rights by the local community.

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During the consultation, we would welcome brief oral interventions, no longer than 3 minutes, summarizing key concerns, findings, promising practices and key recommendations on land issues and land policies that are essential to protect, respect and fulfil the right to adequate housing, that you would like to see reflected in the report.

Please reach out to Chiara Menghetti (Chiara.Menghetti@un.org) in case you would like to make a slightly longer impulse input. This could be a short presentation regarding a land issue, a promising land policy, a legal framework in your country that you believe should be flagged in the report, and which may also be of interest for participants from other countries. Ideally, following an introduction from the Special Rapporteur, we would like to kick off the discussion with three short impulse inputs from CSO representatives, each covering a different land issue related to the right to adequate housing.

Participants are also encouraged to make written submissions for the forthcoming report by responding to the questionnaire or sending any other relevant input. Please find the link to the call for input and questionnaire in English, French and Spanish.

Modality: Participation is not restricted. Any member of a civil society, land or housing rights or community-based organization can register and participate. The webinar will be held in English (without interpretation) and recorded for internal use. The participants list and recording will not be published.

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