



HOUSING AND LAND RIGHTS NETWORK

Habitat International Coalition

The Habitat Agenda Commitments related to Gender Equality

This paper reviews specific **principles and commitments** that States adopted in the Habitat Agenda¹ at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul in 1996. It contributes to their reconsideration before adoption of the new Agenda at Habitat III (Quito, October 2016).

For the Habitat III process and outcomes to be credible, it is crucial to assess implementation of the commitments of Habitat II, as promised in Habitat Agenda's section "G. Assessing Progress." Many of those commitments also remain the essential core for any new global agenda.

At the heart of the Habitat II achievements were: (1) an affirmation of the centrality of human rights, in particular the progressive realization of the human right to adequate housing in human settlements and (2) recognition of the principles of good governance in balanced rural and urban development. Those two pillars of the Habitat II Agenda are reflected in the Istanbul Declaration and Habitat II Agenda.

The commitments relating gender equality are to be understood within the concept of human habitat, a concept the two relevant bi-decennial global policies established, first at Vancouver in 1976 (Habitat I) and, secondly, at Istanbul (Habitat II) in 1996. The concept of habitat is both urban and rural, involving a "regional and cross-sectoral approach to human settlements planning, which places emphasis on rural/urban linkages and treats villages and cities as two ends [points] of a human settlements continuum in a common ecosystem" (H2, para. 104).

At Habitat II (1996), States, including their various spheres of government, committed to principles and actions over the ensuing 20 years. Concerning gender equality, the Habitat Agenda recognizes in the preamble that:

"Women have an important role to play in the attainment of sustainable human settlements. Nevertheless, as a result of a number of factors, including the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women and discrimination against women, women face particular constraints in obtaining adequate shelter and in fully participating in decision-making related to sustainable human settlements. The empowerment of women and their full and equal participation in political, social and economic life, the improvement of health and the eradication of poverty are essential to achieving sustainable human settlements"; (H2:15)

The Habitat II principles, commitments and action strategies related to **gender equality** are reproduced in the following sections. As mentioned above, these form criteria for the indispensable evaluation of Habitat II's implementation by governments and development agencies, in particular, UN-Habitat. These reminders serve further as the minimum elements upon which to build a new Habitat Agenda, which we expect to address the new challenges facing human settlements in the 21st Century, with States and development actors committing to more-progressive development and far more-diligent implementation.

The document provides as well a list of the relevant gender-related obligations that States have assumed in the Habitat agenda and the intervening period since Habitat II, jointly with other relevant documents

¹ United Nations, Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, Turkey, 3–14 June 1996, A/CONF./165/14, 7 August 1996, at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G96/025/00/PDF/G9602500.pdf?OpenElement>. All references from the Habitat II outcome documents are cited in the excerpts herein by their paragraph number as Istanbul Declaration (ID) and The Habitat Agenda (H2).

forming part of the current minimum norms for human settlements development, administration and governance from a gender equality perspective.

Habitat II Goals and Principles

We recognize the particular needs of women ... for safe, healthy and secure living conditions. We shall intensify our efforts to eradicate poverty and discrimination, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and to provide for basic needs, such as education, nutrition and life-span health care services, and, especially, adequate shelter for all. To this end, we commit ourselves to improving the living conditions in human settlements in ways that are consonant with local needs and realities, and we acknowledge the need to address the global, economic, social and environmental trends to ensure the creation of better living environments for all people. We shall also ensure the full and equal participation of all women and men ... in political, economic and social life. We shall promote ... gender equality in policies, programmes and projects for shelter and sustainable human settlements development. We make these commitments with particular reference to the more than one billion people living in absolute poverty and to the members of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups identified in the Habitat Agenda; (ID:7)

We reaffirm our commitment to the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing as provided for in international instruments. To that end, we shall seek the active participation of our public, private and non-governmental partners at all levels to ensure legal security of tenure, protection from discrimination and equal access to affordable, adequate housing for all persons and their families; (ID:8)

We shall also enhance the role of women; (ID:12)

Equitable human settlements are those in which all people, without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, have equal access to housing, infrastructure, health services, adequate food and water, education and open spaces. In addition, such human settlements provide equal opportunity for a productive and freely chosen livelihood; equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance, the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies; equal opportunity for personal, spiritual, religious, cultural and social development; equal opportunity for participation in public decision making; equal rights and obligations with regard to the conservation and use of natural and cultural resources; and equal access to mechanisms to ensure that rights are not violated. The empowerment of women and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, whether rural or urban, are fundamental to sustainable human settlements development; (H2:27)

The family is the basic unit of society and, as such, should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and husband and wife should be equal partners. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Human settlements planning should take into account the constructive role of the family in the design, development and management of such settlements. Society should facilitate, as appropriate, all necessary conditions for its integration, reunification, preservation, improvement, and protection within adequate shelter and with access to basic services and a sustainable livelihood; (H2:31)

Human health and quality of life are at the centre of the effort to develop sustainable human settlements. We, therefore, commit ourselves to promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equal access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical, mental and environmental health, and the equal access of all to primary health care, making particular efforts to rectify inequalities relating to social and economic conditions, including housing, without distinction as to race, national origin, gender, age, or disability, respecting and promoting our common and particular cultures. Good

health throughout the life-span of every man and woman, good health for every child, and quality education for all are fundamental to ensuring that people of all ages are able to develop their full capacities in health and dignity and to participate fully in the social, economic and political processes of human settlements, thus contributing, inter alia, to the eradication of poverty (...); (H2:36)

Habitat II Commitments and Actions

In implementing these commitments, special attention should be given to the circumstances and needs of (...) women (...); (38)

Adequate livelihood

Provide legal security of tenure and equal access to land to all people, including women (...) and undertaking legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies; (40b, 86g) Promote measures to ensure that women have equal access to credit for buying, leasing or renting land, and equal protection for the legal security of tenure of such land; (79d, 86g)

Promote access for all people to safe drinking water, sanitation and other basic services, facilities and amenities, especially for (...) women (...); (40c)

Eradicate and ensure legal protection from discrimination in access to shelter and basic services, without distinction of any kind, such as (...) sex (...); (40j) Take into consideration the needs of women in making technological choices in respect of the level of and access to basic services; (141k)

Develop housing that can serve as a functional workplace for women and men; (43cc)

Encourage community mortgage programmes that are accessible to people living in poverty, especially women, [such as] savings and credit cooperatives, credit unions, cooperative banks, cooperative insurance enterprises and other non-bank financial institutions, and establish savings mechanisms in the informal sector, particularly for women, in order to increase their productive capacity by providing them with access to capital, resources, credit, land, technology and information so that they can raise their income and improve their living conditions and status within the household; (81j, 82c, 82e)

Formulate and implement human settlements development policies that ensure equal access to and maintenance of basic services, including those related to the provision of food security; education; employment and livelihood; full range of affordable health care services, including those related to reproductive health care, which includes family planning and sexual health; safe drinking water and sanitation; adequate shelter; and access to open and green spaces, giving priority to the needs and rights of women (...); (116a, 136f)

Stimulate productive employment opportunities that generate income sufficient to achieve an adequate standard of living for all people, while ensuring equal employment opportunities and wage rates for women and encouraging the location of employment opportunities near and in the home, particularly for women living in poverty (...); (118a)

Foster economic policies that have a positive impact on the employment and income of women workers in both the formal and informal sectors and adopt specific measures to address women's unemployment, in particular their long-term unemployment; Eliminate legal and customary barriers, where they exist, to women's equal access to and control of land and finance; (119f)

Promote and strengthen programmes that integrate credit, finance, vocational training and technological transfer programmes in support of small and micro-enterprises and enterprises in the cooperative sector, particularly those developed and utilized by women; (160b)

Participation and governance

Promote, as appropriate, socially integrated and accessible human settlements, including appropriate facilities for health and education, combating segregation and discriminatory and other exclusionary policies and practices, and recognizing and respecting the rights of all, especially of women(...); (43a)

Promote gender-sensitive institutional and legal frameworks (...); (45f)

Institutionalize a participatory approach and promote representative structures to sustainable human settlements development, planning and management, through the development and support of strategies and mechanisms that encourage open and inclusive dialogue among all interested parties, especially women (...); (45h, 113l, 119c)

Promote gender-sensitive capacity building at the national and local levels conducive to civic engagement and broad-based participation in human settlements development (45f) Facilitate participation by tenants in the management of public and community-based housing and by women and those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the planning and implementation of urban and rural development (45m)

Integrate gender perspectives in human settlements related legislation, policies, programmes and projects through the application of gender-sensitive analysis; Integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of environmentally sound and sustainable resource management mechanisms, production techniques and infrastructure development in rural and urban areas; (46a, 46d)

Formulate and strengthen policies and practices to promote the full and equal participation of women in human settlements planning and decision-making; (46e)

Provid[e] legal security of tenure and equal access to land for all, including women (...) as well as effective protection from forced evictions that are contrary to the law, taking human rights into consideration and bearing in mind that homeless people should not be penalized for their status; (61b)

Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies; (72e)

Involve, encourage and assist, local communities, particularly women (...) (and) facilitate regular dialogue and gender-sensitive participation (...) in production, planning, design and construction of houses, provision of services, water resource conservation, management and technological choice, community facilities and their operation and maintenance and social-welfare programmes at all levels and stages of decision-making; (74f, 86b, 86c, 90o, 124b)

Support, inter alia, community projects, policies and programmes that aim to remove all barriers to women's access to affordable housing, land and property ownership, economic resources, infrastructure and social services, and ensure the full participation of women in all decision-making processes, with particular regard to women in poverty, especially female heads of households and women who are sole providers for their families; (78e)

Review legal and regulatory frameworks, adjusting them to the principles and commitments of the Global Plan of Action and ensuring that the equal rights of women and men are clearly specified and enforced; Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies; (78c, 78f)

Encourage public participation in assessing real user needs, especially gender needs, as an integrated action of the planning and design process; (90b)

Where appropriate, redirect public resources to encourage community-based management of services and infrastructure and promote the participation of the private sector and local residents, including (...)

women (...) in the identification of public service needs, spatial planning and the design, provision and maintenance of urban infrastructure and open and green spaces; (116b)

Adopt, where appropriate, by-laws, standards and norms and develop planning guidelines that take into consideration the needs and situations of women (...) and girls (...) in relation to human settlements planning, development and decision-making, and in the provision of and access to basic services, including public transportation, health and educational facilities; Consider in the planning process the fact that women are often involved in the informal sector and use their homes for business or market activities; Promote changes in attitudes, structures, policies, laws and other practices relating to gender in order to eliminate all obstacles to human dignity and equality in family and society and promote full and equal participation of women and men(...) in social, economic and political life, including in the formulation, implementation and follow-up of public policies and programmes; set up monitoring mechanisms in government structures; and integrate the results into mainstream policies for sustainable human settlements development; Enhance community awareness of issues facing women living in poverty, the homeless, migrants, refugees, other displaced women in need of international protection, and internally displaced women, especially those issues related to physical and sexual abuse, and design appropriate community responses; Ensure equal access to housing, land and public services in the urban and rural areas (...); (119a-l)

Develop policy guidelines and programmes that encourage and actively pursue the involvement of women's groups in all aspects of community development related to environmental infrastructure and the provision of basic urban services, and encourage women's own cooperatives, as well as their membership in other cooperatives; Promote equal access to all levels of education for girls and women; (119d, 119g)

Integrate indigenous women, their perspectives and knowledge, on an equal basis with men, in decision making regarding human settlements, including sustainable resource management and the development of policies and programmes for sustainable development, in particular, those designed to address and prevent environmental degradation of land; (122c)

Incorporate a gender perspective in policy, [metropolitan] planning and management strategies; (186b)

Capacity development

Foster capacity-building and training for human settlements planning, management and development at the national and local levels that includes education, training and institutional strengthening, especially for women (...); (45i)

Promote awareness campaigns, education and enabling practices regarding, in particular, legal rights with respect to tenure, land ownership and inheritance for women, so as to overcome existing barriers; Develop regularization programmes and formulate and implement such programmes and projects in consultation with the concerned population and organized groups, ensuring the full and equal participation of women and taking into account the[ir] needs; (78b, 78d)

Strengthen the capacities of training institutions and non-governmental organizations, [and] provide training to professionals and practitioners in the construction and development sector to update their skills and knowledge in order to promote the development of shelter programmes that serve the interests and needs of women (...) that ensure their participation at all stages of the shelter development process; (90i, 90d)

Promoting equality and equity, incorporating gender considerations and the full and equal participation of women through institutional measures to ensure that their interests are represented in policy- and decision-making processes and through such techniques as advocacy training and seminars; (182j)

Support training programmes for administrators and civic officials at all levels, and for all other key actors, as appropriate, to enhance leadership qualities and promote the inclusion of women (...) in staff structures and decision-making; (184a)

Promote comprehensive training, education and human resources development policies and programmes that are gender-sensitive and involve local authorities and their associations/networks, as well as academic, research, training and educational institutions, community-based organizations and the private sector, focusing on: The development of local capacity to define needs and undertake or commission applied research, particularly with regard to age and gender-sensitive analysis, social and environmental impact assessments, shelter strategy formulation, local economic growth and job creation, and to incorporate the findings in management systems; (184c, c(iii))

Develop or, where necessary, create a core of professional staff that includes women, trained in the areas of urban planning, environmental management, engineering, transportation, communications, social services, development of primary infrastructure, and emergency planning, and with the skills to work together to address major planning issues in an integrated way (186g)

Safety and security

Promote shelter and support basic services and facilities for education and health for (...) women and children who are survivors of family violence or subjected to violence; (...); (40l, 97c)

Provid[e] legal security of tenure and equal access to land for all, including women (...) as well as effective protection from forced evictions that are contrary to the law, taking human rights into consideration and bearing in mind that homeless people should not be penalized for their status; (61b)

Promote mechanisms for the protection of women who risk losing their homes and properties when their husbands die; (78e)

Encourage lending institutions to recognize that community-based organizations may act as guarantors for those who, because of poverty or discrimination, lack other sources of equity, giving particular attention to the needs of individual women; (79f(v))

Establish programmes that address the absolute poverty found among rural women, focusing on their need for adequate shelter and employment; (119i)

Eliminate the sexual and economic exploitation of young women (...), improving their quality of life and increasing their contribution to sustainable human settlements development; (120f) [and] [t]ake concerted and urgent action to dismantle international and national sex trafficking networks; (123j)

Enhance women's safety in communities through the promotion of a gender perspective in crime-prevention policies and programmes by increasing in those responsible for implementing those policies the knowledge and understanding of the causes, consequences and mechanisms of violence against women; (123e)

Adopt integrated, transparent and gender-sensitive environmental, social and economic policies and programmes for distressed areas and areas characterized by social exclusion; (124a)

Improve shelter conditions so as to mitigate those health and safety risks, particularly risks to women (...) that are associated with activities in the home; (136d)

Promote safe and healthy workplace conditions for men and women; (136l)

Ensure the participation in disaster planning and management of all interested parties, including women, (...) in recognition of their particular vulnerability to human-made and natural disasters; (172b)

Identify and support approaches to cope with the urgent shelter requirements of returnees and internally displaced persons, including as appropriate, the construction of temporary housing with basic facilities, taking into account gender-specific needs; (176g)

Ensure that the particular needs of women (...) are considered in all communications, rescue efforts, relocation, rehabilitation and reconstruction; (176j)

Data and research

Develop and evaluate policies, programmes and practices to reduce the undesired adverse effects and improve the positive impact of structural adjustment and economic transition on sustainable human settlements development, especially on (...) women, inter alia, through reviewing [them] by means of gender-sensitive social impact assessments (...), gender-sensitive indicators, disaggregated data and appropriate data-collection methods (...); (43w, 51, 126d)

Develop conceptual and practical methodologies for incorporating gender perspectives in human settlements planning, development and evaluation, including the development of indicators; Collect, analyze and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information on human settlements issues, including statistical means that recognize and make visible the unremunerated work of women, for use in policy and programme planning and implementation; (46b, 46c)

Strengthen shelter-related information systems, and make use of relevant research activities in policy development, including gender-disaggregated data; (67f)

Assess housing supply and demand on a gender-disaggregated basis and collect, analyse and disseminate information about housing markets and other delivery mechanisms, and encourage the private and non-profit sectors and the media to do the same, while avoiding duplication of efforts; (72a)

Generate and disseminate, [and] where necessary, set up or enhance databases, including, inter alia, data disaggregated by gender and age, and conduct data collection, compilation and analysis to provide baseline information on housing and human settlement issues that can be used to better plan for population growth in cities, towns and villages; (119j, 127b)

Ensure adequate research to assess how and to what extent women and children are particularly susceptible or exposed to environmental degradation and hazards, including, as necessary, research and data collection on specific groups of women and children, particularly women with low incomes, indigenous women and women belonging to minorities; (136c)

Enhance the performance of local authorities by undertaking data collection, disaggregated by gender (...) and comparative analyses of, and by disseminating information on innovative practices in, the delivery, operation and maintenance of public goods and services, in providing for the needs of their populations and in exploiting the fiscal and other potential of their cities; (180g)

Collect, analyse and disseminate, as appropriate, comparative data, disaggregated by gender, age and income, on the performance of local authorities in providing for the needs of their populations; (180l)

Promote the free flow of, and access to, information in the areas of public policy, decision making, resource allocation and social development that have an impact on women and children in particular; (191i)

International Norms related to Gender Equality and Women

The Habitat II commitments also referred to preceding norms that apply to gender equality in human settlements development, management and governance. As noted, the States repeatedly reaffirmed their commitments under the [International Year of Shelter for the Homeless](#) (1987) and the [Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000](#) (1988),² in addition to commitments to apply [Agenda 21](#) (1992), with its promise to improve living conditions for women and girls,³ and the [Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities](#) (1993), including its focus on women and girls (Rules 6 and 9). In 1996, the Habitat Agenda also invoked seven binding international treaties, including human rights covenants and conventions that each enshrine the obligation of States to respect, protect and fulfill gender equality.⁴

Also relevant remains the [Charter of the United Nations](#) (1945), which requires member States to respect human rights for all without any distinction as to sex, and forms the nucleus for the protection of rights for persons regardless of their gender.

Habitat II followed by only one year the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995). In the [Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development](#) States acknowledged that

social and economic development cannot be secured in a sustainable way without the full participation of women, and that equality and equity between women and men is a priority for the international community and as such must be at the centre of economic and social development (CD:8).

In that same preceding year, the UN organized the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) which produced the [Beijing Program for Action](#), recognizing that many women face particular barriers because of various diverse factors in addition to their gender, which isolate or marginalize them, denying their human rights such that they lack access to housing and economic self-sufficiency, are excluded from related decision-making processes and are often denied the opportunity to contribute to their communities as part of the mainstream (BPfA:31). At Beijing, governments committed to actions ensuring that women obtain affordable housing (BPfA:58m) and access to safe water, sanitation facilities and fuel supplies, particularly in rural and poor urban areas (BPfA:92), as well as and sustainable and affordable energy technologies, such as wind, solar, biomass and other renewable sources (BPfA:256k).

At Habitat III, States will have to consider further legal developments of both customary and declaratory law, as cited above, and binding treaty law related to women's rights and gender equality in human settlements through the new Habitat Agenda. The international normative documents developed after the adoption of Habitat Agenda or not mentioned in the Habitat Agenda⁵:

- CEDaW, [General Recommendation No. 18](#) on disabled women, (1991)**;
- CEDaW, [General Recommendation No. 23](#) on women in political and public life (1997) **;

² Article 2b, Guidelines 2 and 9.

³ Paras. 3.2, 3.4d, 3.5c, 3.6, 3.7, 3.7a, 3.8f, 3.8i, 3.8j, 3.8o, 3.9, 4.27, 5.12, 5.16, 5.17, 5.21, 5.33, 5.37, 5.44, 5.45, 5.46, 5.48, 5.49, 5.50, 5.51, 5.52, 5.53, 5.62, 5.66, 6.8, 6.11, 6.13c(iii), 6.18, 6.21, 6.23, 6.24, 6.25, 6.26, 6.27c(i-iii), 6.29, 6.30, 6.31, 7.4, 7.16b(i), 7.20a, 7.26, 7.28, 7.30f, 7.45a, 7.51a(i), 7.76, 7.77d(i-iii), 8.5d, 8.5g, 8.10, 8.25, 10.5, 10.10, 10.11, 10.11c, 10.16a-c, 11.1, 11.3b, 11.3f, 11.13, 11.13i, 11.18c, 11.27, 12.14, 12.24a, 12.28c, 12.37c, 12.56d, 12.57f, 12.57g, 13.10c, 13.16h, 13.17b, 13.21, 14.14, 14.17a, 14.17b, 14.18b, 14.27a, 14.80b, 14.90b, 15.4g, 15.5e, 15.5f, 17.15, 17.81a, 17.93b, 17.94b, 18.9c, 18.12n, 18.19, 18.22, 18.33b, 18.34d, 18.45, 18.48b, 18.50b(iv), 18.50c(i), 18.53, 18.54, 18.59f(iv), 18.62, 18.68b, 18.68d, 18.80d, 19.22, 20.20, 20.26b, 20.27b, 20.27c, 20.28a, 21.19, 21.25d, 21.46c, 24.1-24.12, 25.14c, 25.14d, 26.5, 26.9, 28.2d, 29.7, 30.1, 30.17, 30.24, 31.4g, 32.2, 32.4, 32.5b, 32.5f, 32.6d, 32.8c, 32.14c, 33.8, 34.14c, 35.21b, 35.25b, 36.4, 36.5i, 36.5m, 36.10k, 38.14, 38.25f, 38.42, 40.8, 40.11.

⁴ The Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the UNESCO Convention on World Heritage Sites (1972), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), and relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization.

⁵ This is an illustrative non-exhaustive compilation of international norms.

- CESCR, [General Comment No. 7](#) on the right to adequate housing: forced evictions, (1997)**;
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDaW), [General Recommendation No. 23](#) on women in political and public life, (1997)**;
- CEDaW, [General Recommendation No. 24](#) on women and health (1999) **;
- CEDaW, [General Recommendation No. 24](#) on women and health, (1999)**;
- HRC, [General Comment No. 28](#) on the equality of rights between men and women, (2000) **;
- UNSC, Resolution on Women and Peace and Security, [S/RES/1325](#), (2000)*;
- UNGA, [Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children](#), A/RES/55/25, (2000)*;
- UNGA, [United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto](#), A/Res/55/25, (2000)**;
- [World Summit on Sustainable Development](#), Johannesburg (South Africa), 26 August–4 September 2002:
 - [Johannesburg Declaration](#)[†]
 - [Plan of Implementation](#)[†]
- High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Economic and Social Council, [Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking](#), E/2002/68/Add.1 (2002)[†];
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 16](#) on the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights, (2005)**;
- Office of the United Nations for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), [Good Governance Practices for the Protection of Human Rights](#) (2007) [†];
- CEDaW, [General Recommendation No. 26](#) on Women Migrant Workers (2008) **;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 19](#) the right to social security, (2008)**;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 20](#) on non–discrimination in economic, social and cultural rights, (2009)**;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 21](#) on Right of everyone to take part in cultural life (2009) **;
- CEDaW, [General Recommendation No. 27](#) on older women and protection of their human rights (2010) **;
- CEDaW, [General Recommendation No. 28](#) on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, (2010)**;
- UNHRC, [Resolution on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women](#), A/HRC/RES/15/23, (2010)[†];
- UNGA, [The Future We Want](#), A/RES/66/288, (2012)[†];
- CEDaW, [General Recommendation No. 32](#) on the gender–related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women, (2014)**;
- CEDaW & CRC, [Joint General Recommendation/General Comment No. 31 of the CEDaW and No. 18 of the CRC](#) on harmful practices, (2014)**;
- [World Human Rights Cities Forum](#), Gwanju (South Korea), 15–18 May 2014:
 - [Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City](#)[†]

- CEDaW, [General Recommendation No. 33](#) on women's access to justice, (2015)**;
- UNGA, [Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), A/RES/70/1, (2015)†;
- UNGA, Resolution on Women on Development, [S/RES/70/219](#), (2015)*;
- UNSC, Resolution on Women and Peace and Security, [S/RES/2242](#), (2015)*;
- UNSC, Resolution on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict [S/RES/2222](#) (2015)*;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 22](#) on the right to sexual and reproductive health (2016)**;
- CEDaW, [General Recommendation No. 34](#) on the rights of rural women (2016)**;
- [World Humanitarian Summit](#), Istanbul (Turkey), 23–24 May 2016:
 - [Chair's summary: Standing up for Humanity: Committing to Action](#)†

Key to symbols:

* = binding on all States; ** = binding on all States party to the relevant treaty; † = declaratory law as guidance for States and their governments to comply with general principles of international law and certain treaty-law requirements.