

UNFCCC Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme

Call for views on 2024 programme: Cities: buildings and urban systems

**Submission by the Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)
April 2024**

Introduction

The Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB) welcomes the UNFCCC's call for views on the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme's 2024 focus on Cities: buildings and urban systems.

Given the short time frame for this call for inputs, this submission focuses on providing links to IHRB resources that address specific areas of relevance, which themselves contain links to many further resources.

IHRB is at the disposal of UNFCCC as it further develops its Sharm el-Sheikh programme, and beyond.

For further questions, please contact IHRB's Head of Built Environment Programme Giulio Ferrini ([giulio.ferrini \[at\] ihrb.org](mailto:giulio.ferrini@ihrb.org))

IHRB's Built Environment Programme

Since 2019, IHRB has been working to advance human rights in the built environment. Our foundational [Dignity by Design framework](#) aims to guide decision-making and strengthen collaboration, in order to mitigate risks to human rights and maximise social outcomes throughout the built environment lifecycle. The framework is shaping industry practice, has been referenced in [UN publications](#), and is being implemented through [pilot projects](#). We trust that it can serve as a useful tool for the upcoming programme of work.

Since 2022, our focus has been on a just transition in the built environment. Our [Building for Today and the Future](#) project is undertaking action research in 8 cities around the

world, assessing the impact of built environment decarbonisation activities on human rights, particularly the right to housing, worker rights, meaningful participation and socio-spatial inequalities. In each city, we have uncovered stories of positive and negative social impact of climate action, and convened stakeholders to create visions for a just transition in their local city.

The research has also identified some of the largest landowners in each city, uncovered examples of [local government](#) initiatives which are aligning social and environmental outcomes and identified [new economic models](#), including [those leveraging private sector investment](#) to deliver greener and more affordable housing.

Through our research, we found that topic of sustainable and affordable housing resonated with the vast majority of stakeholders across the world. The right to housing is not being upheld and, in fact, housing has been commodified, with widespread inadequacy and affordability issues that need to be tackled, while concurrently reducing the emissions from our sector. We feel this would be a particularly fitting topic to discuss as part of your 2024 programme.

This June, we will publish the compendium report, which brings together the findings of the research, as well as recommendations on how to ensure our built environment can transition to net zero in a fair and equitable manner. We would love to share its insights with you and the other stakeholders involved in the programme.