



Permanent Mission of Finland, Geneva
Mission Permanente de la Finlande, Genève



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
the other International Organizations
Geneva



Hybrid side event - 52nd session of the HRC

Realizing the right to housing in the climate crisis

9 March 2023, 14:00 to 15:00 CET

Palais des Nations, Building H, Room 542, 5th floor,
Elevator B

Opening remarks

H.E. Katharina Stasch

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Germany

Speakers

- **Ms. Terhi Lehtonen**
State Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Finland
- **Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal**
Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing
- **Ms. Ceiça Pitaguary**
National Secretary of Environmental and Territorial Management
Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, Brazil (Video)
- **Ms. Christine Lemaitre**
Chief Executive Officer, German Sustainable Building Council
- **Mr. Leo F. Saldanha**
Coordinator and Trustee, Environment Support Group, Bangalore (India)

Moderation and closing remarks

H.E. Julia Imene-Chanduru

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Namibia

Registration

The Palais des Nations is undergoing renovations resulting in a shortage of meeting rooms. Due to the very limited seating capacity online registration and participation is strongly encouraged.



Registration: bit.ly/3STMqhN



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SPECIAL PROCEDURES

SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS, INDEPENDENT EXPERTS & WORKING GROUPS

Background

The climate crisis is severely threatening the enjoyment of the right to adequate housing around the world, causing housing damage, destruction and displacing millions. Housing, on the other hand, makes a significant contribution to climate change - through housing construction, urban sprawl, soil sealing, energy consumption, water use, pollutants, deforestation, desertification, and loss of biodiversity.

While States strive to achieve adequate housing for all, there is a trade-off to be made between building housing resulting in more carbon emissions and speeding up climate change, if housing and urban planning are not designed or upgraded to ensure sustainability and climate neutrality. The way many of us are housed may contribute to endangering the housing of others, due to rising sea levels, desertification or more frequent and violent extreme weather events.

In his report (A/HRC/52/28) to the Human Rights Council, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing makes the case for a timely and well devised intervention in the housing sector. This includes stepping-up efforts to improve energy efficiency, measures to electrify households, incorporate sustainability in building codes and standards, low-carbon construction methods and materials, making more equitable use of the existing housing stock, and integrating climate change and climate resilience into urban planning. He also warns against certain climate mitigation and adaptation policies and misguided responses to climate events that have the potential to undermine the right to adequate housing. Marginalized groups and their homes are at particular risk and exposed to the impact of climate change and therefore need to be involved in climate responses at all levels.

The panel will discuss how to achieve a just transition towards a rights-compliant, climate-resilient and carbon-neutral housing.



[Read the report \(A/HRC/52/28\)](#)

Towards a just transformation: climate crisis and the right to housing