



In response to the request Questionnaire for National Human Rights Institutions, UN agencies and civil society organisations UNECE has provided some answers below on how the work UNECE's does can be supported under question 3 and question 6.

The [Social Housing in the UNECE Region: Models, Trends and Challenges](#) publication mentions homeless as one among the population groups that requires housing assistance, this said it does not focus on this group alone, rather it points out to the danger of losing homes because of housing cost overburden that can result in temporary or long term homelessness (like was the case at the beginning of the mortgage crisis) if not addressed by supply or social or affordable housing. By providing recommendations to address current trends and challenges in social housing provision the Study can be used to indirectly support Rapporteur's work.

Question 3) In your organizations view what are the primary systematic and structural causes of homelessness? How is your organization addressing these and how should these be addressed by the Governments?

The UNECE Social Housing study highlights critical decrease of housing affordability in the UNECE region. It examines current trends and challenges in the social housing sector where it finds that the supply of social housing as a tenure reserved to those who cannot afford and access housing in the free marked has decreased markedly, it finds that the supply of social housing as a tenure reserved to those who cannot afford and access housing in the free marked has decreased markedly.

Homelessness in this context can be defined as an extreme case of lack of housing affordability and lack of access to social housing (with full set of benefits). The UNECE is addressing these issues by raising awareness about the key trends and challenges in social housing sector. Lack of social housing decreases options for housing the homeless (among other groups). While not directly addressing the issue of homelessness as such the study provides recommendations for increasing supply of social housing in the UNECE region that could increase housing options for the homeless. The Study defines housing as a human right.

Question 6) Please provide information on how your organization has used or intends to use administrative procedures to challenge homelessness as a violation of human rights?

The [UN Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing](#) mentions homelessness as one of the challenges of sustainable housing.

It explicitly states that the key directions of work and measures to promote sustainable housing should be:

(b) Promote of access to housing in the context of sustainable economic development by taking measures to: (viii) Develop programmes, where appropriate, to assist those who are in danger of housing-loan default because of social or economic shocks and are threatened with homelessness is one of the Key directions of work and measures to promote sustainable housing

(c) Promote decent, adequate, healthy, barrier free and safe housing by taking measures to: (i) Improve access for all to good quality and healthy housing, reduce homelessness and improve access to barrier-free housing;

(d) Promote the continued application of sustainable housing principles by taking measures to: (i) Gather data on housing, including on homelessness, using common international standards to ensure data comparability between member States; make these data and national statistics publicly available in order to support policy-making, research and economic development; and make use of global and regional data repositories to support the policy-making process;