

THE

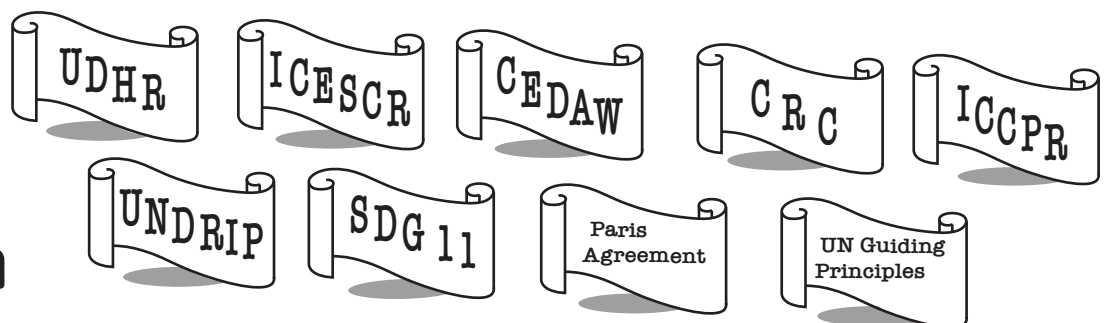
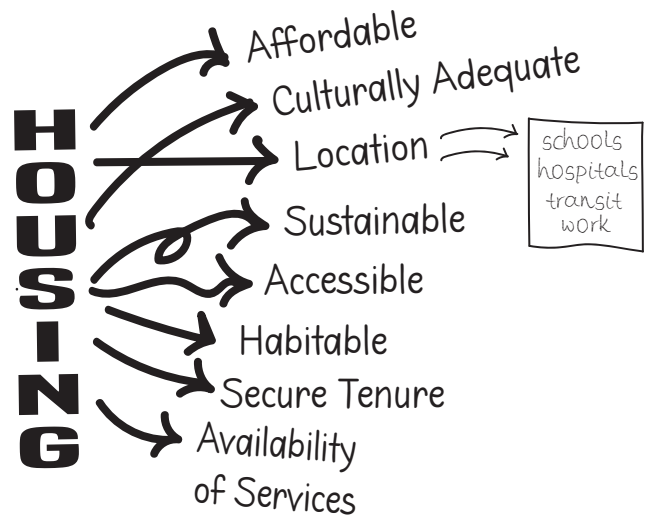
# RiGHT TO HOUSING

## Framework

The right to housing framework is a powerful blueprint for a just and sustainable future for all. It paves the way for affordable, secure, and accessible housing, putting the dignity and well-being of individuals, families, and communities at the forefront. Through human rights principles, this framework offers a new way to think about housing; one that results in transformative solutions to homelessness and unaffordability, that will reduce inequality, and promote vibrant communities. Embracing this framework is crucial for safeguarding our planet from climate change and ensuring a world where housing security is enjoyed by everyone.

### ☆☆☆ Note!

The right to housing comes from existing international declarations, agreements, and legislation, including but not limited to:



# THE ✨ TRANSFORMATIONAL ✨ ⚡ POWER ⚡ OF THE RIGHT TO HOUSING

The global housing crisis, which has thrown almost 2 billion people into housing precarity and homelessness, is the result of governments having lost their way. Housing is no longer understood as home and a fundamental human right requiring government leadership and action.

The right to housing framework is transformational. It's based on the international consensus that the implementation of the human right to housing is necessary for societal progress and development. Adequate housing is the foundation upon which all other rights may be enjoyed, including the rights to health, food, water and sanitation, education, a healthy environment, and the right to life, and creates more equal, sustainable societies.

**Governments must respect, protect, and fulfill the right to housing [AND hold themselves accountable to that!]. Governments should:**

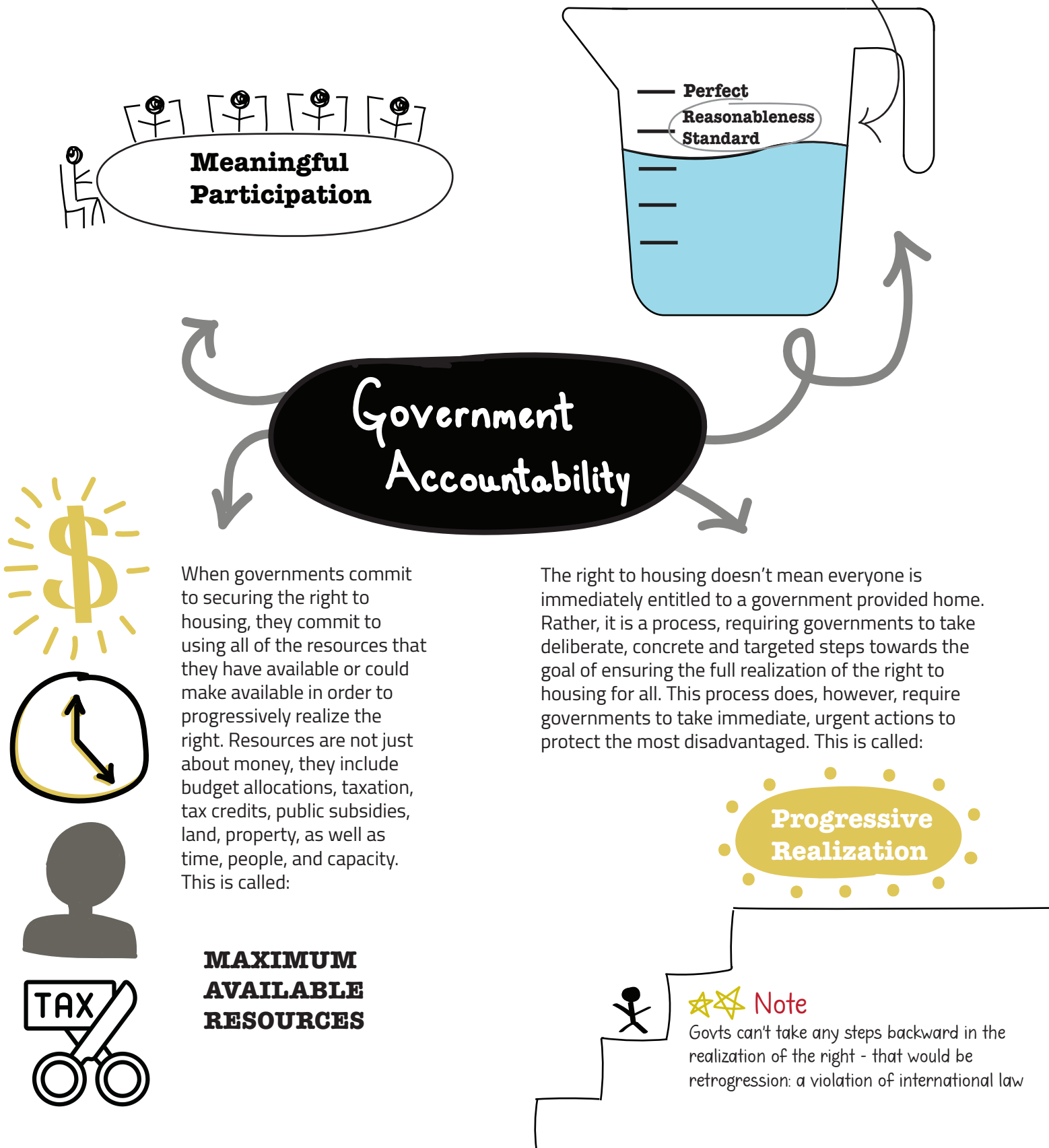
1. Refrain from taking any action that violates the right to housing such as forcibly removing people from their homes.
2. Prevent human rights abuses by third parties such as private actors, which means, for example, enacting strong tenant protections in legislation, and using fiscal policy to prevent the financialization of housing
3. Take positive actions to ensure that individuals are able to enjoy their right to housing, such as ensuring access to social or deeply affordable housing for those in need.

Adopting a right to housing framework is unique because it requires monitoring and accountability. When governments hold themselves accountable to their objectives, seek input, and monitor progress, they are provided with an opportunity to course correct and ensure their policies are reaching those most in need.

A multi-pronged strategy using human rights commissions, ombuds offices, statisticians, journalists, and domestic courts and tribunals, as well as UN mechanisms like treaty bodies, and UN Special Rapporteurs, is an effective way governments can be held accountable. Governments can also be held accountable through other means including through social pressure and legal challenges.

The most effective laws and policies are developed in consultation with those who will be impacted by them. This means engaging in a meaningful way with individuals and communities in the design aspect and in implementation. Ensuring meaningful engagement, particularly with marginalized groups like those living in precarious housing, requires governments to recognize their relative position of power and make commitments to ensure outcomes that are not only compliant with human rights, but that drive justice and equality. This is called:

When securing the right to housing, governments are not held to the standard of perfection, but there are minimum requirements. The measures, allocated resources, and timeframe applied must be proportional to the magnitude of the issue and the objective capacity of the public authority. Reasonableness requires governments to proactively and honestly identify barriers to the realization of the right to housing and create plans that are, to the greatest extent possible, aimed at securing this right. This is called the:



# HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE RIGHT TO HOUSING FRAMEWORK IN 10 STEPS

**1. Commit to and guarantee the right to housing as a fundamental human right in legislation, policy and/or programmes.** These commitments can create momentum for the right to housing, and act as an accountability mechanism for governments.

☆ a critical intersection! ☆



**2. Take immediate steps to ensure the progressive realization of the right to housing, in compliance with the standard of reasonableness.** Before strategies and action plans are created, governments can take immediate steps to move forward the right to housing, like prohibiting forced evictions and preventing evictions whenever possible.

**3. Design & implement comprehensive strategies.**

Governments should build a roadmap for the implementation of the right to housing using meaningful participation to develop comprehensive housing strategies. Strategies should include measurable goals and timelines, and empower governments to play a leadership role in their housing systems.

**4. Eliminate homelessness in the shortest possible time and stop the criminalization of persons living in homelessness.**

Governments must take immediate and urgent steps to address homelessness by prioritizing the provision of permanent, affordable and secure housing so as to not be compelled to rely on emergency accommodation.

## 5. **Commit to adopting a human rights approach to informal settlement**

**upgrading.** Informal settlements are an accomplishment of vibrant, self-sufficient communities claiming their human rights. Without security of tenure and basic services, they're also a violation of the right to housing. Governments should engage with those living in informal settlements as rights holders and experts in their own lives. Housing should be upgraded through community-led initiatives, ensuring residents are provided with security of tenure, remain in situ wherever possible, and that the community structures created remain intact, including access to employment and education.

## 6. **The right to housing must be implemented in a manner that responds to the climate crisis.**

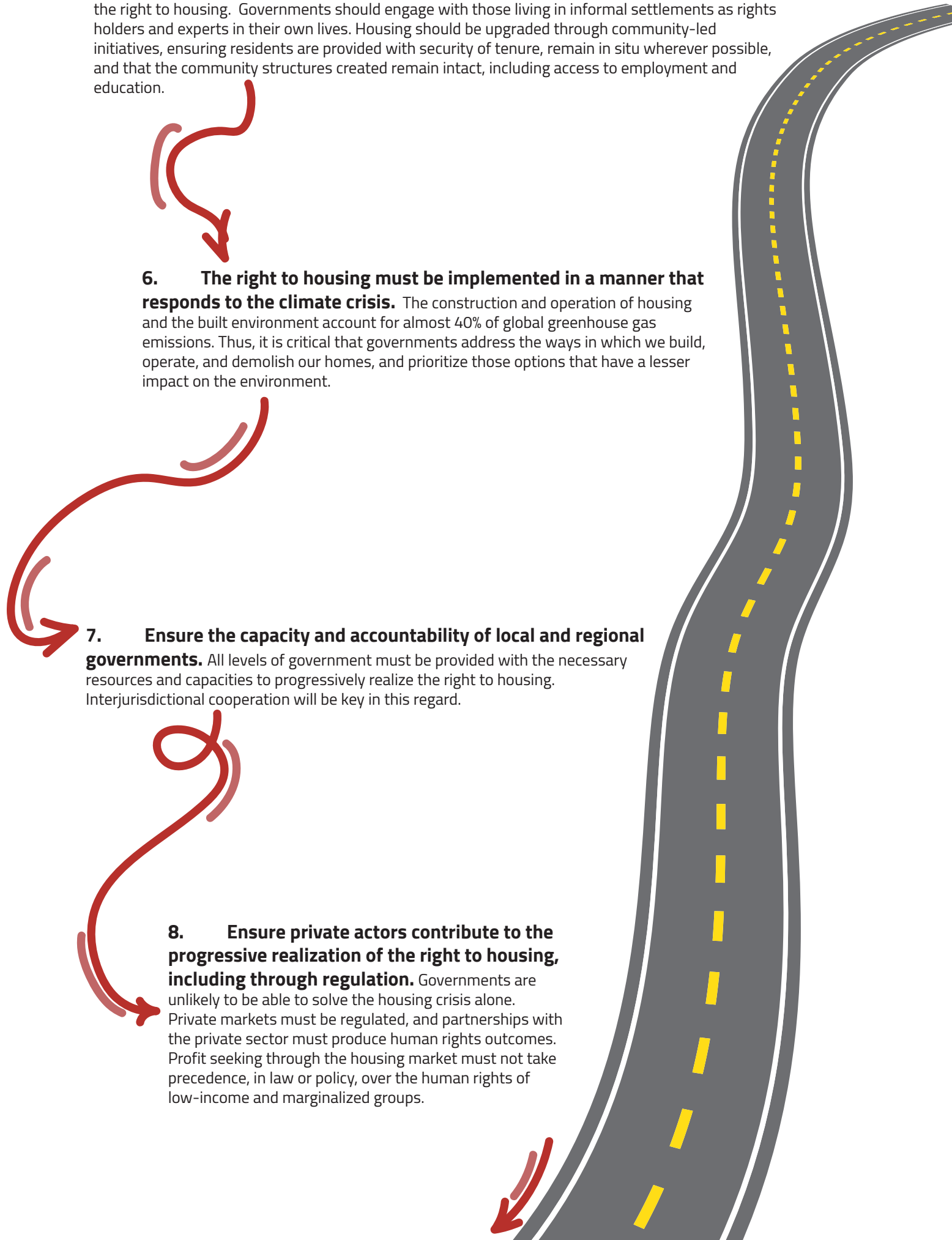
The construction and operation of housing and the built environment account for almost 40% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, it is critical that governments address the ways in which we build, operate, and demolish our homes, and prioritize those options that have a lesser impact on the environment.

## 7. **Ensure the capacity and accountability of local and regional governments.**

All levels of government must be provided with the necessary resources and capacities to progressively realize the right to housing. Interjurisdictional cooperation will be key in this regard.

## 8. **Ensure private actors contribute to the progressive realization of the right to housing, including through regulation.**

Governments are unlikely to be able to solve the housing crisis alone. Private markets must be regulated, and partnerships with the private sector must produce human rights outcomes. Profit seeking through the housing market must not take precedence, in law or policy, over the human rights of low-income and marginalized groups.



**9. Ensure access to justice - because human rights are illusory unless they can be claimed.** As a key tool for ensuring progressive realization equally, by all, governments should ensure access to justice by all appropriate means. This includes tribunals, human rights institutions and informal or customary community-based justice systems. Access to justice should be ensured for all components and dimensions of the right to housing that are guaranteed under international human rights law.

**10. Governments should repeal policies that enable the financialization of housing and enact strong policies that curb extractive practices in the housing market.** Private markets must be regulated so that practices contributing to the financialization of housing are reoriented towards more regenerative ones, as in the examples below:

