**Housing discrimination and spatial segregation**

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION WITH STATES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND UN ENTITIES**

**organized by the
Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing**

**30 April 2021**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

## **Introduction**

On 30 April 2021, the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal held a virtual public consultation with States and UN Entities, which was attended by 98 representatives from States, International Organizations, including representatives from Housing Ministries. The objective of the consultation was to gather input in preparation for the Rapporteur’s upcoming thematic reports to the General Assembly and Human Rights Council focusing on the issues of discrimination and spatial segregation as it relates to the right to adequate housing.

The agenda begun with introductory remarks by the Special Rapporteur and a summary statement by Joseph Schechla of the Housing and Land Rights Network and Habitat International Coalition. This was followed by open commentary from participants.

## **Opening remarks by the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal**

Delighted by the interest shown by stakeholders on this topic, the Special Rapporteur opened his remarks underscoring that the issue of discrimination has not lost its urgency since the mandate was established and, in distinction from other Mandates, the mandate of the Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing includes the framework of non-discrimination explicitly in its title.

Previous Rapporteurs to the mandate have done ground breaking work on issues on the relation of discrimination and the right to housing for person with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples and beyond. It has also been a topic in many country visits by the mandate. Nevertheless, there is yet to be a report focused solely on the issue of discrimination and the issue of spatial segregation has so far not received enough attention.

Mr. Rajagopal highlighted how in the context of COVID 19 we have seen how historically marginalized communities are disproportionately affected by the pandemic. In parallel, despite calls for moratoriums on evictions, there has been still been many reports of evictions happening. In this regard, the protection of the right to adequate housing must be a priority.

The question of spatial segregation has a considerable impact on the enjoyment of others human rights, including the right to water and sanitation, work, education, health care, physical integrity and the freedom of movement. According to Mr Rajagopal, the issue of spatial segregation needs more attention from the State’s officials and the International community. He furthermore pointed out the exacerbation of the climate of discrimination, specifically toward some communities such as religious and ethnic minorities, indigenous communities, Roma, persons with disabilities, and LGBTI persons. From this perspective, tackling contemporary form of discrimination and segregation through policies and legislation should be a top priority and States’ have a significant responsibility in this regard.

The Special Rapporteur outlined three (3) questions to help guide the input sought in this consultation:

1. What are the principal barriers towards equal enjoyment of the right to adequate housing faced by historically marginalized groups in your country or identified by your organization?
2. What patterns and practices of segregation in urban, rural and peri-urban contexts are observed in your country? What are the principal impacts of spatial inequality and segregation on affected communities?
3. What laws, policies and other measures have been implemented by your Government to address housing discrimination and spatial segregation? Through which judicial and non-judicial institutions can victims of housing discrimination seek redress?

## **Summary report-back from CSO Public Consultation**

Mr Joseph Schechla, representative of Habitat International Coalition and the Housing and Land Rights Network, followed Mr. Rajagopal’s opening remarks and provided a summary report back of the public consultation held 12 April 2021 with representatives of civil society organizations (CSO).

The public consultation with CSO’s highlighted specific topics. On the one hand, the consultation paid special attention to the particular groups that are subjected to discrimination including the LGBTQ+I, indigenous people and the Roma community. On the other hand, the consultation pointed up the intersectionality of human rights between the right to adequate housing and the human right to water and sanitation and others rights including the human right to land. Lastly, CSO drew attention to measures being applied in specific country contexts such as the United States, legislation affecting segregation in Denmark, the presence of mass evictions in Brazil and the situation of discrimination and segregation that prevails in Palestine.

On a related note, Mr Joseph Schechla underlined five (5) points related to the Covid-19 response which require a special attention for efforts moving forward:

1. The need for profound economic redistribution.
2. The recognition of the difference and invisibility of certain of discrimination and marginalization.
3. Political participation which is a deep concern within Civil Society.
4. The need to get beyond the politics and foreign policies of war, aggression, intervention and to build a human right to habitat rather than building this culture of war.
5. The concern for mutual care and protection.

**RECORD OF STATEMENTS GIVEN**

## **List of speakers:**

* Mr. Manuel García, Venezuela
* Mr. Ahmed Jamal Mohammed, Iraq.
* Mr Felipe Water Director of housing policy from the ministry of housing in Colombia.
* Mr. Robert Lewis-Lettington, Chief of Section, Land, Housing and Shelter, UN-Habitat
* Mr. Facundo Chávez Penillas, Human Rights & Disability Adviser, OHCHR
* Ms. Marissa Plouin, OECD
* Dr. Nathalie Roebbel, Head of Urban Health, Social determinant of health, WHO
* Mr. Sean Mariano Garcia, United Sates of America
* Ms. Rana Arrabi, State of Palestine
* Ms. Alondra Mendoza, Mexico
* Mr. Zhao Zhang, China
* Mr. Pietro Vulpiani, Expert at the National Anti-racial Discrimination Office (UNAR-DPO) of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy
* Ms. Hanya Ahmed Sulaiman, Housing Studies and Policies Advisor at the Housing Policies and Strategic Planning Directorate, Ministry of Housing, Kingdom of Bahrain

**Venezuela -** Mr. Manuel Garcia

* Global housing crisis is associated with growing social and economic inequality in the world, the large-scale commodification of housing and land and the existence of an unsustainable home acquisition system (housing has become a very lucrative business).
* Right to adequate housing is a constitutional right in Venezuela and its guarantee constitutes a priority for the Venezuelan government. It’s framed as an objective in the national plan *Plan de la Patria* 2019-2025 and the National Plan for Human Rights, where the exercise of the right to housing is a means to guarantee the safety, dignity and inclusion of people in sustainable communities.
* Through the “*Gran Mission de la Vivienda Venezuela*” which celebrates 10 years of its creation by President Hugo Chavez since has 2013 has delivered 3,550,000 free and popular homes for the popular sector, benefitting more than 7million people. There are that have been served through social without any discrimination.
* These efforts are joined forces of state institutions and public companies and social organizations to guarantee the planning, financing and construction materials and supplies for social housing.
* Despite setbacks from external forces, the Venezuelan government is on the path to fulfilling its goal of providing 5, 000,000 homes by 2025.
* Just yesterday (May 2021) President Maduro announced that the program “*Gran Mission Barrio Nuevo, Barrio TriColor*” which mission is to rehabilitate housing and transform the living conditions of neighbourhoods based on social and popular organization has rehabilitated 1,450,000 houses.

**Iraq** - Mr. Ahmed Jamal Mohammed

* Current constitution affords adequate housing for all citizens of Iraq and prohibits ownership of land that causes demographic changes.
* Current laws, policies and measures taken by Government does not imply or include any spatial segregation, so that all Iraqis are equal before the law and there is no segregation for elderly people or people with disabilities.
* The Government does not spare any efforts to afford adequate housing for all its people.
* The Iraqi constitution prohibits any discriminatory measure against its people; the government has an independent national body to bring justice to the wide range of category of Kurds in the country, to bring compensation financially and morally.
* The Government doesn’t spare efforts to address these cases- However the independent commission for human rights has the right to take up cases on the right to adequate housing where people feel they are facing an injustice, so they have a right to file cases and be heard before the law.
* A higher committee presided by the Prime Minister and Minister of Construction and Housing has been formed and is taking the responsibility to afford agricultural lands for people in order to elaborate municipality, borders and ownership of properties.
* See as well submission by [Iraq](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/SubmissionsCFIhousingdiscrimin/input-iraq.pdf).

**Colombia** - Mr. Felipe Water, Director of Housing Policy in the Ministry of Housing, City and Territory

* Colombia has found that one of the main barriers to the access to housing is the access to financial instruments and the impact of credit history on access to mortgages.
* And secondly, access to land is another principal barrier, particularly lack of land titles.
* They identify two patterns that influence in segregation: (1) people located in informal settlements that are disconnected from cities; (2) construction of new housing units that in the beginning are isolated from the rest of the city.
* For this we have found integral housing improvement and neighbourhood improvement programmes is powerful a tool to integrate and connect with public transport and public space helping connect labour markets with housing districts.
* In Colombia we still face a reality of great informality both in the access to land and to finance. Thus, we have developed a housing policy, which works as a ladder in order to promote formalization, and is composed of three main programmes: (1) a housing and neighbourhood regeneration programme targeted to Colombia’s lowest income families, called “Casa Digna, Vida Digna”. The programme’s aim is to reduce Colombia’s qualitative housing deficit by combining three strategies, - first, the provision of property titles to people by a land titling programme implemented both at the national and local levels; second, the provision of subsidies to improve resilience and quality of homes; and third, social infrastructure projects in order to improve neighbourhoods through access to public services, public facilities and public space. (2) We have developed a social leasing programme as a way to integrate people into the financial system, “Semillero de Propietarios”. Within this programme, the Ministry provides families earning less than two minimum wages a subsidy to rent a decent home for a 2 years term and thereby creating credit history, which subsequently allows them for accessing to a housing loan. (3) The third step on our “ladder” is the programme “Mi Casa Ya” or “My House Now” people are able to access housing credits with two subsidies, one to cover down payment and a second subsidy for the coverage of the interest rate on the mortgage loan for the first seven years. These programmes are our set of tools to formalize the housing status of people.
* Furthermore, this year the Government is starting the implementation of a new programme, which is focused on the access to housing for migrants, particularly for migrants from Venezuela. In this context, within the social leasing programme there has been included a special chapter for immigrants, in order to start with the insertion/inclusion of these communities into our housing market.

**UN-HABITAT** - Mr. Robert Lewis-Lettington, Chief of Section Land, Housing and Shelter

* Since 1960 UN Habitat has been requested by member states to provide technical advice and policy guidance on slums, housing on related issues of land use and service provision.
* The basic objective has always been and remains universal access with a priority for those most in need.
* In recent years this entity and affirmed its work in the respect protect and fulfil human rights framework and has been guided by SDG 10 + 11 among others.
* Reducing spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum is on the 4 priority objectives in the UN Habitat strategic plan.
* In October 2020 UN Habitat also launched the “Housing for all” campaign to raise awareness of the extent and importance of the equal access to adequate housing.
* The strategic plan notes that sustainable development cannot be achieved without addressing the basic human rights of the millions of urban dwellers living in poverty and subject to marginalization.
* It further notes that spatial inequalities in cities perpetuate other forms of social, economic, political, cultural inequality. Unequal access to land and housing, employment opportunities, basic and social services, mobility and public space are key aspects of spatial inequality which is often characterized by physical segregation.
* UN Habitat recommends= action in 3 broad areas: (!) achieving equality of outcome in the provision of infrastructure cities through physical planning, citywide land management and land tenure policy; this most focus on those most in need and avoid actively discourage forced eviction and development related displacement; and the sustainment of covid-19 protection measures (2) the adoption of progressive policies on taxation, fees and public service provision – these must be proportional and leverage the value of land and property to provide adequate resources to local governments (3) eliminate discrimination whether structural, legal or administrative- nobody should be invisible or face barriers to the realization of their rights because relationship to a protected group or administrative status. This includes relation with law enforcement and all forms of governmental entities. It was noted that indigenous people, the homeless, migrants are particularly vulnerable in this regard.
* See as well submission by [UN-Habitat](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/SubmissionsCFIhousingdiscrimin/UN-HABITAT.docx).

**OHCHR** - Mr. Facundo Chavez Penillas, Human Rights & Disability Adviser

* Welcomed focus of the previous Rapporteur/Mr. Rajagopal’s predecessor on people with disabilities, who devoted a [thematic report](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/Pages/Therighttohousingofpersonswithdisabilities.aspx) on the issue.
* Segregation that people with disabilities face happens to a large extent by placing them into social care institutions (this is a general practice all countries and in particular in developed countries, such east central European countries).
* We have recorded as well human rights violations in leprosy communities that are often segregated,
* People with albinism have to self-isolate in certain countries to protect themselves from violence.
* We have recorded cases of people with disabilities being moved to colonies and rural areas in East Asia, Latin America and Africa.
* We have also registered segregation from one country and to another country.
* In many countries people are stripped of agency/deprived of decision making (with the exception of few countries such as Colombia, Peru and Costa Rica).
* During first wave of COVID, people living in institutions amounted to 50% of all deaths and that is only countries where data was collected and made available; unreported deaths still accounts for a large number of deaths in this population.
* According to Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to the provision of the SDG goals in particular (SDG goal 11), there are specific measures that should be taken to improve the inclusion of people with disabilities.
* Article 19 + 28 of the Convention; Article 19 was considered by the Human Rights Council and Article 28 a focus of the former Rapporteur for People with Disabilities.
* What needs to be done is to integrate housing and community based services for persons with disabilities; to integrate the line that goes from human support to assisted technology to housing and to engagement in the community.
* Sharing OHCHR SDG11 disability guidelines on SDG11: [https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disability/Pages/SDG-CRPD-Resource.aspx,](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disability/Pages/SDG-CRPD-Resource.aspx%2C)

**OECD** - Ms. Marissa Plouin

* OECD work on housing and segregation focuses on three areas (1) Collection of data on income segregation and housing outcomes; this includes affordable housing database; (2) thematic studies on housing and segregation, such as an upcoming report on barrier to housing for people with disabilities (3) country studies on housing and segregation to gather lessons learned.
* Key lessons learned on housing and segregation: country experiences differ considerably; housing decisions have a long legacy; it’s not just a housing problem or solution- there is a need for integrated spatial planning and connecting to other services like transportation; addressing the root causes is key (root causes of discrimination and segregation have to be addressed- mixed housing policies are not enough to integrate neighbourhoods).
* See as well [presentation](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/SubmissionsCFIhousingdiscrimin/OECD.pdf) with key reports by OECD covering the issue of spatial segregation and housing discrimination.

**WHO** - Ms. Nathalie Laure Roebbel Head of Urban Health, Social determinants of health

* Global trends in urbanization, demographics and climate change are contributing to growing demands on housing that meet the needs for today’s societies.
* Housing is very important determinant of human health, housing can save lives, prevent diseases and enhance well-being.
* Housing conditions is a key mechanism through which environmental and social inequalities can translate into health inequalities; across the globe people with low income are more likely to live in housing that exposes them to increased health risks- this includes environmental exposures like indoor air quality, toxic building materials and structure deficiencies and conditions in the neighbourhood.
* Social and economic factors affect if residents are able to afford and maintain housing conditions; maintenance costs relate to questions such as the accessibility of safe drinking water and electricity which are key determinants of health.
* Increased health burden caused by substandard housing conditions has impact on other inequalities like education attainment or income generation (current COVID situation highlights this) - people are particularly suffering from overcrowded conditions.
* Housing a key entry point to public health- to primary prevention, and for inter-sectoral health programs.
* In 2018 WHO produced the Housing and Health guidelines, the development of these guidelines was driven by the notion that healthy housing is human right and on evidence based recommendations on how to address some of the key challenges including crowding, hazards in the house, accessibility for people with impairments and other risk factors.
* Implementation of guidelines is now a focus of the work, three highlights in the policies being advanced to promote healthy housing (1) formulation of standards; (2) creation of health housing stock; (3) ensure in access to healthy homes. This all requires holistic and multi-sectoral approach for example WHO has been working closely with UN Habitat how to include health in development and planning.
* WHO will continue to scale up its work in housing and health- through communications materials, capacity building and beyond (in urban health and equity in health).
* WHO Housing and Health Guidelines: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241550376>

**United States of America** - Mr. Sean Mariano Garcia

* The United States is committed to creating an equitable housing policy, we believe that diverse and inclusive communities strengthen our democracies and we are addressing historical legacies of residential segregation and discrimination in our housing policies.
* We recognize that people of colour face disproportionately bare the burdens of homelessness, environmental pollution, climate related housing instability and economic inequality because of systemic efforts affecting fair housing opportunity.
* States must uphold their human rights obligations and cooperate to address discriminatory housing policies particularly systemic barriers for people of colour, immigrants, people with disabilities and LGBTQ+I individuals.
* In first day of office President Biden signed an executive action to advance racial equality and take concrete steps to root out systemic racism in housing; he directed the US Department Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to take all steps necessary to address discriminatory federal housing policies that have contributed to wealth inequality for generations.
* We believe federal government has a critical role to play for overcoming and redressing a history of discrimination and in protecting against other forms of discrimination by enforcing civil rights and fair housing laws. We are concerned with how federal governments can expand fair housing policy in the context of the pandemic.

**Germany** - Ms. Lena Handwerk

* As part of core group on housing, Germany strongly supports the work of the Rapporteur and welcome the focus of the upcoming report.
* In Germany there is the general ‘Equal Treatment Act’ which has a broad scope extending to religious belief, age, disability, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation it also applies to matters pertaining to housing.
* Germany’s national equality body, the federal anti-discrimination agency is responsible for monitoring cases of discrimination also with regards to housing and advising victims of such discrimination.
* Regarding housing and integration policy, German integration policy aims to counter social, ethnic and economic segregation including through social housing, the social city program and the social integration in neighbourhoods investment compact.
* Efforts are taken at federal and local levels.
* The Land of Berlin for example has established an office “Rent fairly live fairly” to establish a culture of discrimination-free rental in Berlin.
* Regarding persons with disabilities measures are taken to ensure people can live as independently as possible (including financial assistance) but it is problematic that there is not enough affordable housing accessible for persons with disabilities.
* For more details see as well written submission by [Germany](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/SubmissionsCFIhousingdiscrimin/Germany.docx).

**State of Palestine** - Ms. Rana Arrabi

* Palestinian people have been suffering from systematic and institutionalized discrimination through forced evictions, mass displacement, demolitions, land grabbing, resource theft, the moving of settlers into territories by the occupying power (even during the time of the pandemic).
* The constant threats and evictions result in a state of constant insecurity, fragmentation and fear for all Palestinians living in the occupied territory.
* The impossibility of Palestinians obtaining Israeli issued housing permits is example of the discrimination and inequality they face in relation to the right to adequate housing.
* For these reasons we feel the focus of the Rapporteur’s report is very timely.

**Mexico** - Ms. Alondra Mendoza

* Mexico has national law on housing which seeks to create the conditions to ensure the access to housing for all persons and adequate territorial planning.
* However, we agree that there are still significant challenges to be addressed and that housing is not only a key issue in the current context but there is also a need to develop comprehensive strategies that address historical legacies of inequality that prevail.
* Mexico has identified some obstacles and barriers when it comes to factors of socio spatial segregation- among them it is the lack of private developers willing to engage with governments in the projects of social housing either because they do not offer a high revenue or because they involve extra costs or challenges when the projects are to be implemented in peripheral areas.
* It will be very useful to have more information on best practices to create successful partnerships with the private sector; we would also appreciate the Rapporteurs insights on how to redirect the social housing construction model based on financing and the construction in peripheral areas- this model has been implemented in many areas but it has not proven to be efficient.
* See as well submission by [Mexico](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/SubmissionsCFIhousingdiscrimin/input-mexico.docx).

**China** - Mr. Zhao Zhang

* We regard adequate housing as a very important right and a very important component of the 2030 agenda.
* The housing issue cannot be achieved singly, it is a holistic issue.
* For many developing countries, this is a very daunting challenge and its related to poverty alleviation- poverty alleviation programs/interventions are not just a monetary issue, for many poor families particularly those people in rural or disadvantaged areas there is a need to provide for infrastructure, access to safe drinking water, health services.
* For past 9 years China has working to eliminate abject poverty almost 100,000,000 from this experience we understand the housing issue just can’t be looked at as a monetary issue but that social policies need to be put in place as one of the strategies for poverty alleviation.
* The examination of segregation in the Rapporteur’s report is very timely- we have also seen cases of people of Asian and African descent be segregated/concentrated in certain areas, this has detrimental impacts on peoples health for example; in the context of COVID19 we have seen cases where people of Asian descent were denied to live in some communities- we hope the Rapporteur can bring attention to these type of issues in his forthcoming report.

**Italy** - Mr. Pietro Vulpiani, Expert at the National Anti-racial Discrimination Office (UNAR-DPO)

* Discrimination and segregation in the housing sector is an important issue for Italy too.
* The state has made priorities and actions over the last ten years in an effort to overcome discrimination and segregation.
* We have social housing program aimed at low income and people with social vulnerabilities, but it is not enough.
* There is some legal and political framework that provides universal rights and equal opportunities for the right to housing for immigrants, ethnic minorities.
* But we have realized is that we are still facing spatial segregation, particularly with ethnic minority communities, the Roma.
* We have an office of Italy in the Department of Equal Opportunities, which is the National Office Against Racial Discrimination. In the last 15 years these offices started receiving many complaints of discrimination in access to housing for Roma.
* The Roma are one of the most discriminated against communities in Italy- they tend to live in peripheral areas of the city, in informal settlements. Roma communities face prejudice and stigma and are relegated to the secondary level in labor market, young people face lack of schooling and in general the population faces lack of job opportunities.
* In 2012 the state started a first national strategy of Roma inclusion, with the participation of Roma community, to design a comprehensive approach attacking problem of employment, health and housing (current plan being elaborated until 2030).
* National government is working a lot with municipalities- because municipalities continue to advance evictions without offering concrete positive solutions.
* In last years we have monitored the number of people who have moved from illegal camps to housing, with National Institute of Statistics we have monitored 745 municipalities with over 15,000 inhabitants and in 42 cities we are monitoring the transition of Roma families from camps to normal housing. This is to help understand the quality of their lives in this new housing.
* The impact of spread of COVID 19 is another important issue, we saw this had a big impact on the Roma community because they were living in marginalized conditions. A host of actions were implemented to help address this.
* **Bahrain** - Ms. Hanya Ahmed Sulaiman, Housing Studies and Policies Advisor at the Housing Policies and Strategic Planning Directorate, Ministry of Housing.
* On the topic of discrimination and segregation in relation to the right to adequate housing, Bahrain has covered this extensively and comprehensively.
* Legislations, over the last decade in particular, have made a lot of progress on a number of related issues; the Bahrain constitution of 1973 and 2002 is very clear on the provision of affordable and adequate housing for all citizens of Bahrain with certain terms and conditions. This is stipulated in Article 9, Paragraph “F” of the Bahraini Constitution: “ The State shall endeavour to provide housing for citizens with limited income”**.**All categories of Bahraini citizens are receiving housing services, which include women; divorcees and widows, and (childless married, divorced and single orphaned women), people with special needs, people with determination (more than 5 categories of citizens included) as stipulated in the Ministerial Order No. (909) of 2015 with respect to housing.
* There is also a committee at the Ministry of Housing that looks at extraordinary cases that are not included explicitly in theMinisterial Order No. (909) of 2015 with respect to housing.

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal**

In response to the statements made by delegates and participants the Special Rapporteur identified increasing commodification as a major challenge and spoke to the importance of examining this in the context of formalization of land and access to credit, a strategy that has been pursued by many states over the last several decades. Mr. Rajagopal emphasized the need to be cautious of how such strategies that may have the intention to be inclusive (extension of title/credit) may unintentionally create patterns of exclusion which may fall disproportionately on some communities.

It is important that a proactive attempt be made in the housing policies and strategies of all countries to anticipate these potential negative impacts in all housing formalization programs, particularly as it relates to informal settlements. Measures taken by some States like Colombia to include migrants are commendable. They also point to housing challenges that spill across borders and must be thought of comprehensively in our increasingly interconnected world. In addition, the increased commitment of resources for the construction of new homes is important and Mr. Rajagopal encouraged States to consider how questions of access (and challenges on inequality in access) are put into the design of such programs.

Mr. Rajagopal furthermore stressed that the connection between land and housing is another structural element that needs to be much more highlighted as it has been as well a running theme of the mandate. The question of access to land and its connection to access to housing and other rights need to be given attention, particularly in light of the ongoing work being advanced by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (which is currently elaborating a General Comment on the right to land).

Mr. Rajagopal emphasized that it is a critical moment to think about how land has been conceptualized and commodified, and that data driven approaches such as those highlighted by UN Habitat and OECD are a critical part of this. In particular, he pointed how disaggregated data is essential for better understanding the impacts faced by historically marginalized communities. This is a challenge because currently there does not exist a central repository of data on these issues, and data is often scattered and difficult to access. This was also highlighted in Mr. Rajagopal’s report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the right to adequate housing to the General Assembly ([A/75/148](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/Pages/callCovid19.aspx)), and an important example of where more specific data is needed is in the impact faced by persons with disabilities and in institutionalized settings, such as the example given by Mr. Facundo Chavez Penillas of OHCHR. Mr. Rajagopal underscored that a global collective effort and alliance is needed on data collection to better understanding housing and its connection to other rights such as right to health.

Mr. Rajagopal said, that the interconnection of housing with other rights is important and he expressed his strong agreement with comments made by delegates about integrated spatial planning as a critical element in advancing the right to adequate housing. The Special Rapporteur stressed that all seven elements that make up the right to adequate housing are important to address segregation and housing discrimination. The Special Rapporteur expressed his interest to make this central to his work.

Mr. Rajagopal commended measures being taken by States, such as the examples given by Germany and the United States of America. Temporary measures taken and resources mobilized during the pandemic - such as anti-eviction measures - were important as they show what is possible, such as eviction moratoria or increased efforts to address homelessness. Instead of seeing these as exceptional to the moment, Mr. Rajagopal emphasized that these should be seen as an opening for a new kind of realignment of how policies on housing and the right to adequate housing can be advanced.

Progressive measures taken by States in the field of housing should not be undermined by other measures taken by the very same State (such as fiscal measures or measures taken by other ministries). He pointed to how a very large number of evictions being reported to him continues to be major issue, even during the pandemic. Therefore anti-eviction measures are essential to be taken by States in order to protect the right to housing.

Responding to input provided by the delegate from China, Mr. Rajagopal underscored the importance of examining the particular issues of discrimination and segregation faced not only urban settings but as well in rural contexts. He further emphasized, as mentioned by the expert from Italy, that it is important to consider the inter-relation between municipal/local policies and measures taken at national or State level. An issue that has also been extensively treated in previous work of the mandate (see for example [A/HRC/28/62](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/Pages/LocalGovernments.aspx)).

In conclusion, Mr. Rajagopal emphasized the importance of seeing this moment as an opportunity to do something different and build back better and not face the same structural barriers and problems as before.