Dignity in the Built Environment
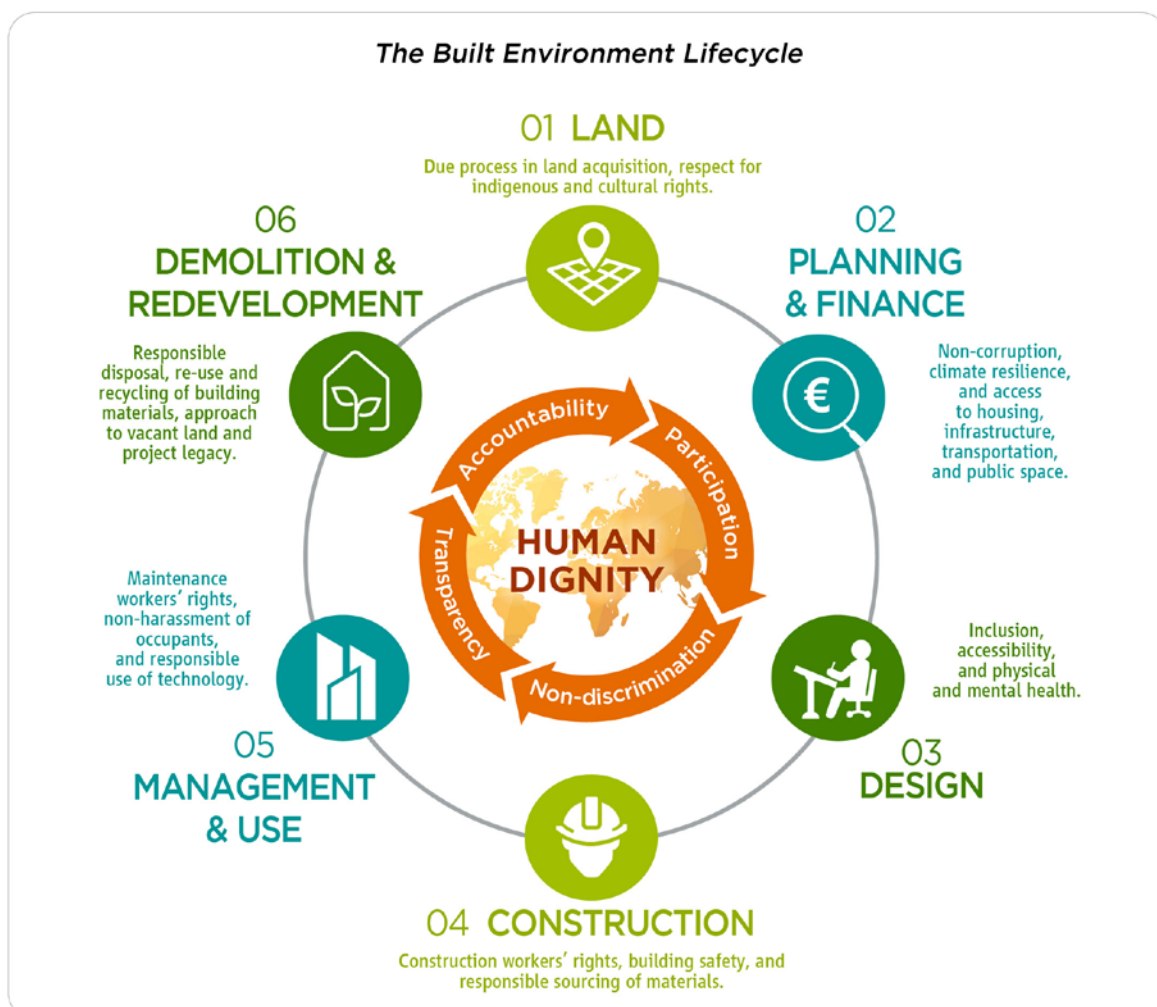# A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

Global building stocks are projected to double by 2060. Decisions about what we build, and how, will define the future we create.

As construction booms, there's an urgent need for collaborative action throughout the built environment on climate change and on inequality - ensuring access to housing for all, decent working conditions, and social inclusion.

The Framework for Dignity in the Built Environment puts people at the heart of built environment decision-making. It aims to shift investment into built environments that enable everyone to thrive.

Following the six-stages of the built environment lifecycle, the Framework helps:

- **Investors** manage social risks (the "S" in ESG), and channel investment into sustainable projects that meet locally-defined needs
- **Governments** establish the regulatory and planning context for just, thriving urban areas
- **Communities** shape decisions that impact their lives and neighborhoods
- **Architects and engineers** respect dignity and human rights through their operations and supply chains.

The Built Environment Lifecycle

01 LAND
Due process in land acquisition, respect for indigenous and cultural rights.

02 PLANNING & FINANCE
Non-corruption, climate resilience, and access to housing, infrastructure, transportation, and public space.

03 DESIGN
Inclusion, accessibility, and physical and mental health.

04 CONSTRUCTION
Construction workers' rights, building safety, and responsible sourcing of materials.

05 MANAGEMENT & USE
Maintenance workers' rights, non-harassment of occupants, and responsible use of technology.

06 DEMOLITION & REDEVELOPMENT
Responsible disposal, re-use and recycling of building materials, approach to vacant land and project legacy.

HUMAN DIGNITY

Accountability · Participation · Non-discrimination · Transparency

www.dignitybydesign.org

The Framework for Dignity in the Built Environment is a collaboration between four organizations with a global reach and with strong track records advancing human rights in multiple contexts, including among private sector actors: The Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB), the Australian Human Rights Institute at the University of New South Wales, Rafto Foundation for Human Rights, and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

> "Non-profits, the private sector, and governments all have roles to play… in developing a framework around which we can make better decisions. If we do, then I'm optimistic about our ability to solve these problems that we've created for ourselves.
>
> **- President Barack Obama at GreenBuild 2019**

What's Next

- Global **consultation** on the Framework, with launch in 2021. The Framework will include three tiers: high-level outcomes, questions to prompt decision-making, and examples of tools, standards and innovation for scaling.
- Building a cohort of **leaders** from each stage of the built environment lifecycle
- **Implementation:** embedding good practice in procurement, investment frameworks, and industry standards; conducting strategic research and communications; and developing interdisciplinary pilot projects that integrate a human rights approach from the outset.

Visions of the Built Environment

FUTURE OF DIVISION AND INEQUALITY	FUTURE OF DIGNITY AND INCLUSION
Environmental **collapse**	Climate **resilience** and environmental **justice**
Exclusion, division, and conflict	Social **inclusion** and **vibrant** communities
Deepening economic, racial, and gender **inequality**	Rising economic, racial, and gender **equity**
Exploitation of workers	**Respect** for workers rights

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