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 Dignity by Design Action Framework 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 Dignity by Design Framework 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.

What’s Next

- Global consultation on the Framework, with launch in Sydney in September 2020. 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 “living case studies” that integrate a Dignity by Design approach from the outset.

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