THE RIGHT TO HOUSING IN THE METROPOLITAN CITY

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LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

• Many legislations provide for Housing as a *Human Right*
• Article 25 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights
• Article 11 of the UN International on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
• In South Africa it is covered by the Constitution and Housing Act
HOUSING CHALLENGES AT THE METROPOLITAN LEVEL

- Lack of data in drafting social housing policies
- Affordable housing is controlled by the private market
- Emergency housing management
- Security of tenure
LACK OF DATA IN DRAFTING SOCIAL HOUSING POLICIES

- Lack of gender-linked data to develop gender-responsive housing policies
- Disaggregation of data should be at the municipal level
- Berlin, Paris and Barcelona – policies at supra-municipal level
AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTROLLED BY PRIVATE MARKET

• Shortage of housing entails high economic efforts
• Women with dependent children and young adults are excluded in low-income groups – Gap Housing
• Public policies allow for financial aid to rental, mortgages, etc.
• Since these are not coordinated at a metropolitan level it is difficult to control
• Public housing at the metropolitan level is needed
EMERGENCY HOUSING MANAGEMENT

- Most municipalities are responsible for emergency housing
- Municipalities identify stakeholders and coordinate efforts
- They also need to house (rehome) evicted people
- Gender perspective needs to be considered in evictions
SECURITY OF TENURE

• Rising property investments in urban centres makes housing business a highly profitable business thus less affordable to many people
• Policies in this regard are at the National level and are not at the municipal level
• Some cities like Buenos Aires, New York have specifically regulated this space
• Some cities like Paris, Berlin are limiting rents and tourist accommodation licenses
• Some countries expropriate speculative properties
• Making sale transactions in cities public information has also helped