**Expression of Interest for participation in the Expert Group Meeting on Housing, Land and Property Rights in Palestine**

**Submission deadline: 30 July 2021**

An Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Housing, Land and Property (HLP) in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt – Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem) in planned to take place on 14 September 2021 in Ramallah, dependent on COVID-19 regulations (virtual attendance possible), within the ambit of the project “Achieving Planning and Land Rights in Area C, West Bank, Palestine” implemented by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in partnership with the Land and Water Settlement Commission (LWSC) and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), and funded by the European Union.

The EGM will build on the [Second Arab Land Conference held in Cairo](https://arabstates.gltn.net/conferences/) in February 2021, the EGM on Fostering Land Governance in the Arab states in Amman of 2016, and the Arab Land Session at the [Land and Poverty Conference: Catalysing Innovation](https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2018/08/13/land-and-poverty-conference-2019-catalyzing-innovation) of the World Bank of 2019; all of which Palestine was represented and supported by UN-Habitat.

The EGM will build on the Palestinian National Development Plan (2021 – 2023), National Spatial Plan (2050) and the National Urban Policy for Palestine under preparation, the newly developed and first of its kind Palestinian Land Sector Strategy 2021 – 2023, as well as the endorsed international frameworks such as the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III) and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). The EGM will bring together professionals from different disciplines and backgrounds, such as land professionals and practitioners, civil society, private sector, government representatives, development experts, and academics. The objective of this grouping of experts is to provide a platform through which they can share their experiences and research, to learn from one another and to debate on issues related to housing, land and property conflicts, strategic development and creative spatial planning, fit for purpose land administration, accommodating urban growth, environment and climate change, and responsible large scale land based investments. These objectives are coupled with promoting preliminary discussion around the issue of women and land rights, and the identification of subjects to address in another upcoming EGM specifically on women’s right to land.

The EGM aims to produce a report on the complex situation of HLP that analyses the potential solutions, addressing potential risks in Palestine, as well as approaches and practices that have proven successful in increasing access to land and housing. The EGM will also yield tangible lessons and recommendations for Palestine to enhance the HLP status, including recommendations on policy changes, land-based tools and capacity development, synergies, knowledge management, coordination, networks, and resource mobilisation that will provide a way forward in implementing Palestinian frameworks and targets related to HLP rights. The produced report from this EGM will be presented to and discussed at the Land Management and Administration Sector Working Group chaired by the Palestinian Land Authority, co-chaired by the World Bank with UN-Habitat as the Technical Advisor.

The EGM on HLP rights will focus and two main themes, namely *Human Rights based Approaches in HLP* and *Modernization of tools and approaches to HLP issues in Palestine.* Interested participants are requested to submit an abstract of no more than 500 words for consideration, submissions can be for local, national, regional or international level research. The abstract should summarize the main objectives of the studies, its potential outcomes and the proposed research methodology (Annex 1 – Abstracts Template). The list of suggested issues within the two main themes include, but not limited to the following:

**Human Rights Based Approaches in HLP in Palestine**

* International Humanitarian Law and HLP in Palestine;
* HLP and the SDGs in Palestine ;
* Participatory approaches to HLP in Palestine;
* Tools for ending discrimination in HLP rights and increasing access (e.g. through mandatory quotas, tax exemptions and other favourable conditions);
* National strategies that need to be developed, such as on public housing, for sustainable and environmentally safe development, and for alternative infrastructure and services in Area C;
* The Human Rights Approach to land settlement and registration: participatory mechanisms, conflict resolution and advocacy & awareness raising;
* The Human Rights Approach to planning: mitigating price rises, insufficient supply and rising population densities;
* Response of Palestinian laws and policies (including inheritance and personal status laws affecting HLP) to Human Rights frameworks and approaches and recommendations for pro-equity, pro-poor and gender-sensitive laws aiming to support the most marginalised;
* Drivers of vulnerabilities in Palestinian HLP rights;
* Security of tenure in Palestine for refuges and internally displaced people.
* HLP rights in face of the coercive environment – including home demolitions, land confiscations, forcible transfer, etc
* Land access, distribution and use in Palestine;
* HLP labour and credit markets;
* Impact of COVID-19 on HLP and recommended adaptation and mitigation strategies for potential future natural or man-made disasters and crises;
* Management of public and state land to enhance citizen welfare and wellbeing;
* Public housing in Palestine and management of urban growth;
* Protection, shelter, food security, livelihood and access to water and HLP;
* Palestinian governmental bodies working on HLP: identification of their roles, coordination mechanisms, unified systems, jurisdictions and interactions with the community; and/or
* Donor, UN, international organisations, and civic society interventions related to HLP.

**Modernising HLP in Palestine**

* Digitalisation of HLP information and services;
* Governance and HLP;
* Incorporation of climate change into HLP;
* Incorporation of risk reduction into HLP;
* Increasing food security through HLP;
* Local, regional and international success stories;
* Using modern technology to preserve the cultural heritage related to Palestinian HLP;
* Youth and HLP and the use of gaming platforms to encourage youth participation;
* The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and HLP;
* The future of HLP credit markets; and/or
* The impact of new technologies on HLP and how to adopt promising initiatives.

Please submit your Curriculum Vitae, a short bio (100 words) and an abstract to the email: unhabitat-palestine@un.org by the deadline of 30 July 2021. UN-Habitat will review the submitted abstracts based on relevant criteria and whether the findings substantially contribute to the EGM. UN-Habitat will only respond to those selected to participate in the EGM by the end of August 2021.

**Annex 1 – Abstract template**

**Expert Group Meeting on Housing, Land and Property Rights in Palestine**

**14 September 2021**

**Ramallah, Palestine (Virtual participation is possible)**

**Theme**: Human Rights Based Approaches in HLP in Palestine Modernising HLP in Palestine

**Title**:

**Key words (max. 3)**:

**Geographic focus**:

**Contacts Information of presenters**:

**Abstract (max 500 words)**

Problem:

Purpose:

Methods and Questions:

Envisaged Results:

Takeaway for practice: