

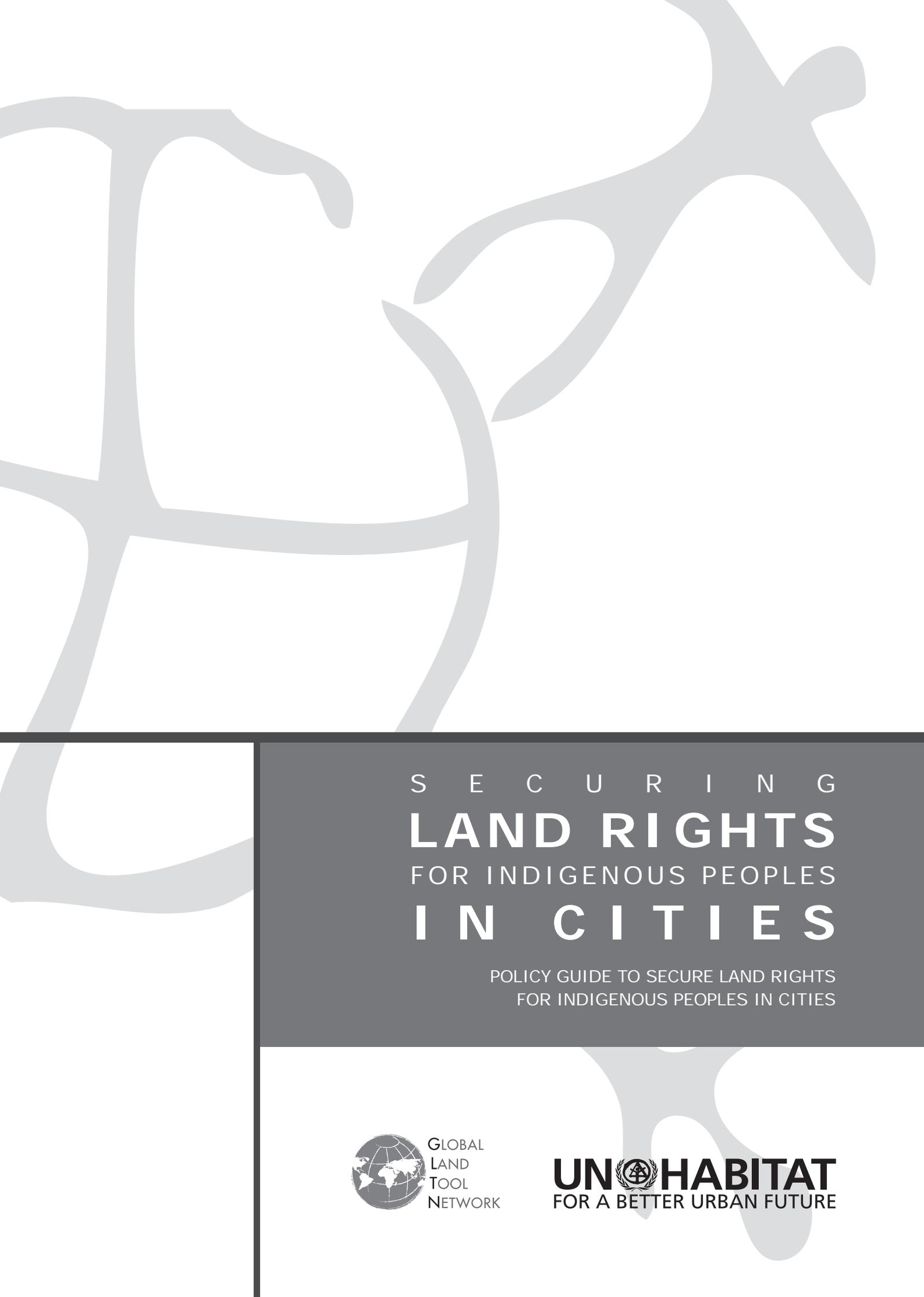


S E C U R I N G  
**LAND RIGHTS**  
FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES  
**IN CITIES**

POLICY GUIDE TO SECURE LAND RIGHTS  
FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN CITIES



**UN**  **HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



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GLOBAL  
LAND  
TOOL  
NETWORK

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## Foreword

**This Policy Guide to Secure Land Rights for Indigenous Peoples in Cities will serve as a tool for policy-makers at the national, local and Indigenous government levels, who are responsible for promoting and protecting the land, security of tenure and property rights of Indigenous peoples. It begins with an overview of the challenges facing Indigenous peoples in cities, with particular attention to the unique challenges facing Indigenous women, children and youth, people with disabilities, elders and sexual minorities.**

Land and property rights of Indigenous peoples are reviewed in the context of urbanization, including migration and urban expansion. In terms of migration, the key areas of concern explored are: dispossession of lands, resources and territories by States, forced eviction and displacement caused by development, lack of recognition of Indigenous land tenure systems, environmental concerns (including climate change and natural disasters), economic factors and armed conflict.

Related human rights and states' obligations related to land and property rights of Indigenous peoples in urban areas are set out. These include self-determination and rights related to land, resources and territories; cultural rights and Indigenous legal systems; property rights; non-discrimination and equality; and economic, social and cultural rights; and those related to natural disasters and Indigenous land rights. The specific rights of Indigenous women, children and persons with disabilities are set out. Specific obligations are identified under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Millennium Development Goals and the Habitat Agenda.

This is followed by an examination of how policy-makers can implement effective land and property policy for, and/or by, Indigenous peoples in urban areas. Overriding principles are provided along with recommended actions for national, local and Indigenous governments. This is followed by a list of annotated resources, a policy checklist, and a list of "do's and don'ts" for easy reference.

It is hoped that this Guide will provide adequate guidance to policy-makers to take a rights-based approach to securing land and property rights of Indigenous peoples in urban areas.

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