

**The struggle to belong**  
***Dealing with diversity in 21st century urban settings.***

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**The right to the city: a new scenario for the housing policy in Brazil?**

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## **THE RIGHT TO THE CITY: A NEW SCENARIO FOR THE HOUSING POLICY IN BRAZIL?**

### *Extended Abstract*

The aim of this paper is to analyse the recent changes in social housing policy through this political administrative instrument that carries out programs, goals and actions aiming at overcoming the housing deficit. Furthermore, this study will focus how the state has dealt the challenge of preparing the Local Plans of Social Housing of its municipalities. It also looks at the changes in the objectives of public policy and the relationship between poverty, inequality and access to housing. In particular, it reviews the analysis of the effects of policy on housing supply.

The creation of the National Social Interest Housing System and the National Fund of Social Housing established a new scenario for the housing policy in Brazil. The trajectory of housing policy in Brazil has been marked by changes in the design and model of intervention by the public sector which was not successful, especially in the provision of sufficient housing for low-income population. The Foundation of the People's House (Fundação da Casa Popular) was the first national housing policy. Established in 1946, it proved ineffective due to lack of resources and funding with a negligible production social housing units. Following this conception in the early period of the dictatorship, the model of housing policies implemented since 1964 by the National Housing Bank (Banco Nacional de Habitação - BNH), was based on a set of characteristics that have left important marks in the institutional structure and the dominant conception of housing policy. In 2005, the approval of Federal Law No. 11.124 was a product of housing movements and organizations struggling to defend the urban reform in Brazil. This law created the National Housing System of Social Interests (Sistema Nacional da Habitação de Interesse Social) and declared that Brazilian states, municipalities and the federal district must integrate this housing system and the resources of the National Fund for Social Housing.

The number of people living in squatter settlements in Brazil reaches millions. The government can use as a strategy to address this challenge urbanizing areas such as precarious and illegal land tenure of households. Land appropriation of the less prosperous areas in big Brazilian cities was due to the demand for housing for low-income population. In addition, the right to enjoy decent housing and the right to the city are increasingly subject to market capacity. And in this respect, according to the Brazilian State, the Local Plan of Social Housing is essential for implementing the guidelines of the housing and urban integration, especially for the low-income settlements. This plan is an articulated set of guidelines, objectives, goals, actions and indicators. Certainly, this set features the planning and management instruments that seek to reduce the housing deficit of social housing in Brazil. States and municipalities that were incorporated into the National Housing System of Social Interests should develop their Local Plan of Social Housing. The presentation of the Housing Plan, considering the specificities of local demand, it is a requirement for access to resources from the National Fund of Social Housing.