



## What is the way forward? How can they now be used?

First of all, the Guiding Principles should be used to help people living in extreme poverty to understand and claim their rights.

Because they provide a clear set of specific recommendations on the actions required in order to overcome extreme poverty, they provide an excellent basis for entering into dialogue with other development partners – whether local, national, or international – in order to develop policies and programmes that will be effective, empowering and sustainable. The Principles can thus help to harmonize the actions undertaken by actors at all levels.

### The challenge is now to

- **Raise awareness of their existence** – for example through seminars and translations of the text in many different languages.
- **Explore their implications for current policies and programmes**, whether implemented by governments, UN agencies and other international institutions, non-state actors or NGOs
- **Encourage States and other actors to use them in developing, monitoring, and evaluating their programmes**
- **Encourage national human rights institutions and experts to use them as a reference tool in their work.**

For further information on State obligations under human rights conventions, see <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet2Rev.1en.pdf>.

For specific information on human rights and extreme poverty, see <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/Pages/DGPIIntroduction.aspx> or <http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/-Human-rights-and-extreme-poverty-.html>

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## A NEW TOOL FOR BREAKING THE POVERTY TRAP

» UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty And Human Rights

The international community now has a new tool for developing long-lasting solutions to extreme poverty ONE THAT HAS BEEN THOUGHT OUT WITH THE PEOPLE MOST CONCERNED.





## What are “guiding principles”?

The Guiding Principles are the first international document that sets out clearly the implications of existing international law in relation to the human rights of people living in extreme poverty.

It recognizes that they suffer from multiple violations of their human rights, but that they are also actively engaged in improving the lives of their families and their communities.

Based on internationally agreed human rights principles and standards, the Guiding Principles provide practical guidance on how to put into practice the obligations of States to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of persons living in extreme poverty.

**They thus spell out the main obstacles to the enjoyment of the rights that are the most important to people living in extreme poverty ( such as physical integrity, access to justice, housing, health, education and social security ) and the specific actions that should be taken to overcome those obstacles.**



## What do they offer that is new?

It is the first internationally agreed text to state very clearly that there is a legal obligation under human rights law to eradicate extreme poverty. **The text stresses that extreme poverty exists in every country in the world, and demonstrates the way in which it is both a cause and a consequence of multiple human rights violations.** Economic development alone will not eradicate extreme poverty.

The text also underlines the fact that people living in extreme poverty are not passive victims, but should instead be recognized as rights holders and agents of change. Therefore, one of the key principles is that

“States must ensure the active, free, informed and meaningful participation of persons living in poverty at all stages of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of decisions and policies affecting them.”



## How were they developed?

The Guiding Principles were developed at the request of the United Nations Human Rights Council, through a process of consultation with all stakeholders – **governments, human rights experts, national human rights institutions, and civil society, including people living in extreme poverty.**

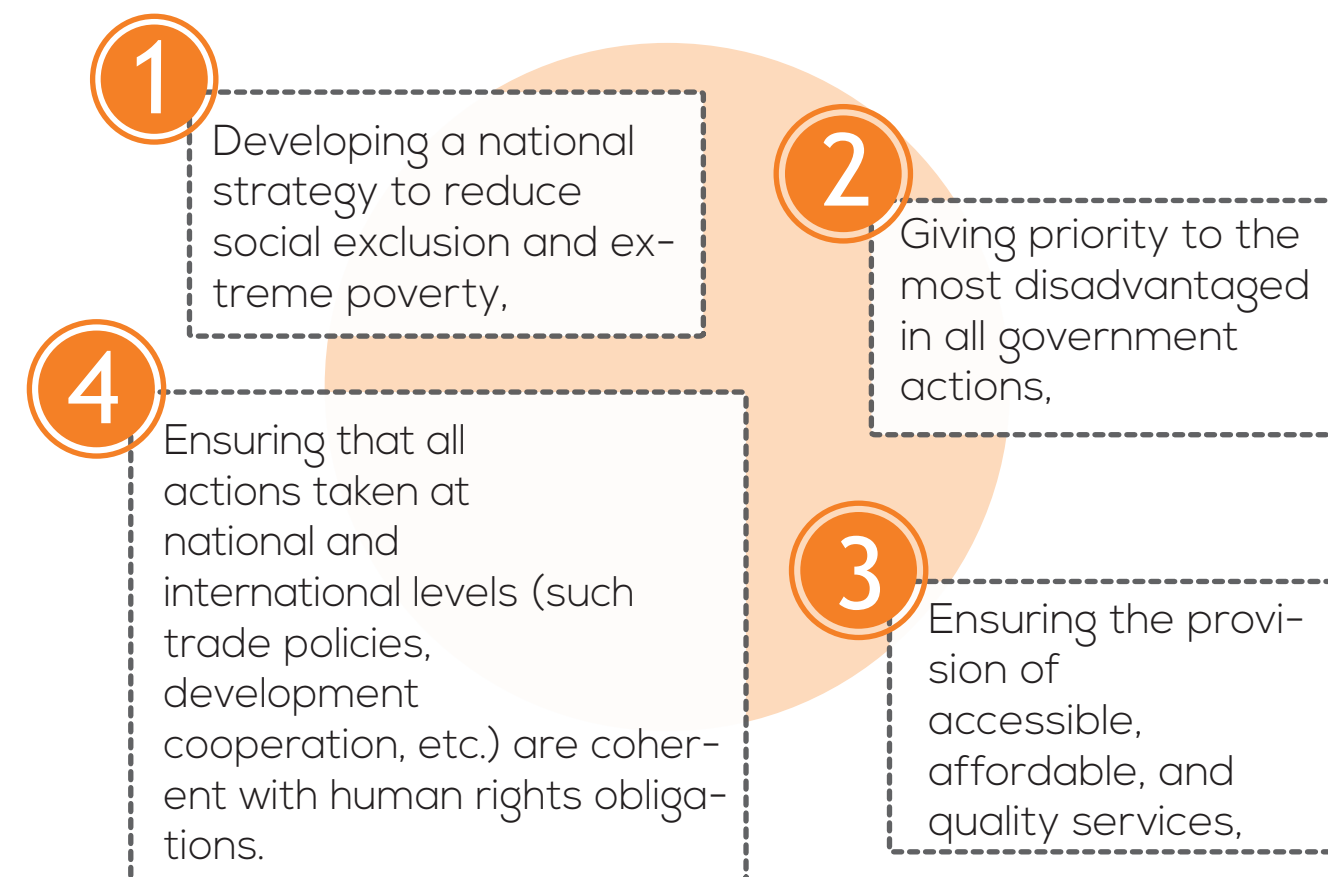
**The final version was drafted by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda, and adopted by consensus by the Human Rights Council on 27 September 2012. This adoption was ‘noted with appreciation’ by the UN General Assembly on 20 December 2012.**



## How are they to be implemented?

Based on human rights conventions they have ratified, States have a legal obligation to take immediate steps to ensure the enjoyment of all rights, even if for reasons of resource constraints some aspects of some rights can only be realized progressively.

### Implementation requires four important actions



**States should entrust an independent national body to monitor progress in eradicating extreme poverty, using both quantitative and qualitative indicators.**