Module 3: The Rights Framework
“Generic” Rights Obligations

• **Respect:** The government must not interfere with people’s existing enjoyment of their rights.

• **Protect:** The government must protect against interference by a third party in people’s enjoyment of their rights.

• **Fulfill:** The government must create the enabling conditions – through adopting appropriate policies, programs, laws, and budgets – that allow people to realize their rights.
Obligations Specific to Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Article 2 of the ICESCR:

1. Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to take steps, individually and through international assistance and co-operation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures.

2. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status…