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19th session

**Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the SR on the Right to Food,
Olivier De Schutter and with the SR on Adequate Housing, Raquel Rolnik
Tuesday 6 March 2012**

The European Union would like to thank both Special Rapporteurs for their excellent work and commitment on those two very important topics.

Let me turn first to Mr De Schutter's report, which explores the links between health and malnutrition, and allow me to ask 3 questions :

1. Paragraph 2 of the report states that "*nutrition [...] is not only about access to food at the household level. It is also intimately linked to the health status of each individual within the family, power relationships within the household and education about nutrition.*" In view of this, do you envisage any further work in these areas, including in collaboration with special procedures on health, gender issues and education?
2. Mention is made of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative, which includes partnerships between businesses, civil society organizations and governments, including as a means to foster private-sector interventions to help improving nutrition. Given the importance businesses play in this regard, have you foreseen any further work with these actors?
3. As one of the recommendations addressed to States is the adoption of a national strategy for the realisation of the right to adequate food, could you please provide us with some examples of States which have already set up successful national strategies in this regard, including as it concerns the development of indicators to measure inputs, outcomes and processes?

We also thank Mr De Schutter for the report on his mission to China. We note his recommendations that China improve employment and education opportunities in new 'socialist villages' and undertake meaningful consultation with communities affected by non-voluntary resettlements. We are concerned about the impact of these resettlements on Tibetan nomads, herders and other rural residents, and would like to hear more about whether the SR has been able to engage the Chinese authorities with the view to the implementation of these recommendations.

I now turn to Ms Rolnik's report on adequate housing, which rightly places an emphasis on women and their right to adequate housing. We note that the e-consultation of the Special Rapporteur launched in 2011 has shown that access to housing and land, forced evictions and domestic violence are unsolved issues for women all over the world.

The implementation of legislation and policies on the national level guaranteeing equal access to land and property and ensuring equal policies on inheritance matters is essential for the amelioration of women's rights and States have an obligation to amend their national legislation in order to secure this equal access.

Women who are victims of violence should be protected through specific legal policy initiatives including provisions such as emergency shelters and other alternative housing. Domestic violence laws should include provisions to protect women's right to housing, including the right to privacy and security. It should be noted that women most at risk are those facing multiple forms of discrimination.

We also believe that awareness-raising of the different actors involved in housing and territorial planning, especially law-makers and law enforcement authorities, regarding the gender-based approach to the right to adequate housing is essential.

Finally, we have read Ms Rolnik's report on Algeria with great interest and remain concerned by her observations about widespread *de jure* and *de facto* discrimination against women with regard to property rights and access to housing for widows, single or divorced women. We call on the Government on Algeria to work closely with the Special Rapporteur in further addressing and remedying the issues.

I thank you for your attention.