

Madame President,

On behalf of Germany, I would like to thank the Special Rapporteur Raquel Rolnik for her report on the right to adequate housing with its focus on women.

More than 70 percent of people living in inadequate housing are women. Many of them have no means of fighting discrimination when it comes to domestic violence or access to land and property because national legislation has often not been adjusted to ensure the equality between men and women in this regard. Concepts such as the "head of household" are also commonly used to deprive women of equal ownership and security of tenure.

Madame President,

Germany strongly believes that drafting and putting in place gender-sensitive and human rights-based law on national and regional levels is the first step to a non-discriminatory and effective system of the right to adequate housing for women. Secondly, however, ensuring that these provisions are implemented in practise is just as important.

In order to fight against domestic violence, the special rapporteur suggests that perpetrators should be removed from the home, where violence has been committed. We fully support this recommendation. This year, we celebrate the 10th year anniversary of the law against domestic violence in Germany. It permits women who have become victims of violence in their own homes to seek for the perpetrator to be removed independently of his status as an owner of the house. Also can emergency shelters for women be provided if desired by the affected women.

Madame President,

Germany welcomes the recent creation of UN Women. In order to ensure that women all over the world are able to exercise their right to adequate housing on an equal footing with men, we will support initiatives of UN Women to put this right into practice. Also, we favour the strengthening of partnerships with civil society which we consider a very important non state actor in this area.