

**Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

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**The Human Rights Council**

**Twenty Second Session**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, and  
Special Rapporteur adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate  
standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context**

**Statement by**

**The Delegation of Egypt**

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**(Geneva, 4 March 2013)**

*Please check against delivery*

Mr. President,

Egypt extends its appreciation for the presence of Mr. Olivier De Schutter among us today and for his interesting introductory remarks.

The findings of the report confirm our convictions about the imperative need to develop human-rights based approach to our pursuit for an enhanced level of safe, adequate, and sufficient nutrition for everyone. Without elements of justice and equality, our national and global efforts to achieve food security are never complete or effective. In this context, we are conscious of the challenges related to the right of women to food around the world, and realize its far-reaching and multidimensional impacts on the life of women and her empowerment opportunities, as well as, on the health of children and their care and nutritional needs.

Women's unimpeded access to the right to food without any discrimination is a legal responsibility that should be respected by all states. States should, within their furthest capacity, work to protect and promote this right and fight against any discrimination that stands against the enjoyment of this right.

Yet, there needs to be a comprehensive and nationally-owned approach to defining the related challenges. The solution is not in dismantling the social equilibrium that societies conciliated on, or to forcibly alter the responsibilities that men and women voluntarily assumed, but in ensuring the balance between these socially and culturally-rooted arrangements and the realization of all the universal and agreed on human rights of women, including the right to food. The second key element of the solution should be based on deep understanding of the interdependence between the right of women to food and the efforts exerted in other, equally important, areas, including poverty eradication in general, job creation in particular, health, water and sanitation, and education.

We are looking forward that the aforementioned remarks, that some of them were highlighted in some of the previous reports, remain at the heart of the future work of the SR. Today and based on previous contributions by Mr. Du Schutter in this connection, we are interested to listen to his views regarding the role of international cooperation and global equitable distribution of food vis-à-vis protecting and promoting the right of women to food.

Egypt would also like to welcome Ms. Raquil Rolnik, and thank her for the valuable presentation.

At the outset, we express our support to the enjoyment of right to adequate housing as a key derivative of the right to adequate life standard. Access to this right is a state responsibility that should be fulfilled within a long-term housing national strategy, where eviction is a last resort and completely safeguarded by the guarantees provided by International Human Rights Law, including notification, consultations, and providing alternatives.

We agree with the report that security of tenure, within the framework of the right to adequate housing, is quite an important and challenging aspect. The position of tenure security needs to be further studied based on the best practices in different national experiences and legal systems of tenure, bearing in mind the lack of definition of security of tenure and the elements that constitute it given the diversity in legal systems and different socio-economic conditions.

We look forward to listen to the views of the SR on the possible alternatives for the legislators and executives to secure a balance between an approach based on international human rights law obligations to housing in the context of dealing with security of tenure for informal settlements on one hand, and preserving the human rights of the affected persons and upholding respect to the rule of law and protection of public and private property.