

The 22nd session of the Human Rights Council

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

**Ms. Raquel Rolnik
4 March 2013**

Statement by Finland

Mr. President,

Finland aligns herself with the statement of the European Union.

Finland would like to thank the Special Rapporteur Rolnik for her report. The security of tenure as a component of the right to adequate housing is extremely topical issue.

Progressive urbanization and more intensive use of land may lead to growing inequalities in the right to housing if the universal human rights and the equal rights of the most vulnerable are not respected. The challenge is common both in developing and developed countries, like housing rights of Roma people in Europe.

To tackle these challenges, more transparent and inclusive management practices are needed in urban development projects. Non-discriminatory laws and policies provide a normative ground to protect the rights of women and poor in more extensive use of land and natural resources. Remedies and meaningful participation are needed.

We find very valuable the remark that, besides property rights, a large scale of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights must be considered to protect the security of tenure.

The States have the primary obligation to respect and protect the right to housing. However, we welcome the role of active civil society and local communities in, *inter alia*, raising awareness of the legal rights of tenants and dwellers, and working against their forced evictions.

Mr. President,

Equitable land reforms and land management have also been a part of Finland's development policy. We have provided assistance, for example, to improve tenure security and land governance. Finland welcomes also tools like the *FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure*.

Finland would appreciate hearing more about good practices to protect the security of tenure of the most vulnerable and persons at risk of multiple discrimination.