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**Item 3: Interactive Dialogue following the reports of the Special Rapporteur
on the Right to Food and the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing**

Statement by the Delegation of the United States of America

Human Rights Council, 22nd Session

Geneva

March 4, 2013

Thank you, Mr. President.

The United States thanks the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food for this most recent report, which focuses on the important link between the empowerment of women and the progressive realization of the right to food. We appreciate that the Special Rapporteur has addressed such important issues as the barriers that women face in accessing food and the advancement of women's human rights as also promoting improved mental and physical development of children.

Women are central to the development of rural areas and to national economies: they account for a significant proportion of the agricultural labor force, play a key role in food production, especially in subsistence farming, and perform most of the unpaid work in rural areas. The United States' food security and nutrition efforts, including launching the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index, highlight the importance of these complex, cross-cutting issues. Given the crucial but undervalued role that women play in agricultural production in the developing world, they will continue to be in a central role

as we implement our global hunger and food security initiative, Feed the Future.

We know research has made it absolutely clear that good nutrition in the critical 1,000-day period from the start of a woman's pregnancy until her child's second birthday has the biggest impact on saving children's lives and improving their lifelong cognitive and physical development. In September 2011, the United States joined with Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the Irish Government, and other world leaders to launch the 1,000 Days Partnership.

The 1,000 Days event was a first step to jumpstart global efforts in support of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Framework. Thirty countries and over 100 private sector and civil society partners have since committed to this framework. This means we have the potential to reach 56 million children worldwide, helping prevent the stunting of their development and their deaths.

We look forward to continuing to work together with other stakeholders to implement the framework's roadmap. The women and children of the world deserve nothing less.

We also thank Special Rapporteur Raquel Rolnik for her report. While the United States does not believe that security of tenure is a human right under international law, we agree that inadequate and insecure tenure rights increase vulnerability,

hunger, and poverty, and can lead to or exacerbate conflict and environmental degradation.

This is why we were pleased to be able to chair the thirty-eighth Committee on World Food Security working group that developed and endorsed the “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests” in May 2012. More than 95 countries, 30 civil society organizations, private sector representatives, academics and researchers, and international organizations joined us in this effort. The Voluntary Guidelines represent an unprecedented international agreement on the governance of tenure, and place secure access to land, fisheries and forests in the context of food security. They provide a framework to promote food security and sustainable development by improving secure access to land, fisheries and forests and protecting the legitimate tenure rights of millions of people, many of whom are poor and food insecure.

Of course, such guidelines are of little value if they only remain on paper. Therefore we strongly support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines, through initiatives such as the pilot program on secure tenure rights and transparent access to natural resources, as part of national development plans implemented by the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition.

While the United States agrees on the importance of these issues, we do not agree with all of the analyses and conclusions in the Special Rapporteur's report. Specifically, we do not agree there is sufficient evidence to establish security of tenure as a human right under international law. Instead, the United States considers the right to adequate housing as one component of the right to an adequate standard of living, which is language derived from Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We recognize the Special Rapporteur's extensive review of comments from the Committee of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, as well as case law from certain national courts opining on the relationship of security of tenure to human rights. But we would like to hear more from the Special Rapporteur on how security of tenure can be enhanced while respecting individual property rights.

Thank you Mr. President.