

Germany (on behalf
of EU)

Mr. M. Kuhn

(4) 20/03 09:50:00

Mr. Walter KALIN
The Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced
Persons

Presidency

Thank you for your presentation Mr. Kalin. It is a tragic development, that while the number of refugees is decreasing worldwide, we are witnessing an increase in persons who suffer the human rights consequences of being displaced due to armed conflict or natural disasters. The alarming growth of IDPs in crisis necessitates enhanced attention by the international community as well as an enhanced set of tools to offer effective assistance. The EU commends you for your efforts and work in promoting and developing the normative framework as well as mainstreaming the human rights of IDPs in all relevant parts of the United Nations system.

On your report and the guidelines you have submitted, we would like to make the following questions and remarks:

1. The resolution of **land disputes** in the aftermath of natural disasters or armed conflict figure prominently among issues, which can generate and perpetuate conflict and human suffering to the detriment of the full enjoyment of human rights. Given the **political and technical complexities** that are inextricably connected with addressing these issues, we would be interested in learning more on **your views as to the assistance the international community could offer in tackling them?**
2. Another thematic issue of concern to us is the realization of the right to engage actively and passively in **electoral processes**. The uprooting of communities on account of natural disasters or armed conflict may lead to inadequate voter-registries and disestablishment from local political platforms. It is mentioned repeatedly that **measures should hence be taken to safeguard the electoral rights of IDPs. Could you expand further on means to ensure the full participation of IDPs in electoral processes?**

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Ms. Yakin ERTURK
Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

Presidency

Thank you, Mr President

We would like to thank you, Ms. Ertürk, for your valuable work and to warmly welcome your report. We appreciate your efforts to move beyond addressing the symptoms and effects of violence and tackle root causes. Gender based violence, in all its manifestations, not only impairs the enjoyment by women of their human rights, but it also creates obstacles to the achievement of equality, development and peace.

1. You mentioned sending out 78 communications to Governments, bringing to the attention alleged human rights violations. In your Report, you state that as of 1 December 2006, only half of these Governments has responded to these communications. Could you perhaps update us on the current situation: **have you received any additional responses? Why do States not react to your communications?**
2. Your Report addresses the fact that States should not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations in eliminating violence against women. **Could you provide us with some more in depth information on what such customs or traditions are that states may refer to?**
3. You refer to the requirement for States to develop a comprehensive strategy to reform harmful aspects of a given culture that are linked to violence against women. **Could you elaborate further on how you envisage that States should develop such a strategy in practice? Perhaps you could provide some best practices examples of States, in order for other States to share in that experience?**

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*Mr Juan Miguel PETIT
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography*

Presidency

Thank you, Mr President,

First of all, on behalf of the European Union allow me to thank you, Mr Petit, for your report, which you have just presented to us. The European Union welcomes this information as well as the recommendations that you have formulated.

As you so rightly mentioned in your intervention, too many children throughout the world are subjected to exploitation, to work, or to violence. To eradicate this curse we need to fight against impunity through investigation and to pursue in an efficient manner those people that make illegal use of children for the traffic of organs or who force them into sexual exploitation. To reach this goal the European Union encourages in particular all States to ratify and apply the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Our effort should be comprehensive, with UNICEF, the World Health Organisation and the International Labour Organisation to ensure that childhood remains unburdened by undue concerns and enlightened by discovery.

In your report, you draw attention to two specific aspects of child exploitation, the traffic of organs and the abduction of children. Generally your report contains recommendations that pertain to legislative aspects as well as concrete national bilateral or regional actions, without forgetting education that is an essential tool of prevention.

1. A key point of your report concerns the collating of evidence dealing with rumours in the press or circulating in the local population on the traffic of child organs. At the same time, you state that reliable information is available for the traffic of adult organs. **How could we concretely improve the statistics and the investigation process on the specific question of the traffic of child organs?**
2. Your report insists on the need to do everything to ensure that child victims of kidnapping are reinserted into their families and their communities, in particular through assistance measures and rehabilitation. **What type of concrete measures could be taken to this end?**