

① 23/03 morning

GERMANY

Ms. Gay MCDUGALL
Independent Expert on minority issues

Presidency

Thank you, Mr President

The European Union thanks you, Ms. McDougall, for your second comprehensive report focused on minorities in the context of poverty alleviation and the Millenium Development Goals. We share your assessment that poverty is an important component in policies for social inclusion and the promotion of stability in multi-ethnic societies.

1. As you have pointed out in your report, the promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious ^{and} linguistic minorities offers an important means of promoting inclusion, stability and conflict prevention inter alia through policies of equitable development and the rule of law. **Could you elaborate more on which role you envisage for your activities in the context of the prevention of conflicts within States and between States, an area where for example the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE has engaged successfully on a regional level?**
2. The EU very much supports your efforts to further mainstream minority issues within the UN system and commends the positive developments in this regard especially within the UNDP. We would therefore be interested to know **what are your future plans concerning mainstreaming with other UN organisations? What are according to your experience the biggest obstacles or challenges when trying to integrate minority issues in the work of different agencies in the UN?**

② 20/03 morning

Mr Jorge Bustamante
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

Presidency

Thank you, Mr President

The European Union would like to thank you, first of all, for your report and express its appreciation for the important work you do as Special Rapporteur.

The European Union attaches the utmost importance to the question of migration and considers that this very important matter has to be treated in a comprehensive manner paying attention to the needs of the States to have secure borders while at the same time, respecting the human rights of all.

1. Mr Bustamante, we have attentively read your report, and in particular considered the questions you have posed to all UN Member States through your "Questionnaire on the impact of certain laws and administrative measures on migrants." As an initial comment, we would like to underline that according to paragraphs 9 and 10, only a few States have answered this questionnaire. **Could you give us your view on the possible reasons for this lack of reply ?**
2. Throughout the questionnaire you propose numerous pertinent questions related to different aspects of this complex issue: border control, conditions of admission or stay, etc ... **Taking into account those two dimensions (secure borders and protection of human rights), could you please, elaborate a bit more on your preliminary conclusions on them? And also, could you give us your views on possible solutions to accommodate the need for secure borders to the obligation to fully respect the human rights of all?**

(3) 20/03 morning

Mr. Rudolfo STAVENTHAGEN

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples

Presidency

Thank you, Mr President

The European Union first and foremost would like to commend you for your efforts to raise awareness in the international community to the situation of indigenous peoples around the world. We greatly appreciate your work and the excellent report you have submitted to the Council.

The EU would like to pose the following questions:

1. The EU considers important that the Human Rights Council continue^s to be actively involved in improving the human rights situation of indigenous peoples around the world through your effort as special rapporteur and by including the issue in the annual work program of the Council. (In this context the EU supports that the question of indigenous peoples access to the Human Rights Council be further explored.)
How do we ensure that indigenous peoples representatives are able to participate in the Council discussions on these topics?
What in your opinion would be the best way to ensure indigenous peoples participation in the work of the Council?
2. Representatives of indigenous peoples are involved in defending the political and civil rights as well as the economic, social and cultural rights of their people and their communities. You have pointed out the lack of redress mechanisms available to these human rights defenders and their communities to ensure the effective protection of their human rights.
In which way could the Council assist in this endeavour?