

GERMANY

- Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for providing us with the possibility to address additional issues with regard to the reports of Special Procedures that we have been following during the last two days.
- The EU notes that both the representative of the Secretary General on the Human Rights of IDPs and the Chair of the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances have requested visits to Sri Lanka. The EU calls on Sri Lanka to co-operate fully with both of these mechanisms and allow them to visit the country as a matter of priority so that they can help the Government to improve the situation through a constructive dialogue.
- On the issue of minorities, the EU expresses its grave concern about the situation of the Bahá'ís in the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly in light of reports which suggest that they are being systematically identified and monitored.
- Following up on the discussion with the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, the EU would like to reiterate its strong condemnation of the practice of so-called "honour killings" as well as of the mitigating clauses often contained in the relevant legislations for the authors of such ^{heinous} hideous crimes. We would like to appeal to all concerned countries to address this issue without delay and to ensure that this practice be actively discouraged, inter alia by adequate legislation.
- With regard to violence against women, we also have continuing concerns about the treatment of women's rights activists in Iran, and strongly condemn the recent arrests of women who were taking part in peaceful demonstrations on 4 March and on International Women's Day on 8 March. These women were exercising their right to freedom of assembly and opinion, enshrined in particular in the ICCPR ratified by Iran. The EU also calls on Iran to respect its human rights obligations under international human rights treaties, particularly with regard to the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of gender and the right to freedom of opinion and assembly.