



EUROPEAN UNION
Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office
and other international organisations in Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council
23rd session**

**Interactive Dialogue
with Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,
&
with the Special Rapporteur on Internally Displaced Persons**

30 May 2013

EU Intervention

Thank you, Mr. President,

We would like to thank the Special Rapporteur, Dr. Heyns, for his presentation here today, his continuous hard work and for his latest interesting report. Its focus on Lethal Autonomous Robotics is forward looking and although it addresses future as well as ongoing technical developments, it is of potential interest to the international community. The EU therefore takes note of this important contribution by the Special Rapporteur to address and to attempt to map out possible consequences of the development of such weapons. It is undoubtedly a complicated field, both legally and technically. We agree with the Special Rapporteur that the use of weapons, including those which select targets without a human in the loop, is governed by international humanitarian law. Therefore, this is not an issue that sits squarely within the mandate of this Council but should be debated outside this Council in other international fora, in particular in the framework of the relevant arms control fora of the United Nations.

As concerns related to LAR:s touches upon several different fields, could the Special Rapporteur elaborate on which other fora you think this could be debated?

The Special Rapporteur has an important task to examine situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions in all possible circumstances and to draw this Council's attention to them. The European Union strongly supports your mandate and your efforts in doing just that.

Turning to the Special Rapporteur on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Mr. Beyani, the European Union commends you for your highly competent, constructive and professional engagement in the exercise of your mandate and we look forward to continuing our support for your valuable work.

We thank you for your report which focuses on the human rights challenges faced by internally displaced women and girls and we strongly welcome your focus on their particular vulnerabilities in situations of internal displacement. We express our appreciation for the pertinent recommendations to governments, international organisations and other relevant actors, which are contained in your report.

The European Union is particularly concerned about the widespread and serious nature of sexual and gender-based violence, especially against women and girls, which the Human Rights Council will address during this session on several occasions. The Human Rights Council needs to send a strong signal that this form of violence must not be tolerated, that states and humanitarian actors need to step up their efforts for the protection of women and girls from violent abuse and need to strengthen their response to the needs of victims for assistance and accountability. Which specific measures should states and the international community take to ensure greater accountability for sexual and gender-based violence?

We also agree with your findings on the need for facilitating the meaningful participation of IDPs, and in particular IDP women, in all relevant decision-making processes and activities that have a direct impact on their lives, in all aspects relating to internal displacement, regarding promotion and protection of human rights, prevention of human rights violations, design and implementation of durable solutions, peace processes, peace-building, transitional justice, post-conflict reconstruction and development. Enabling a participatory approach ensures that the

voices of victims are heard and is of key significance for the successful realisation of durable solutions. Could you elaborate more on this issue, also in light of UNSC resolution 1325 on women, peace and security and the process of its implementation? How can the Council and the international community better support the facilitation of participatory approaches and the implementation of durable solutions for IDPs?

The European Union also thanks you for the reports on three country visits to Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan. We have noticed with satisfaction the significant progress which you have observed in Côte d'Ivoire, even though some challenges remain. The European Union remains concerned about the situation of internally displaced persons in Sudan. We join you in calling on the Government of Sudan to expeditiously ratify the African Union's Kampala Convention on internally displaced persons, which came into force on 6th December 2012 and which represents a milestone in the protection of internally displaced persons. We express our appreciation to the 15 African states that have so far ratified the convention and we call on the remaining states to intensify their efforts for the convention's expeditious ratification.

We thank you once again for your presentation and assure you of our continued support.

