

## **HR in post-disaster/post conflict**

### **Situations**

I would like to thank Ms Reyes Prado for her statement, as well as the secretariat, the chair, the rapporteur and colleagues members of the drafting group on Human rights and post disaster / post conflict drafting group for preparing and disseminating the questionnaire. I wish also to thank states, International Organizations and NGO's which replied to the aforesaid questionnaire. The replies to the questionnaire according to the paper beforehand numbered a total of 36 replies, including 20 replies referring to countries which experienced post-disaster situations; one which experienced conflict, eight which experienced both and seven which did not specify anything. Such replies indicate the suffering of human rights in certain countries after disasters and post conflicts. Therefore, this subject is an important one for the awareness of the plight of people.

The Council in its resolution 22/16 requested us to prepare a research-based report on best practices and main challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations, with a focus on human rights mainstreaming in relief, recovery and reconstruction efforts, while respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence and the needs-based approach of humanitarian assistance, in particular to foster the capacity of States in such efforts. In my opinion, after we received the aforesaid replies to the questionnaire the drafting group could submit a progress report to the twenty sixth session of the Council. In fact, the drafting group could work on a draft report but we should not underestimate the time needed to prepare the draft report. It is important also to present the draft to the Committee to have the views of those members who are not members in the drafting group before submitting it to the Council.

Despite the replies received, human rights in post disaster and post conflict require us to have new thoughts and input on the subject. It is important to deal with the agonies that beset people during conflict and the post relief and reconstruction efforts. Sometimes we might face situations that might overlap with certain human rights issues that other organs are discussing. In such situation, we should stick to the main principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence when drafting the progress report. we should also

stick to our mandate in order to be professional but at the same time deal with the issues at hand so that there is no duplication in our work with the work of other international bodies.

In my region, the Gulf Cooperation Council established a Center for Disasters to deal with post disaster situations. This is part of the readiness of the regional group. Moreover, during the last ten years, laws on disaster management were passed in most GCC countries. Such actions, demonstrate the increased awareness of all countries of the GCC to the post disaster situations.

As we know the conflicts and disasters are increasing worldwide, and more than 44 million human beings are denied their basic rights. Such a situation require us to focus on our research on identifying the causes of the agonies of humans, determining areas of concern and proposing possible solutions to such situations. When reading the replies, most of them are dealing with the legal aspects after a conflict or a disaster while few of them deal with practical issues .Meanwhile, many practical issues may come up when the research paper take shape including situations of which the right to live, right to housing, the right to basic health care and the right to food could be considered as basic themes. At the same time, the paper should consider the treatment of those facing disasters either natural or manmade or conflicts or the stages of recovery, relief and rehabilitation, as central issues in the research which many replies do not refer to. Many issues could be looked at during the drafting of the study such as torture, maltreatment, violence against women and children, forced displacement, asylum, malnutrition, health hazards, shelter, water, sanitation, housing, statelessness, and freedom of opinion. It is also to emphasis that states have a prime responsibility- to provide assistance and protection to people affected by disasters. In doing so, it is important to respect human rights of those affected and protect them against possible violations of their rights.

Thank you.